

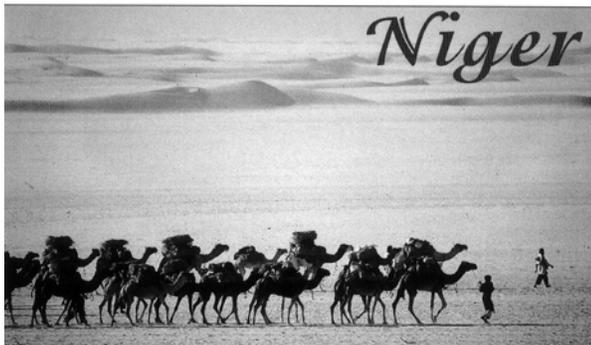
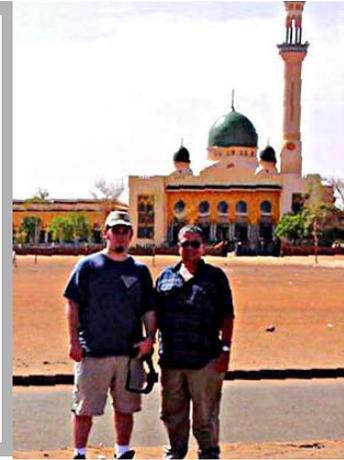
from the

# REGIONS BEYOND

Bruce & Becky McDonald

September 2001

**AFRICA:** The past few months have been some of the most challenging of our ministry. In addition to an extremely intense ministry schedule in some difficult places, we faced the challenge of moving into more secure housing in Africa. We have held crusades and pastor's conferences in *Congo, Islamic North Africa, Burundi, Rwanda and Ethiopia*. Through your prayers and financial support, we are able to make a significant advance into the darkest parts of Africa. These are areas in which some of the gravest human atrocities in history are now occurring...countries where thousands of people enter eternity every day. You are making the difference in the eternal destiny of thousands of people who now know Jesus as Savior!



Niger is bordered by Libya, Algeria, Mali & Chad

**The Sahara Desert** covers Niger like a blanket. Hot and dusty "harmattan" winds blow with such intensity rain evaporates before falling to the ground. This leaves little doubt Niger is one of the world's hottest regions with temperatures often rising to 130°.

During the 7th century, Berber Christians were driven south to Niger by Islamic jihads and, for a brief time, Christianity came to Niger. Due to Niger's isolation, Christianity soon died out, resulting in a country with a population of 99.5% Islamic and tribal religions.

**North Africa Pastor's Conference:** We held our second national pastor's conference in the Islamic country of Niger. Nearly every pastor in the country participated. Pastors came from every denomination including Baptist, Pentecostal and SIM. The common thread was a desire to be taught the Word of God and to see Niger saved. In the midst of extreme temperatures, we taught from 8:00AM until 5:30 PM followed by a night crusade.



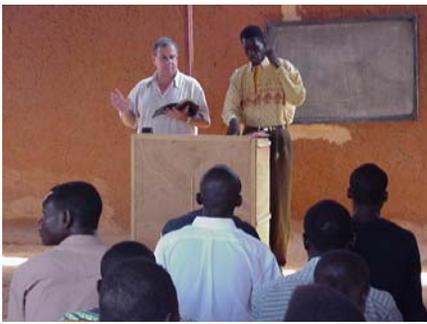
Interdenominational Pastor's Conference



**Hundreds of Moslems Come to Christ:** Approximately 450 Moslems responded to the invitation to receive Jesus as Savior. The response was overwhelming in the midst of disruptions to the meetings by Moslem fundamentalists. In an attempt to keep people away from the crusade meetings, fundamentalists erected barricades and physically dragged people from the meetings. In addition, a steady rain of rocks were hurled into the crowds by fundamentalists. These attempts to stop the move of God only caused the crowd to grow each night as people came to receive salvation.

"Our desire is to preach the gospel in the regions beyond" 2 Corinthians 10:16

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**T**eaching New Converts: During the crusades, teaching was done for new converts. To conserve the harvest, Christian principles and truth must be taught to the new believers as quickly as possible. A church was established on the grounds of the crusade so the new believers would have a place to worship, be taught and to fellowship with other Christians in the midst of this Islamic stronghold. Through these teaching sessions, we are able to demonstrate to pastors how to conserve the Lord's harvest.

**O**ne of the most intense times of ministry we have experienced is now in process. Immediately following the Congo ministry, my son and I held the Niger crusades, conference and teaching in the midst of extreme temperatures. With a schedule that included 10 hours per day of actual ministry time, nothing to occupy our limited free time and basic living conditions, we have returned to Nairobi strong in body, spirit and emotion. This is a testimony to the value of having my son with me, as we remain fresh for the next endeavors.



### Life On The Mission Field

Our trustworthy dog, Killer, has shown he is a better pet than guard. Around 11 PM, we heard screaming and great commotion just outside our home. Within minutes two trucks of guards pulled up; followed by helicopters with armed guards. Apparently a car hijacked by "thugs," forced the driver on a route that took him past our complex. The driver conveniently ran out of gas directly in front of our gate whereby he proceeded to scale the electric fence immediately in front of the security guards. Having no idea what was going on, the guards pressed their back-up security button and the guard service sent the only security that is effective—truckloads of guards with clubs—to deal with the intruders. Calling the police would only result in a request to "come pick them up." In the midst of the screaming and commotion, Killer did not make a sound.

### Our Son Travels To African Village

Our son recently traveled with one of our African friends to his home village or "up country" as a journey outside the city is called. The several day journey was complete with a number of cultural experiences:

- Our son was asked to appoint one of the villagers as Governor of Texas.
- Every meal was eaten out of a gourd.
- A special meal of boiled goat, rice and pigeon peas was prepared in honor of our son.
- There were no "facilities" of any kind.
- A vehicle full of goats and chickens accompanied our son back to the city.
- Our son was asked about marrying a village girl.

**THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . Burundi and Congo. . .** Bruce is holding a pastor's conference in Burundi this month for pastors from Burundi, Congo and Rwanda. The war continues in Burundi as the rebel army remains in control of much of the country. **Ethiopia. . .** Plans are nearing completion for a crusade and pastors conference in Ethiopia during . . . . . We are expecting as many as two thousand pastors and leaders to attend the conference and approximately fifty thousand people in attendance at the crusades. Even though it will be . . . . ., it will be very hot and dusty in Ethiopia. The ministry schedule is relentless with the pastor's conference beginning around 9:00 AM and concluding at 9:00 PM each day. The crusade itself is twenty-four hours per day—with non-stop services day and night. **Africa. . .** Over the next several months we will hold several conferences for pastors and leaders in Africa. Perhaps the greatest need in Africa is the training of pastors. **North Africa. . .** We have been invited to hold an additional crusade in Islamic North Africa in . . . . . The crusade will be combined with the establishment of a new church in a city that has no churches. **Additional Ministry Plans. . .** Please pray for provision for our upcoming ministry schedule, that includes pastor's conferences and crusades in Latvia, Russia and Ethiopia.