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Caudill Improving, Hopes
To Read Soon, Letter Says

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ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Missionary Herbert Caudill, under house arrest in Havana, Cuba, is gradually recuperating from major eye surgery and hopes to be reading again soon.

Caudill reported on his health in a letter to Dick H. Hall Jr., vice president of Atlanta Baptist College here and former pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

Caudill is under house arrest after more than two years in Cuba prisons for alleged currency exchange violations.

"I see fairly well with the eye recently operated on, but cannot read very well," Caudill wrote to Hall. "I suppose that will be remedied when new glasses are prescribed... probably sometime in June."

"I was examined by ophthalmologists...who found the condition favorable a little over two months after the operation," Caudill said in the letter.

An Emory University eye surgeon, Dr. William Hagler, went to Havana in March to perform the delicate surgery on Caudill.

Caudill's son-in-law, David Fite, is still in a Cuban prison under the same charges. Both their wives are also in Havana.

Caudill's letter also included what Hall called "one of the finest documents on faith that I have ever seen."

The imprisoned missionary first expressed appreciation for the prayers of multitudes of people. "It is hard to be what we feel we ought to be when we have the assurance that thousands of people are letting their voices be lifted up for us day and night in prayer," Caudill wrote.

"We also have tried to be faithful in prayer for them and for those who need our prayers even more, those who do not know and consider the value of prayer."

Caudill then told Hall in the letter how much certain passages of scripture had meant to him during his imprisonment.

"A few days ago Psalm 126:3 came to me with special force," Caudill wrote. "Truly 'the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.' We count his many blessings and rejoice in what the Lord has done."

"I have not been able to spend much time in study but have thought a great deal on the teachings of Psalm 23," he added. "The idea that presents itself most prominently is 'He leadeth me.'"

"Wherever he leads me is satisfactory for he is there with me," wrote the imprisoned missionary. "We can see how he has been leading part of the way, and in time I think that the rest will clear up. He has led us safe thus far and I am sure that he will continue to be with us."

The missionary also expressed a new appreciation for Romans 8:28 ("And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose").

"As we look upon the work even now in this field (Cuba), we exclaim with the Psalmist: 'This is the Lord's doings, it is marvelous in our eyes,'" Caudill wrote.

An editorial in The Christian Index, Baptist state paper of Georgia, cited the letter and concluded: "Of such faith is sainthood made."

"His letter and his spirit put me to shame," wrote editor Jack U. Harwell. "They should do the same for most of us."

"If anybody in the world has reason to feel sorry for himself, it is Dr. Caudill," the editorial said. "But the letter was rich with faith and hope."

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New WMU Mission Action
Materials To Be Featured

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BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The printers ink will hardly be dry when the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) presents its new mission action guidance materials at WMU Conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Assembly this summer.

"Mission action" is a new Southern Baptist strategy for ministering and witnessing to people the church is missing in its regular programs, WMU officials said.

Training church workers for mission action efforts will share the spotlight with leader training mission information at WMU Conferences at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, July 20-26, and Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, August 10-16.

Preparing WMU leaders to get mission action underway in 1967-68, afternoon workshops at the conferences will amplify five new mission action group guides and the Mission Action Projects Guide to be released July 15.

Each workshop will deal with how to set up mission action groups. How to use the printed guides will be demonstrated.

Other mission action steps to be explained include personal preparation, surveying the needs, planning, in-service training and group sharing.

Women who wrote the new materials will direct the workshops, aided by WMU staff members who also serve on the teams which planned the guides.

Workshops will be held introducing new materials on mission action strategies for ministering to juvenile delinquents, language groups, internationals, the sick, and the poor.

Another workshop will teach leaders of Women's Missionary Societies, Girls' Auxiliary, and Young Woman's Auxiliary, how to conduct the many types of short-term mission action activities.

Speakers include Mrs. Roy Snider of Camden, Ark., writer of Mission Action Projects Guide; Mrs. Louie Wilkinson of Longview, Tex., author of the juvenile rehabilitation guide; Mrs. Sam Dunbar of New Orleans, author of the language groups guide; Mrs. Robert Denny of Washington, writer of the internationals guide; Mrs. Roy McGlamery of Ripley, Miss., author of the guide on ministering to the sick; and Mrs. Don Thompson of Lubbock, Tex., writer of the guide on ministering to the economically disadvantaged.

General meetings will present the contemporary world missions picture through addresses by furloughing Southern Baptist missionaries, WMU leaders said.

Bible teachers will be Josef Nordenhaug at Glorieta, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; and Page H. Kelley at Ridgecrest, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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Missionary Urges SBC
To Minister To Needs

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary Webster Carroll challenged Southern Baptists here to step outside themselves and begin ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of people.

The challenge by Carroll, a missionary to Uganda, Africa, ended the first annual World Missions Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, attracting 2,275 persons from throughout the nation and Panama.

Giving equal emphasis to foreign, home, state and local missions, the conference was beamed to families.

The executive secretaries of the two sponsoring missionary education agencies, George Schroeder of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Miss Alma Hunt of Woman's Missionary Union, lauded the high attendance at the first conference featuring all areas of missions.

They recognized Mrs. Paul Davidson of Chamblee, Ga., as the 2,000 person to register by presenting her a copy of Bill Wallace of China autographed by author Jesse Fletcher.

The two agency leaders identified Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Assembly as the site of the 1968 World Missions Conference. Date is July 25-31.

Missionary Carroll said everyone should be a missionary of one kind or another. "The only requirement," he said, "is to step outside yourself."

"The countdown for Christian action starts when we see people in the same way Christ saw them," Carroll said.

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New Religious Liberty 585
Law Passed In Spain

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By C. E. Bryant

MADRID (BP)--The Spanish Cortes (parliament) has adopted a new religious liberty law about which Baptist officials are less than enthusiastic.

Although news reports indicate that the law gives non-Catholics in Spain equal rights with Catholics, Baptist leaders here say the new law is more restrictive than the Vatican Council's statement on religious freedom.

The opening article of the law, however, was commended by two Baptist leaders as "a good statement on the basis of religious liberty."

Both Spanish Baptist Pastor Jose Cardona of Madrid and Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance who was here recently while visiting in Europe, commended the new law for an opening article which states:

"The Spanish state recognizes the right of religious liberty as founded on the dignity of the human person, and ensures the necessary protection in providing immunity against any coercion in the legitimate exercise of this right."

Nordenhaug, who has been visiting Europe since mid-May, said however that the 40 articles which follow whittle down this right by limitations, restrictions, and regulations which apply only to non-Catholic religious groups.

"I am very disillusioned," said Cardona, who had praised the original draft of the law before it was subjected to amendments by committees of the cabinet and of the national Cortes.

Cardona said that because the new law is more restrictive than the Vatican Council II statement on religious freedom, it actually conflicts with existing Spanish law which states: "the doctrine of the Catholic Church will inspire its (the Spanish government's) legislation"

Cardona said that "the Spanish bishops have done nothing to promote the cause of genuine religious freedom."

Both Cardona and Nordenhaug listed specific points in the new law which they felt were restrictive. The limitations, said Nordenhaug, include:

* Non-Catholics must submit annually a complete list of members to the Minister of Justice. The financial records of each non-Catholic church must be open at any time to the inspection of government authorities.

* Places of worship must be approved by the state and permission to hold religious services anywhere else must be secured from the authorities "in ample time." Signs on non-Catholic churches and advertising of services must be only on "a scale adequate for their needs."

* The Spanish Ministry of Justice will establish a register of non-Catholic ministers and of non-Catholic Confessional Associations. Evangelical ministers will be subject to draft into military service.

Cardona further pointed out that there is a provision which makes it compulsory for non-Catholics in the armed forces to attend church parades "as an act of service." The original law, he said, exempted them from this on grounds of conscience.

Nordenhaug said that the "liberty" advertised for non-Catholics is severely limited by these and other regulations. The proposed law merely grants to non-Catholics the right to apply for permission to exercise their religion within these limits, he declared.

Other spokesmen for Protestant organizations in Spain have said the effect of the law will depend largely on the way in which it is interpreted and enforced.

While they welcome such things as the law's recognition of Protestant marriages as valid, they, too, question whether some requirements can be described as promoting true religious freedom.

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Under the new law, among the rights which Protestants will enjoy for the first time are those of worshipping publicly, putting signs on their churches and listing the time of services, conducting schools and seminaries for their own members, distributing books to their members and having their own cemeteries.

Also, Spanish Protestants will now be able to hold commissions in the armed forces and public offices, below that of Chief of State which must be held by a Catholic.

Protestant organizations also will be able to own property for the first time, rather than having the property registered in the name of one of their members, as in the past.

Protestant hopes have been raised by several events, beginning with the second Vatican Council's assertion that religious liberty is a God-given right of every person and that such liberty cannot be either granted or denied by human authority.

Even Spain's Chief of State Generalissimo Franco broadcast a message last New Year's eve announcing a new day for religious liberty of all the people of Spain.

But Spanish Baptist leaders fear that adoption of the new law will make it mandatory upon the authorities to enforce the projected restrictions, thereby actually making conditions more difficult than at present.