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Fites Return From Cuba;
David Well, Encouraged

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WAYNESBORO, Ga. (BP)--The father of an imprisoned Southern Baptist missionary has returned from 51 days in Cuba, encouraged by the health of his son and cordial treatment by Cuban officials.

Clifton E. Fite, pastor of the Rosemont Baptist Church here, and his wife, left the United States in February to make a personal appeal for the release of their 34-year old son David Fite, who was arrested along with 63-year old missionary Herbert Caudill in April 1965 for illegal currency exchange.

"We believe that the Cuban government will deal kindly with the matter of his release," Fite said.

The Fites also visited with Caudill, David's father-in-law, who underwent surgery by two American eye surgeons on March 15 for a detached retina. Fite said Caudill was regaining his sight rapidly and doing some reading and writing.

He said they were not made to feel unwelcome or ill at ease at any moment, and "were greatly encouraged, first by the officials' invitation to come to their offices, and second by the time they granted us to make our appeal."

Fite emphasized in an interview with the Baptist Press that he had made the trip and the subsequent appeals "as a father, and only as a father."

"We never got into any legalistic phase or sounded any note of antagonism," he said. "We were there simply to make an appeal for mercy on behalf of our son."

Fite said that on their arrival in Havana, Cuban officials flew David Fite from the off-shore Isle of Pines Prison to the La Cabana Fortress in Havana and established special "every Wednesday" visiting privileges.

Fite said his son was working in a marble pit and "had a good bronze tan--healthy but thin."

He said David had developed a hernia earlier but that the pit work had strengthened him and improved his condition. He also said David had recovered from jaundice and an ear infection in the past year.

"His health is better now than at any time since he has been in prison, as far as we know," Fite said.

For the special visiting privileges, Fite said David was taken to another prison nearby which had living room-type quarters for visiting purposes. He said David's wife Margaret, and their three sons also were allowed to make the visits. For the first time since his imprisonment, David held his two-year-old son in his arms.

Normally, Fite said, families are permitted to visit with prisoners only through a wire fence.

Fite said David and Margaret had agreed for their oldest son, David Jr., 10, to return to the U.S. with his grandparents, but this plan did not materialize before they left.

"His health was good and his attitude seemed paramount," Fite said of David.

"His mother asked: 'Now tell us, really, how are you?' and he answered: 'Physically I'm well, spiritually I'm strong, and my hope is continuous.'"

According to one prison official, David probably was sent to a work farm after his parents' departure, the elder Fite said, "which is fortunate, because he wants to work outdoors."

Fite said he thought the Cuban officials were favorably impressed with the manner in which he and Mrs. Fite made their request.

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"We spoke on an appeal of mercy," he said, "requesting that David be allowed to come home to his children and if he desired, allowed to come to the U.S."

Fite said he hoped that his appeal as a "father" would reach Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, who has exhibited his compassion for children in public, and who once left a strategic speech to rush to the side of his critically-ill son, "illustrating his warm concern as a father."

When asked if he were pleased with the level of government officials who received him, and if his visit were long enough, Fite replied: "If we weren't satisfied, we would have stayed another month, because they were willing to allow it."

Cuban officials "listened with reverence and responded with courtesy," he said.

Fite said Caudill still was at home, apparently recovering well. He said Caudill was doing some reading, writing letters, and welcoming students and former students as visitors.

The only restriction on Caudill's visitors, Fite said was the number. He cannot hold meetings or attend any public gatherings, he said.

Fite said the donation of equipment and drugs and the visit by the two U.S. eye surgeons who performed the surgery on Caudill and their obvious humanitarian concerns, had far-reaching effect. Cuban doctors apparently are beginning to use the instruments, he said, and are speaking "most kindly" of the U.S. surgeons.

Mr. and Mrs. Fite first began their effort nearly two years ago and were denied a visa by the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington, D. C., the Cuban government's representative in the U.S.

The Fites then went to Canada in the summer of 1966 to apply for a visa at the Cuban embassy in Ottawa, but they never received a reply. In January 1967, they traveled to Mexico City, where the Mexican foreign secretary and the Cuban ambassador to Mexico arranged for the trip.

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N.C. School Gets \$974,000
Medical Research Grant

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Bowman Gray School of Medicine, a Baptist institution in Winston Salem, N.C., has been awarded a \$974,000 grant to expand their medical research facilities, according to announcement by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

The funds will be used to help in the construction of a lateral extension to the medical school building.

One of the projects medical scientists are engaged in at Bowman Gray is testing to see how a brain scanner, that uses high-frequency sound to "see" structures inside the skull in two dimensions, can help patients with brain tumors.

Their research is one phase of an effort to explore the use of ultra-sound as a diagnostic tool.

The Bowman Gray grant is the largest of four awards totaling \$2,409,000 being given to research institutions by the division of reserach facilities and resources, National Institutes of Health.

Since the beginning of the program in 1956, a total of \$409,818,670 has been awarded to 406 institutions under the health research construction program.

This provides matching funds of up to 50 per cent for building, renovating and equipping health reserach facilities.

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New Orleans Trustees
Approve Salary Hikes

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The board of trustees of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved salary increases for the seminary faculty during their annual meeting here.

Approved by the board was an increase across-the-board to all teaching personnel, a summer school supplement, allowance for faculty children in college and the continuation of regular faculty salary escalation.

Officers of the board were re-elected to serve for the coming year. They are: William L. May, president; A. Morgan Brian Jr., vice-president; Cecil M. Girard, secretary; and Edward Wood, treasurer. All are of New Orleans except May who lives in Baton Rouge.

In other action, the trustees elevated to full professor: Donald W. Minton, associate professor of adult education, and William L. Hooper, associate professor of theory and dean of the School of Church Music.

Granted sabbatical leave for the 1967-68 academic year was Samuel Mikolaski, professor of theology. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Souther, associate professor and assistant professor respectively in the School of Religious Education, were granted a half-year absence to complete their sabbatical leaves.

J. Hardee Kennedy, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew and dean of the School of Theology, and Dr. Malcolm O. Tolbert, associate professor of New Testament and Greek, were granted sabbatical leaves for the 1968-69 school year. Also, an indefinite leave of absence was granted A. Ray Baker for the completion of his doctoral-degree.

A total budget of \$1,401,000 was also approved for the seminary for 1968.

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Wiggins Named Head
Of Campbell College

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BUIES CREEK, N.C. (BP)--Norman Adrian Wiggins, professor at Wake Forest College (Baptist) School of Law in Winston Salem, N.C., has been elected president of Campbell College here, a Baptist school affiliated with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

Wiggins, 43, will succeed Leslie Hartwell Campbell, who is retiring after 33 years as president. Campbell, 75, is the son of the late James Archibald Campbell, for whom the school is named, and the first president of the college.

Wiggins becomes the third president in the 80-year history of the Baptist school, which in 1961 became a four-year senior college.

An alumnus of Campbell, Wiggins is a magna cum laude graduate of Wake Forest College, where he received the bachelor of law degree in 1952. He earned masters and doctors degrees in law from Columbia University, New York.

Wiggins has been on the Wake Forest faculty since 1956. Previously he was associate trust officer with the Planters National Bank and Trust Co., Rocky Mount, N.C. He is a native of Burlington, N.C.

With a current enrollment of 2,100, Campbell College is the third largest private college in the state.

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Atkinson To Retire
At Norman College

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NORMAN PARK, Ga. (BP)--Guy N. Atkinson, president of Norman College (Baptist) here since 1952, has announced his retirement, effective Sept. 1, 1968.

He said he and his wife plan to live on the banks of Lake Alatoona, near Cartersville, Ga. Atkinson was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Cartersville, before becoming president of the Baptist junior college nearly 17 years ago.

During the 1965-66 school year, total enrollment for the year was 628 students. Total endowment is about \$2 million, and the school is planning to break ground on two new dormitories.

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Whitlow Elected Editor
Of Baptist New Mexican

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--C. Eugene Whitlow, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Alamogordo, N.M., for the past 12 years, has been elected editor of the Baptist New Mexican, weekly publication of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico published here.

Whitlow will assume the position June 16, succeeding Horace Burns, who resigned in November to accept a pastorate in Oregon.

He will also serve as secretary of public relations for the convention. He was elected to the post by the State Mission Board of the convention.

A native of Arkansas, Whitlow was pastor of Baptist churches in Seagraves and Cleburne, Tex., Gentry Ark., and Tulsa, Okla., before coming to New Mexico 12 years ago.

A member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the new editor is also a former vice president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico and president of the New Mexico Baptist State Mission Board.

He is a graduate of Tulane University, Tulsa, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Rosalea Koon has been serving as acting editor since Burns' resignation.

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Scales Named President
Of Wake Forest College

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WINSTON SALEM, N.C. (BP)--Trustees of Wake Forest College here elected an Oklahoma educator, James Ralph Scales, as the Baptist school's eleventh president.

Scales, former president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and now dean of the college of arts and sciences at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, will assume the position July 1.

He will succeed Harold W. Tribble, who announced in October that he planned to retire June 30, saying he was "tired, very tired."

Scales' election as president was announced at a press conference here called by Wake Forest Trustee Chairman Maurice Hill, president of Drexel Enterprises in Morgantown, N.C.

Scales said in accepting the position he hoped the school would move towards university status during his upcoming administration, and that it would develop strong graduate and research programs in areas not now covered.

Scales, 47, has been dean at Oklahoma State University for two years. When he resigned as president of Oklahoma Baptist University to accept the state college post, students at the Baptist school demonstrated in an effort to get Scales to reconsider. Trustees and faculty of the school strongly urged Scales to reconsider.

He was president of Oklahoma Baptist University for four years, and was a member of the faculty and administration, joining the faculty in 1940.

During his 22 years on the college's faculty and staff, Scales was associate professor, professor of history of government, dean of men, vice president, executive vice president, and finally president.

During World War II, he interrupted his teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University to serve on the U.S.S. Saratoga in the Navy.

Scales is a magna cum laude graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, and a doctor of philosophy graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He also has done graduate work at the University of Chicago and the University of London.

The new Wake Forest president is active in civic and religious affairs in Oklahoma. He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Stillwater, and former deacon at First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.

Enrollment at Wake Forest College is about 3,000.

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Photo to be mailed to state Baptist papers

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