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Ndolo Found Dependable God
Enroute To Becoming Doctor

By Sue McInnish

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Joseph Ndolo knows what it's like to survive on next to nothing. For two years he spent only five dollars a week for food. Once he ate only two bananas in three days.

But dedication to a dream--to go to medical school and become the only doctor for his country village in Kenya--has seen Ndolo through the lean times over the past four years.

And because of the Christian witness of one Montgomery man, Ndolo now has another dream--to tell his people about the God he has accepted, a God "you can depend on for everything."

The villagers in the Kamba tribe raised \$4,000 for the 29-year-old to "go anywhere in the world" to train to be a doctor. "There are people who sold shoes, clothes and poultry to make sure that even if they put in only the American equivalent of three cents, they still donated to the fund," explained Ndolo, who speaks English with a British accent.

His village, in which there is no electricity and most families farm small plots of land, has no doctor. A medical dispensary is run by two Catholic nuns, but it has no stethoscope and Ndolo says he has never seen anyone's blood pressure taken.

To see a doctor villagers must "get on a bus in the early morning to arrive in the city at noon," Ndolo said. "They stand in line--sometimes until almost night--to get a number to be seen by a doctor. If they are seriously ill they die in line."

In 1978 Ndolo came to Alabama State University in Montgomery because a friend taught there. But during Ndolo's first year of school his money ran out. (He had to pay double tuition until recently because he was classified as a foreign student.)

His life was also lonely. Ndolo had left a culture which strongly emphasized the extended family but he knew very few people in America. He learned not to tell people about his problems because they would "stay away from me." He felt "at a dead-end and saw no hope for achieving my goal."

But Ndolo, working the night shift as an orderly at St. Margaret's Hospital, did risk telling one intensive care patient about his plight. The patient, the late Jack Ingram, a dedicated member of Dalraida Baptist Church in Montgomery, told Ndolo about his faith in God.

After that his life began to change.

"I had never heard you could depend on God for everything," Ndolo said. "I had a true spiritual experience like never before and I started looking at life from Jesus' point of view. Something hit me and I started feeling different. Mr. Ingram trained me to pray before I do anything. He taught me God can do anything--no doubt."

Ndolo was baptized at Dalraida Baptist Church where he attends regularly and is a member of the choir. His Christian commitment has continued to grow and now he has dreams of returning to his people as a missionary doctor.

In an interview before Ingram's death this summer Ndolo said, "I know Mr. Ingram will never go to Kenya but through him someone there will accept Christ."

Ingram's help continued beyond his initial witness. He paid for most of Ndolo's tuition at Auburn University--Montgomery where he transferred for his last three years of school. He also let Ndolo work at his car dealership on his days off.

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A group, mostly from Dalraida Baptist, has been helping Ndolo for the last two years. They are expanding the Joseph Ndolo Committee statewide according to Ira Myers, Alabama public health officer and a member of the church. The committee wants to find an estimated at \$40,000 to pay for Ndolo's medical school.

Finances have always been a problem for Ndolo. After the summer of 1979 Ndolo was working two jobs, going to school fulltime and "trying to learn as much as I can in the short period I'm here because my people are waiting." He slept about three hours a day, repaid his debt to Alabama State, bought his books and provided his own living expenses.

In 1979 Kenya was hit by a tremendous drought. In Ndolo's village "nothing green was left." So Ndolo sent support to his parents, five brothers and two sisters. Ten dollars would provide enough food for his family for two weeks.

After he graduated in June 1981, he applied at 21 U.S. schools and one school in Mexico. He was accepted by the Mexican school but did not have enough money to go. He still owes \$760 for his last quarter's tuition and until that is paid he can't get a copy of his transcript.

Applying to schools and traveling to interviews cost him \$600 and he had to quit his job at the hospital because of the travel. Yet he insists his problems are "not so unique or extra. Someone over there (in Kenya) is going through more than I am," he said.

More important to Ndolo is the help he has received from God and his church. He loves to talk about the love and help he has received from the "God-loving people" at Dalraida.

"They make sure I eat every day. And even if they can't solve a problem they can give you direction," he said. "I can't imagine a way of paying back their love and concern except by praying God will bless them.

"I imagine every week a Baptist hospital and church in my village named after Dalraida," Ndolo said. "I don't know how they will get built but I pray God will see the need of those people and open a way."

On the advice of several who have been helping him, Ndolo has moved to Birmingham to be close to those who can advise him about school admission. He is working there as a nurses' assistant.

Ndolo laments the passage of every day as a lost day from school. "I want to learn as much as I can. I will keep trying. I will not give up."

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(McInnish is a reporter for the Alabama Baptist, newsjournal of the Alabama Baptist Convention where this story first appeared.)

Church Vandalisms Prompt
Increased Police Watches

By Michael Tutterow

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ATLANTA (BP)—Police announced stepped-up security measures for Atlanta city churches to curb increases in church vandalism and burglaries.

In a meeting with Atlanta clergy last week, police discussed the recent barrage of crimes against churches and suggested ways to curb the rash of incidents.

Police said every church would be patrolled and thoroughly checked several times daily. In addition patrol units will increase the number of spot checks on church property and will conduct random stake-outs on church premises.

A police spokesman told Baptist Press 97 incidents of church burglaries had been reported during the past four months with 22 of the incidents involving Baptist churches. The number of crimes against churches has more than doubled over the same period last year.

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The attacks prompted allegations from at least one Baptist minister that the incidents stemmed from an organized assault on churches.

Last week vandals overturned sanctuary furniture and 62 pews and shattered seven glass door panes at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church causing an estimated \$20,000 in damage. There are no reported suspects.

Within a 48-hour period vandals broke into Wieuca Road Baptist Church overturning furniture and scattering papers throughout an assistant minister's office. Two days later a maintenance worker discovered two 25-year-old loiterers sleeping in the church's sanctuary. A warrant has been issued for their arrest.

Police denied the incidents were related and assured clergy members of new measures to increase security for church properties.

Jim Neyland, minister of education and administration at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, said Atlanta police had already surveyed church property and planned to submit a written proposal for increasing church security. "Our staff will meet about their recommendations and will act as soon as possible," said Neyland.

Though Neyland expressed sadness about the damage done to the church's sanctuary, he said the incident had drawn church members together in a "spirit of unity."

"We also feel the police and the churches are going to unite in a cooperative spirit and a lot of good is going to come out of this," added Neyland.

Wieuca Road Baptist Church staff also remained optimistic despite the break-in at the church. Ken Wright, minister to youth, said the break-in at his office appeared to be a "very deliberate kind of action," but added he saw no connection between the incidents at Wieuca and Second-Ponce de Leon. The church intends to increase responsibilities of security personnel.

Wright hopes stepping up security through church participation in neighborhood watch programs will increase church awareness of community needs.

"The incident has reinforced our mission as a church," said Wright, and "pointed out the need to have a stronger impact on the community. When things like this happen it sharpens my perspective of our church being an agent in our community to effect positive change."

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Illinois Editor Wins
Third Historical Award

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Robert J. Hastings, editor of the Illinois Baptist, has been honored by the Illinois State Historical Society for 40 photo essays on Illinois churches.

The society presented an award of merit for the series published in the Illinois Baptist, newsjournal of the Illinois Baptist State Association, during the past 11 months. To prepare the series Hastings visited a cross-section of Illinois churches, including rural and city, ethnic and black, large and small.

The purpose of the series was to highlight the 75th anniversary year of the Illinois Baptist State Association founded in 1907.

According to Lynn E. May, executive director of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, "the series is not only valuable as a resource for a better understanding of the religious history of Illinois but also is valuable to the entire Southern Baptist Convention as a resource for a better understanding of Baptists in this geographical area of the nation."

Hastings' current award marks his third award from the Illinois State Historical Society. In 1973 he was honored for his boyhood memoirs, A Nickel's Worth of Skim Milk, and again in 1976 for his oral history of Baptists in Illinois, We Were There.

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Neil Urges Female
Parity In Missions

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Anne Neil, visiting professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has urged female parity with men within the mission fields of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During a Missions Day program at the seminary she noted 54.4 percent of SBC missionaries are women and advocated full participation by women in all aspects of missionary work including staff positions of the convention's Foreign Mission Board.

The title of Neil's address, "Many Other Women," came from Luke 8:3: "Among them were many other women who used their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples." Neil asked, "How socially acceptable was it for these women to be following Jesus?" and added, "I feel sure they did not do so without a price!"

In a brief summary of the history of women in Baptist missionary work from the Boston Female Society of the early 1800s through the present day, she noted women were limited to fund raising activities until they were first appointed to the mission field in any significant numbers in the 1880s. Today, she said, "women are teaching at all levels from kindergarten to seminary. Others are music and religious education consultants, general evangelists, women and children's workers, campus ministers, publication workers, mass media programmers, social workers and specialists in other areas. They are homemakers, wives and mothers."

Neil expressed concern the number of single women missionaries has dropped drastically among Baptists, other Protestants and Catholics since 1950. She said this could be due in part to the struggle for parity in homeland churches during those years.

"Married women," she stated, "who have the credentials and so choose may be appointed on the basis of specific work assignment. However, the trend is still for women to be appointed under the broad category of 'home and church.'"

Neil stated a further concern that, "in recent years some women have expressed what may be described as a 'subtle' unconscious bypassing of women, rather than outright discrimination, on the part of the Foreign Mission Board. Some married women have been 'put off' by the practice of not being examined as thoroughly as either husbands or single women. Some of these women have felt they have not received much recognition."

However, Neil conveyed an optimistic outlook for the future, "there is planned intent (at the Foreign Mission Board) to open more avenues to single women" in such areas as church planting and field evangelism. She said there would be more capitalizing on "the gifts and skills of married women."

Neil quoted Jesse Fletcher, former director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board and now president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas: "Since in Christ there is neither male nor female it follows that the Holy Spirit would not discriminate in the distribution of gifts for service. Surely God not only calls, but also equips, all saints, male and female, for the task of mission."

Prior to retirement in 1981 Neil and her husband, Lloyd, served as missionaries in Ghana and Nigeria. While her husband was involved with administrative and business management functions, her work included nursing education, seminary education, working with women and campus ministry.

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BSU Director Heeds
Own Mission Advice

By Cathy Rogers

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PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—John Moore practices what he preaches about missions. And that amounts to a big practice since Moore is Baptist Student Union director at a university that ranks in the top three nationally in supplying summer missionaries.

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Since he came to Louisiana College in 1977 the Pineville campus has averaged 27 summer missionaries per year. "I've always felt a legitimate concern for missions and have sat behind a desk encouraging students to participate in summer missions," he said.

But this summer Moore carted his wife and three pre-schoolers (ages seven months to four years) 1,365 miles to live in two rooms of a Baptist camp in Roscommon, Mich.

Eligible for a 90-day sabbatical leave, Moore was eager to accept the Michigan appointment to obtain a deeper understanding of his students' summer missions experiences.

His wife, Sharon, said, "When he told me I may have to wash dishes and do the camp laundry, I thought, 'Oh good, terrific!'" And laundry lady she was for eight weeks. "Mission work is not all high and lofty. It's being willing to do what needs to be done," Sharon said.

The camp was a lovely facility and the rooms had carpet and a private bathroom, Moore said. "But more living space for the children would have been nice. It was tough for me to know they didn't have their own room, toys and backyard all summer. Knowing what I do now about the experience I'm not very sure I'd do it again with the children so young. It would be better if they were older."

The summer was difficult but Moore stresses the positive. "I don't want to seem super spiritual but it was hard and God has blessed us," Moore said. He also enjoyed the opportunity to be with his children more often than usual. "I ate three meals every day with them and they got to see what I do."

Why was his wife so willing to transport her children to Bambi Lake Baptist Camp in northwest Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a pioneer area for Southern Baptists?

"I'd heard rave reviews about summer missions from students who seemed to profit. I wanted that for myself," she said. She and her husband, whose main task was maintenance, learned the same lesson. "I don't think anything is too menial to be mission work," Moore explained.

Four days a week Moore cut and split firewood to prepare the camp for the winter, did repair plumbing jobs and worked on camp vehicles to keep them running. His other days were spent for the Northland Baptist Association which covers 21 counties and is the fastest growing Baptist association in America. "Up there they just need people. They don't have enough to keep the camp running," Moore said.

Bambi Lake Camp is the only thing the Michigan state convention owns. "There were lots of boys and girls that came to know Jesus through the camp. My part was as important as the men who preached the sermon when they accepted Christ," Moore said.

Moore also supervised a five-member student team doing survey work knocking on doors to invite people to tent revivals. They even pitched the tents and took them down.

Answering Moore's inquiry about participating in a Bible study a man said, "I am an old man and don't have time for something like that any more," and slammed the door. At another door, however, were the Drapers, a family of seven who helped the group start a church.

Another highlight was the wedding of a common law couple with several children. They were married on Saturday and baptized on Sunday. The couple asked Moore to be the best man and Sharon to be the matron of honor. "It was the finest compliment I've ever had," Moore said.

The summer gave Moore a new perspective, a new direction and a new commitment to his work, he said. "Once I emphasized to students what they would obtain from the experience. Now I'll send them because I know they can be a tremendous help."