

May 23, 1962

GLOBE-TROTTING WITH GINNY

Pastor Astonished
By Prison Reception

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

SOMEWHERE in Spain (BP)--Of the many inspiring stories I heard from missionaries while visiting in Spain, this one touched me most.

A call before a superior officer and subsequent sentence to imprisonment was not a surprise to the young Baptist draftee in the Spanish army. He had expected it since the first day when he had conspicuously refrained from joining his mates in kneeling at mass and had felt the furious countenance of the army priest upon him.

His family and church heard about his imprisonment. Too well they knew the pressures and hardships inflicted upon the persecuted non-Catholics of Spain. They sent the pastor to the military camp to see about his welfare.

When the pastor arrived, he found the boy was incommunicado. The pastor did not then know it, but the soldier could see him from his prison window, and knew of his presence.

Meanwhile, the pastor was astonished at the reception he received. The soldiers and officers were not only willing, but eager to hear his Christian testimony. They questioned him, and he answered their queries, wondering at this demonstration of interest, usually kept carefully, fearfully hidden in Spain.

After the pastor returned home, a letter from the soldier explained the mystery. He told of how he had seen the arrival of his pastor in the courtyard below. He had spent all the time that his pastor was in the post on his knees, praying for his pastor's safety and for his witness.

After reading the letter to the church, the pastor declared:

"I went to help our soldier, but, instead, I received help through him. It was the prayers of that consecrated boy that opened the hearts of the men who had confined him, to receive testimony of their prisoner's Lord!"

Baptist Press cutlines

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With feature story by Dave Morris

AMERICAN MOTHER OF THE YEAR--Mrs. Mary Weatherly of Fort Payne, Alabama, is shown with her pastor, Leland Tindal, wearing glasses, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fort Payne, and Olen Berry, a member of the Fort Payne Second Baptist Church, and a student in Mrs. Weatherly's literacy class. (BP) Photo