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---FEATURES

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Personality Profile

New Annuity Board President
Presses Steadily Toward Goal

By Theo Sommerkamp

DALLAS (BP)--The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board here is a man who believes in pressing steadily and methodically toward a goal.

One of five children baptized on the same night in a Fort Worth church, Darold H. Morgan is the only one of the five who methodically set out to earn a doctor's degree and kept at it until successful.

"I never intended to stop short of earning a doctor's degree because I felt I needed the best preparation possible for the ministry," Morgan recalled.

He achieved that objective in 1953, earning the doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Now, as president of the nation's largest denominational retirement protection agency, he has another goal: making the Annuity Board as helpful as possible to those it serves.

If his past pilgrimage is any indication, Morgan will stick to the goal he has set with perseverance and determination.

Fort Worth; his home town of Coffeyville, Kan.; and Dallas, where he now lives, all have helped mold Morgan for his role as chief executive officer of the Annuity Board.

When he was 17, several friends of Darold H. (for Hugh) Morgan drove him to a small town railroad depot in southeastern Kansas to catch the midnight train to Texas.

When he arrived in Fort Worth, where he had lived for several childhood years, the educational director of a Fort Worth church met him at the station and drove Morgan to Abilene, Tex., to Hardin-Simmons University.

To meet expenses, the new student read gas meters and served food in the university dining hall.

Recalling those student days, Morgan, now 47, comments, "If you really want an education, you can get it."

His parents, Elmer and Sara Morgan, moved the family from Coffeyville to Spokane, Wash., when Darold was just two. He was eight when they moved again, to Fort Worth, in 1932, in the midst of the depression.

Darold and his four brothers and sisters were baptized together on the same night in Sagamore Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Darold's twin brother (not identical), Harold, also became a Baptist preacher. Harold serves a church in Missouri. One sister, Mrs. Max (Norma) Briggs, served for several years as president of Woman's Missionary Union for Kansas Baptists.

Elmer and Sara Morgan returned with their children to southeastern Kansas in time for Darold to finish his senior year in Coffeyville High School. He also later performed the ceremony when twin brother Harold married a Coffeyville girl.

The Annuity Board president believes a "prepared mind is one of the strongest assets a minister can have." He has followed that tenet since the time he was called into the ministry during his teens.

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His call to the ministry was "a quiet inner realization" reached at age 16 without "any outside influence at all," Morgan remembers.

Only after he had already responded inwardly to the call did he tell his mother and his pastor about it.

"My pastor insisted I tell the church about my call to preach. He believed a call to preach was a call to start preaching immediately. He told me I would preach the sermon in church the very next Sunday night," Morgan adds.

The concern of this older, experienced minister was an important part of Morgan's background.

When his parents moved the family back to Coffeyville, they became part of a small Southern Baptist congregation, Emmanuel, whose pastor was N. J. Westmoreland.

Westmoreland, who later became executive secretary of Southern Baptist work in Kansas, helped the teenage ministerial volunteer to find pulpits to preach from.

While a student in Southwestern Seminary, Morgan met a "lovely little brunette from Illinois" on a blind date. She'd come to get a master of religious education degree.

The brunette from Illinois was Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of one of the most prominent Southern Baptist families in Illinois, the George L. Johnsons of Carbondale.

Darold and Elizabeth married in June, 1947, a month after he received his master of theology degree while serving as pastor of two small churches.

Elizabeth Morgan also believes in a prepared mind and a doctor's degree. An undergraduate major in education and English, she earned a second master's degree as an English major at Texas Woman's University, Denton. She's on her way to obtaining the doctor of philosophy degree there now, majoring in English with a special emphasis on rhetoric.

Two of the Morgans' three children have launched their college studies. Tim, 21, a student at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., is majoring in business. Marshall, 19, a student at Dallas Baptist College, is interested in medicine. Julie, 12, will be a seventh grader in Dallas.

Kansas gave Darold H. Morgan insight into pioneer missions work where Southern Baptists are few in number. Texas provided him with the feeling of a state where Baptists predominate.

Both, he feels, will help him as Annuity Board president, administering retirement, disability, and health and life insurance plans for ministers, other church staffers, and denominational employees in the SBC.

"One of our greatest needs is to reach the pastors of small churches" uncovered by retirement plans, said Morgan.

The board must also deal with the financial world, in which Dallas is a key city, as it invests retirement funds for 36,000 contributors.

Board policy requires that the agency's president be a minister. Layman specialists fill most other staff positions at the board, and make up trustee committees handling financial affairs.

"Personally I do not possess the acumen of a financier or investment officer. Where these skills are required there are board officers who are as consecrated Christians and technically proficient as there are in the land," Morgan says.

Morgan's knack for grasping the complex work of the board attracted other trustees while Morgan was their chairman. At this time, he was pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas.

This caused them to choose him to succeed R. Alton Reed as chief executive officer when Reed retired March 1, 1972.

Morgan refers often to Proverbs 3:5-6 and the assurance God is directing his life. "What I've done has been due to the leadership of God," he continued.

In the New Testament, his favorite areas are the writings of Paul. "His remarkable blending of commitment to Jesus Christ with his interest in doctrinal growth and stability appeal to me," Morgan said.

"Paul's intense personal pilgrimage has meant much to me in my own journey," he concluded.

President Asks for "Action Now"
And New Attitudes Toward Aging

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard Nixon, in proclaiming May as Senior Citizens Month, asked officials of voluntary organizations and private groups to join with government officials to make this period "a high point in a year of action for older Americans."

"Action Now" is the theme for the 1972 observance set aside each year by an act of Congress to honor America's 21 million older citizens. After citing advances in programs for the elderly, Mr. Nixon called for "a new attitude toward aging."

In his proclamation, published in the Federal Register, the President reviewed a number of actions already taken by his administration toward meeting the needs of the elderly poor. Among these, he cited a "tenfold" increase in the budget for the administration on aging, a new national nutrition program for older people, and efforts to provide transportation for elderly persons involved in service projects.

Also, the President said the nation is moving forward with efforts to reform nursing home care and a program to provide hundreds of information centers for older persons in local communities.

All of these endeavors, Mr. Nixon continued, "complement the administration's basic program for improving the income position of the elderly." If his recommendations on social security and other income maintenance programs are approved, the income of older Americans would be increased by some \$5.5 billion annually, according to the President.

Despite all that has been done, "there is much that remains to be done," the President said. "One important challenge is to help all our people develop a new attitude toward aging, one which stops regarding older Americans as a burden and starts regarding them as a resource.

"For such an attitude will not only contribute to the dignity of life for older Americans, it will also give our country the immense benefit of their skills and wisdom," the President declared.

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Annuity Board Names Dudley
To Insurance Services Post

5/8/72

DALLAS (BP)--John Dudley, Dallas insurance official, has been named assistant director of insurance services for the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here.

Darold H. Morgan, board president, said Dudley will assist primarily with internal administration of the insurance services area.

A business degree graduate in marketing, Dudley, 30, has served a national insurance firm's Dallas office for the past six years.

"The ministry of the Annuity Board through insurance services has undergone such phenomenal growth in recent years that it became essential to add a qualified person," Morgan said.

"Mr. Dudley is highly qualified by both education and experience to strengthen this area of work and to provide the increasing efficiency to meet this growth," he added.

Dudley is married and has one son. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Rockwall, a Dallas suburb.

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Annuity Board Announces
Annual Luncheon Plans

5/8/72

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board announced its annual luncheon for annuitants will be held here June 7.

The luncheon will be held during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention. Those who receive benefits from the Annuity Board will be eligible to attend according to Darold H. Morgan, Dallas, president of the board.

The luncheon will be held in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

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Ohio Church School Aid
Hits Snag in High Court

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court here denied a request from the state of Ohio to allow reimbursement to parents of parochial school pupils for expenses incurred by them in sending their children to nonpublic schools.

Earlier a three-judge federal court for the Southern District of Ohio had issued a restraining order against the state forbidding it to make reimbursement payments to parents of parochial school pupils. The court later declared the statute in question to be unconstitutional.

In 1971 the Ohio legislature passed, and the governor signed, a law creating a state income tax for the purpose of raising funds to pay public schools \$600 per pupil, as well as a \$90 per pupil allocation to parents who send their children to nonpublic schools.

Martin W. Essex, superintendent of public schools for the state of Ohio, applied to Justice Potter Stewart of the U. S. Supreme Court to suspend the order of the lower court until the case is finally decided by the Supreme Court. Stewart referred the matter to the full Supreme Court, which decided 6-3 not to grant Ohio's request.

The petition from Ohio was accompanied by an affidavit from Governor John J. Gilligan. He said: "The withholding of parental reimbursement grants at this particular time presents an educational crisis in the state of Ohio affecting public and nonpublic schools."

Under the part of the Ohio law that was suspended by court action, a parent qualified for the reimbursement grant under any of three conditions:

1. He must provide an at-home education which meets State Department of Education standards;
2. He must provide an accredited education for his child in a private school without religious affiliation; or
3. He must provide an accredited education for his child in a church-related school which teaches all state-required secular courses and complies with all other state minimum educational standards.

Allowed by the law but not prohibited by the court actions are reimbursements for expenses incurred for bus transportation, approved school books, laboratory fees for secular courses, testing fees and certain tuition charges.

In ruling against the grants to parents of parochial school pupils, the Ohio court pointed out that of the 334,420 pupils attending nonpublic schools, 98 per cent attend denominational nonpublic schools. Of these, 95 per cent attend Catholic schools. Only two per cent of the total attend private nonsectarian schools.

The court asserted that payment of the funds to parents "for transmittal to the denominational school does not have a cleansing effect and somehow causes the funds to lose their identity as public funds."

The three judges continued: "While the ingenuity of man is apparently limitless, the court has held with unvarying regularity that one may not do by indirection what is forbidden directly; one may not by form alone contradict the substance of a transaction."

The district court then concluded: "However ingenious, however laudable, however structured, the substance and the direction of this section of the code is simply to transfer public moneys to denominational schools."

The court charged that the Ohio law "contains the seeds for increased political involvement along religious lines at every level of government, from the local school boards to the general assembly.

"This, of course, is the ultimate evil to be protected by the religion clauses," the judges continued. "Money under the state statute is being given directly to parents of nonpublic school children, who are overwhelmingly of one religious sect, in the form of a state subsidy.

"To uphold this statute would be to introduce the religious issue to the very center of state politics. As the need for additional funds remains, the political issue will be an expansive one--with some religions seeking more money, some religions seeking some money--with the result that the issue will be jointed along sharply drawn religious lines," the court declared.



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