



from the

# REGIONS BEYOND

**Bruce & Becky McDonald**

Summer 2001

**A**FRICA: Winter in Africa is half over. We are located in the southern hemisphere and our seasons are reversed. Even though the temperatures reflect cool winter weather complete with sweaters, the spiritual climate has been anything but cool. We have just concluded the most intense time of ministry we have experienced. Hundreds of spiritually starved pastors were ministered to, thousands of people responded to the invitation for salvation in the crusades and two new churches were established for the new converts.



**Congo Crusade & Pastor's Conference**  
Departing Nairobi for Rebel Army Territory in Congo



**E**ASTERN CONGO NEAR THE BORDER OF RWANDA: Due to the ongoing war, the crusade and pastor's conference were the first held in this part of Africa in many years. The spiritual forces are strong as the desire of the enemy is to kill, steal and destroy, however, it is God's desire to bring eternal life! Americans are not particularly loved in this part of Africa. As a result, we were introduced at the public crusade as "missionaries who had come from Russia". Two years ago my son, . . . , and I experienced the same challenges in Congo. It is amazing how God has used our many years in Russia to advance the gospel in Africa.

**M**ultitudes of Congolese Accept Jesus as Savior: The crusade was attended by thousands of people who were seeking answers and spiritual help in the midst of war and a volcano that had come to life. The invitations to receive Jesus were overwhelming. Additionally, the crusade was broadcast both on radio and the only television station in this part of Africa. Local officials estimated that as many as 500,000 people heard the gospel on a combination of the broadcasts and the public crusade meetings.



***"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, Says the Lord of hosts."***

Ministering in the midst of rebel army territory, combined with an invasion of an opposing army and an active volcano, gives an acute awareness that anything we do must be by the Lord of Hosts and not by our own efforts or flesh.

Certainly this was one of the more challenging trips we have had in many years. Living conditions reflected the results of years of war and the food was best described as "indescribable". We did not want to ask what we were eating. The rebel army provided around-the-clock armed soldiers as security for us. It was particularly good to have my son, Bruce III, with me as my personal safety often depends upon the reaction of those around me. Bruce III's dependability, faith and cool head were constant, enabling me to concentrate on the ministry.

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

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**Congo Pastors & Leaders Conference:** One of the unseen effects of continuing war is the void in training and encouragement for pastors. Most of the pastors and leaders in Eastern Congo had been many years without any spiritual nourishment. As a result, the church suffers as their leaders become tired, discouraged and many ultimately leave the ministry. Over 260 pastors and leaders attended the seminars that included 6-8 hours of teaching daily.

**C**ongo, a country the size of Western Europe, is difficult to reach and has many spiritual & physical challenges. Due to the remote location, Bruce III and I flew on a small plane chartered from Africa Inland Mission. The US\$ is Congo's primary currency and all products were priced in dollars. It was amazing to see Russian planes importing *goods* in the midst of this remote area and to talk with the Russian *pilots*. With virtually no ministry in years, Congo is ripe for harvest. We are planning additional ministry further into Congo's war ravaged and forbidding interior as we reach further into the *regions beyond* with the gospel.



**Bruce Teaching in Congo Pastors & Leaders Conference**

**Regions Beyond. . . East Africa . . .** In July we will hold several conferences for pastors and leaders in East Africa. Perhaps the greatest ministry need in East Africa is the training of pastors. **Burundi . . .** Bruce will be in Bujumbura, Burundi from August 5-11 for a pastor's conference held at our new regional training center. Burundi continues to experience rebel attacks as the war and genocide continue. **Ethiopia . . .** Following the Burundi ministry, Bruce will be in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia teaching at the newly established bible training center which is preparing young men for future pastoral ministry. We are also making plans for a crusade and pastors conference in Ethiopia during November. **Becky . . .** Several times each week Becky teaches in the slums of Africa. The slum is located about ten minutes from our home and is populated by over one million people. Becky is working with girls to help provide them a future based on Christian principles. **Additions to the "family". . .** When we were in Congo, one of the local leaders gave us two African Grey Parrots in appreciation for our ministry. These are the talking variety of parrot and the verdict is pending on their long term home in Africa. We were also given a dog by a departing missionary. We are not sure what kind of dog he is, but we know he is part German Shepherd and is just about as big as a lion. We named him "Mwuaji," which is more becoming than his previous American name. Mwujaji has been a wonderful addition to the family and certainly provides some extra security for Becky.

### Family News

Amanda begins studies at .... She desires to prepare for a career in historical preservation.

Bruce III has traveled and ministered with Bruce in Africa for the summer. He begins his Junior year at ...where he is majoring in Communications and Journalism.

Becky's mother, Alene, recently fell and broke both her arm and shoulder. Please keep her in prayer.

Brownie, our faithful dog of over sixteen years, has died. He lived with us in Latvia & Moscow before retiring to the USA.

### Ministry News

Our ministry schedule is full and we would appreciate your prayers. We have upcoming conferences in both Burundi & Ethiopia. One of the greatest moves of God in the world today is taking place in Ethiopia. Burundi continues under the cloud of civil war, yet there is a great open door for ministry. We have been stretched financially due to the heavy summer schedule and would appreciate your prayers, as we believe the Lord for provision.

Becky will be in the USA for several weeks to help her mother during recovery. In addition, Becky will assist our daughter with her transfer to the new school. Bruce is ministering in Florida, North Carolina and Texas during a brief two and one-half week trip to the USA.