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NOTE TO EDITORS: Africa correspondent Craig Bird wrote the following stories after a trip to Angola, a nation struggling to emerge from a 15-year civil war.

N'Kozi puts heart into pastorate,
head into Angola Baptist Convention By Craig Bird

F-FMB

LUANDA, Angola (BP)--David N'Kozi is equipped and God-led to be executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Angola.

He is equipped and God-called to be a pastor.

But since the tasks in Angola are so many and the hands so few, he willingly does double duty. "I won't spend the rest of my life in the convention office," he explained forcefully. "I don't want to do this forever. My calling is to the local church."

The split duties don't seem to have hampered his work with Redemption Baptist Church in the Mulemba area of Luanda, Angola's capital. He started Baptist work in the area in 1984 after being selected as an evangelist for First Baptist Church of Luanda. Six months later his mission congregation had 120 members and had become a church.

N'Kozi went to Zimbabwe to attend the Baptist seminary there, but the church voted to wait for him. When he returned in 1988 he gladly resumed his pastoral calling, and he willingly put his hand to the convention job.

Redemption Baptist Church attendance has passed the 600 mark. Seventy cell groups are keys to continual prayer support, outreach and discipleship. Although the church is predominately Mbundu, members from nine other Angolan ethnic groups also attend. The church also has started at least seven missions. Several will soon become churches.

The church, located in a low-income area, is the largest giver to the Angolan convention's cooperative program. "We've never missed a month giving 20 percent to the convention," N'Kozi said. "We also give 10 percent to the Luanda association. That's not to our honor but for the glory of God."

N'Kozi believes the church would be even larger if he could concentrate on being a pastor. But the convention effort was suffering "because decisions would be made but no one was there to follow them up, strategies needed to be coordinated and our international relationships were lagging."

So he agreed to become the first executive secretary. That role puts him alongside six Southern Baptist and five Brazilian Baptist missionaries. Portuguese Baptists also are considering sending a missionary couple.

The convention embraces about 80 churches and 150 missions. Exact figures are impossible to find since more than half of the churches are in areas controlled by anti-government UNITA forces and out of contact with Luanda.

N'Kozi thinks peace for Angola -- and exciting evangelistic opportunities for Baptists -- loom in the near future. He acknowledges the problems of rebuilding institutions lost during the war but is confident Baptists can cover the entire country with the gospel "in three to five years."

N'Kozi's response to God's call did not follow a direct path.

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His father is a pastor and has been head of the Reformed Church in Angola for 20 years. In 1961, when the Angolan war for independence against the Portuguese heated up, N'Kozi's father led his entire congregation from its home village in northern Angola into Zaire. The family remained there for 11 years until N'Kozi went to Kenya to earn a university degree in economics. While there he was invited by a friend to visit Kampala, Uganda. He attended an evangelistic crusade and was confronted by the claims of Jesus Christ.

"I cried for 30 minutes when I was saved," he remembered. "My father couldn't believe it when I wrote him. He said, 'Son, something has changed in your life.'"

Against advice, N'Kozi returned to Angola in 1974, working first as an accountant for a rubber company and later as business manager and director for the Angola Bible Society. He joined a Luanda Evangelical church, but contacts with Baptists in Zaire and Kenya kept coming to mind.

Finally he realized, "I'm a Baptist." He went to First Baptist Church in Luanda, talked to the pastor and joined. Three months later they asked him to be an evangelist in the Mulemba area.

Although he was a northerner working in a neighborhood of Mbundu people from the south, results were overwhelming right from the start.

"The people could tell I loved the Mbundu," he said. "My grandfather was a Mbundu who had been forced to move to the north by the Portuguese for their labor force. And my wife is Mbundu. I met her while I was attending a Bible Society seminary in the south." When he preached, 40 people at a time often would respond to the invitation.

"Back then, before seminary, my philosophy of church planting rested on two things: prayer and preaching," he said. Today they are still touchstones, but he has added another: involving lay people.

"We have 70 cell groups scheduled to meet different days of the week so we have constant prayer support for what we are doing," he said. "We have 16 committees that cover every area of church life. The people have learned to work for the Lord themselves and not let the pastor do everything."

That's why, even with a part-time pastor, the church is the largest and fastest-growing in the convention.

N'Kozi borrows one of his three keys to church growth for his own life. Daily at 4 a.m., he prays and studies the Bible. "Prayer is everything," he said. "There's no power without it."

And it takes lots of power to get him through his dual tasks.

"I switch back and forth between two Scriptures," he admitted. "When I'm the convention worker I rely on Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' And when I'm a pastor I go back to Psalms 23:1: 'The Lord is my shepherd.'"

It seems to be working.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

'Dead' son
interrupts wake

By Craig Bird

F- FMS

Baptist Press
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UIGE, Angola (BP)--You can't live in fear. Even during a civil war. Or maybe especially during a civil war.

When Moises Garcia got in his truck and headed into the countryside near Uige, Angola, he knew anti-government UNITA troops could be in the area. But his family needed charcoal, and the women riding with him did too.

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His father aptly had demonstrated that possible danger is no reason to fail to do what needs to be done. During the days when Angolans were fighting Portugal for independence, Benedito Garcia regularly flouted the Portuguese restriction on more than five people gathering at one time.

As a Baptist pastor, the elder Garcia was committed to helping new believers participate in baptism. So the church would gather at night by a river, post lookouts and immerse new Christians. Twice during that time he baptized more than 1,000 people in one year.

So Moises did what he felt he had to do as a Christian husband and father.

But when he stopped 10 miles outside of town to cut wood to make charcoal, UNITA rebel troops sprang from the bushes. They let the two older women with him go, but forced him to drive them several miles off the road to a village.

The freed women hurried back to town and told pastor Garcia his son had been kidnapped. Later other travelers reported they had come upon Moises' abandoned truck on the road. It was badly burned, but they were sure it was his. There were no signs of him; they assumed he had been killed.

Pastor Garcia told his wife, his daughter-in-law and his 42-year-old son's eight children what had happened. Word spread quickly and townspeople began joining the grieving family to mourn.

The next morning people from outlying villages started arriving, crying and comforting their pastor and friends.

At 1:30 p.m. a non-mourner walked up. Soon no one was mourning. Moises was alive!

Moises recounted what happened: while driving the UNITA troops down a hillside, he had pointed out his brakes were no good. As he careened around corners and past trees and boulders the soldiers began jumping from the truck.

When it finally rolled to a stop, Moises was the only one left in the vehicle. He ran into the woods and hid in the weeds. "They didn't make much effort to find me," he explained. But he was close enough to watch as the rebels, who caught up with the truck on foot, set it on fire.

He spent the night in the forest, and at daybreak began cautiously making his way the 15 miles back to Uige.

Amazingly, even though he arrived in midday and the entire town was aware of the supposed tragedy, he did not meet anyone on the road. The first people he saw were his parents and his wife.

The rest of the afternoon and even the next day people arrived from distant villages to mourn his death. Instead they joined the celebration.

Christians have not always been spared in Angola's civil war. Pastors and deacons have been drafted and never heard from again. Women and children have died in bomb blasts. But, as the Garcias insist, miracles still happen.

"I don't call him Moises anymore," the elderly pastor claimed with a grin. "I just call him Jonah -- he disappeared and we thought he was dead. Then he popped back up again."

CLeaR-TV ends boycott
of Burger King over ads

By Louis Moore

N-CO (CLC)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The executive committee of Christian Leaders for Responsible Television has voted unanimously to end early, effective Nov. 1, a one-year boycott of Burger King, citing the fast-food chain's willingness to be more selective in its sponsorship of television shows featuring sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian bigotry.

The organization made the decision to end the boycott after Burger King announced plans to begin a special national advertising effort in support of traditional values on television. On Sunday, Oct. 28, the fast-food chain began running ads in daily newspapers throughout the country that affirm traditional family values.

The half-page ad reads: "An Open Letter to the American People: Burger King wishes to go on record as supporting traditional American values on television, especially the importance of the family. We believe the American people desire television programs that reflect the values they are trying to instill in their children. We pledge to support such programs with our advertising dollars."

CLeaR-TV called the boycott against Burger King after its regular Spring 1990 monitoring period showed the fast-foot restaurant chain helped sponsor two-thirds more sex, violence and profanity than the average advertiser. According to CLeaR-TV statistics, Burger King helped sponsor 18.85 incidents of sex, violence and profanity with every 30-second commercial.

Through its ads, Burger King sponsored such shows as Ruthless People, Octopussy, Platoon, Child in the Night, Beverly Hills Cop II, Throw Momma From the Train, Hardball and The Nasty Boys.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is a member of CLeaR-TV's executive committee, which is composed of religious leaders from a variety of Christian denominations.

After the vote to end the boycott, Land said, "I am delighted that Burger King and CLeaR-TV were able to resolve this situation so expeditiously. I am extremely pleased at Burger King's response and their energetic efforts to be pro-active in promoting wholesome family values in television entertainment."

Land urged Southern Baptists to patronize Burger King restaurants to show support for the fast-food chain's turnaround on the issue.

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Religious education leader,
James Frost, dies in Florida

N-CO (FLA.) Baptist Press
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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--James E. Frost, whose Sunday school and discipleship training posts took him to the staffs of three state conventions and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, died of a massive heart attack at his Jacksonville Beach, Fla., home, Oct. 27. He was 72.

Frost directed the Sunday school department of the Florida Baptist Convention from 1970 until his retirement in 1983. Prior to that, he was secretary of the Sunday school department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (1968-1970); supervisor of the general administration unit of the SSB training union (now discipleship training) department (1964-1968); and director of the training union department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California (1956-1964).

He was pastor of churches in Washington and Texas.

Although retired, Frost was active still in Florida Baptist life. At the time of his death, he was preparing to leave for a Sunday school training conference at the Hardeetown Baptist Church in Chiefland, Fla.

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Frost graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, with a bachelor of arts degree in 1947. He did further study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.

Frost frequently contributed articles for Southern Baptist Convention periodicals and curriculum materials.

Frost is survived by his wife, Alice Frost of Jacksonville Beach; three sons: F. Dennis Frost of Austin, Texas; Lesley W. Frost of Pacific Palisades, Calif.; and James N. Frost of Nashville; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the building fund of the Coastal Baptist Mission in Jacksonville, in care of First Church of Jacksonville Beach.

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HMB appoints task force
for 1996 Atlanta Olympics

N- HMB

Baptist Press
10/31/90

ATLANTA (BP)--A special task force to coordinate ministries during the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta has been appointed by Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

In September, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 1996 games to Atlanta, the hometown of Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board. For two weeks during that summer, Atlanta will become the temporary home to 625,000 international visitors.

Bill Lee, director of the HMB's special ministries department, will chair the task force. Bobby Sunderland, special assistant for promotion and project development in the evangelism section, will be vice chairman.

Ten other HMB staffers representing a wide spectrum of expertise will serve on the task force.

Lewis said the HMB task force will coordinate efforts with the Georgia Baptist Convention. The HMB has sponsored ministries at previous Olympics, most recently at the 1988 winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, and the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

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