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GLOBE-TROTTING With Ginny

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Antonio Stayed On  
At Rivoli Seminary

RIVOLI-TURIN, Italy--(BP)--Antonio has many talents, but his most obvious one (at least to the visitors to the Italian Baptist seminary here) is that of gardener.

The seminary sits in one of the most beautiful natural gardens I have ever seen. Dominating the grounds are the giant cedars. One grandfather cedar is from Lebanon!

Hollyhocks and roses add color. The sun plays on the yellow stucco of the three buildings. Ivy creeps about the old well and the remodeled coachhouse. Hundreds of birds broadcast their approval of such a glorious beauty spot!

Antonio's father was gardener of the estate before him. When Southern Baptists purchased it for a seminary, Antonio stayed on for board and room. He is over 70 years old, having poured out his years on the garden that is a living memorial to his talents.

No one denies that Antonio has genius in his field. But Antonio does not grow the most important, priceless product on that estate. The 18 students, taught by four professors, two American and two Italian, are the purpose and future of the seminary. It is for them and for others who will follow that the property exists.

Each student there has a stirring testimony, for these young people must stand up for their Christian faith and religious freedom in defiance of a powerful majority that opposes them.

Ben Lawton and A. B. Craighead are the Southern Baptist missionaries who are assigned there with their families. The missionary children are sure that they have the most magnificent playground in all the world. Since our visit, my family is inclined to agree with them!

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Cutline: Antonio...in the garden.