

from the  
**REGIONS BEYOND**®

**Bruce & Becky McDonald**

Dear Friends,

The year 2005 was a monumental year in our lives and ministry and one filled with significant advances in the *regions beyond*. Mid-way through the year we realized that we have been missionaries for over sixteen years.

The year began with an outdoor crusade in an Islamic country. Over one thousand people responded to the salvation invitations and a new church was started as a direct result. Additionally, we were able to preach the gospel each day over the radio in the Islamic country.

In our letter last year it was mentioned that we have had to turn down several invitations to Islamic countries due to the lack of available time. We are delighted to report that we were able to seize these opportunities in 2005 and will continue to direct more ministry to these areas as opportunities avail themselves and we sense God's direction.

While ministering in the Middle East, the spiritual atmosphere was similar to the Soviet Union prior to the fall of Communism and the ensuing years. There is both a spiritual hunger and excitement among the few believers and emerging church leaders.

Last year we also wrote of the increasing need for ministry to pastors in the former Soviet Union. We lived in the Soviet Union and later in Russia for ten years prior to losing our residence visas. Although many churches have been established and much

work has already been done in Eastern Europe, pastors are crying for help. They continue to tell us that while many come to minister in their churches, few come to minister to them as pastors and leaders. More than anyone, pastors need to receive ministry to ensure the long term success of the church.

We have increased our ministry to the former Soviet Union to levels we have not experienced since we lived in Russia.

In October one of the main Christian leaders in Latvia told me that over two hundred churches were the direct result of our ministry in Latvia and the Baltic regions.

This figure only included the areas mentioned and did not include the churches that were geographically diverse from the Baltics such as central Russia, Siberia, Kazakhstan or the numerous other countries that comprised the republics of the USSR.

Ministry in Africa has also shown significant advances. We now oversee approximately 230 churches and pastors with a membership in excess of 200,000 people.

We do appreciate your continued prayer for our safety. The past two years have been very challenging in this regard.

Thank you for your generosity to us and our ministry. Jesus stated that the sower and the reaper rejoice together as the harvest of souls is gathered. Words cannot fully express our personal gratitude to you.

*Bruce & Becky McDonald*

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

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# 2005 in Review

**H**idden Empire: For centuries Ethiopia was isolated and referred to as the Hidden Empire. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, battle lines are being re-drawn by spiritual forces as Islam is pitted against the church throughout the northern part of Africa. Located between Somalia and Sudan, Ethiopia is a primary focal point in this spiritual battle. Hosting some of the most inhospitable geography on earth and bordering known terrorist bases, one of the great revivals in progress is currently taking place in Ethiopia.



Bruce, Becky & Bruce McDonald  
Crusade in Ethiopia



Crusade Deep Into Interior of Congo

**S**moking Volcano: The backdrop of the crusade deep into the interior of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** was an active smoking volcano. Haunted by years of war, violence and disaster, several thousand people responded to the salvation invitation. Over 4 million people have been killed in this volatile region in the past few years and for many the only remaining hope is heaven. While extremely difficult, this is one of the earth's ripest harvest fields.

**P**ygmy Village...Once in Awhile Things Don't Go According To Plan: We traveled by boat to a remote island inhabited by pygmies. The joyous welcome extended to us was brief. The climate soon changed and approximately 1,500 pygmies began a near riot and we were forced to make a hasty retreat to the boat. Although our first attempt to reach this remote tribe of pygmies was met with resistance, we will try again.



Bruce Surrounded By Pygmies



Nightly Response to Salvation Invitation

**M**uslims Respond To Gospel: With daytime temperatures exceeding 110°F and hot, sand filled Sahel winds, the night meetings provided some relief to the heat. Over 1,000 people responded to the salvation invitations during the campaign. Each day I was able to preach the gospel through a radio broadcast in this Islamic country. According to local sources the broadcasts were widely heard and extremely effective. At the conclusion of the crusade a new church was started with trained leaders.

**F**ormer Soviet Union: In 1991 we began to minister in Jurmala, Latvia by holding meetings for members of the Communist Party. This culminated in the beginning of a new church. In the beginning services were held in a local school. Later churches were banned from schools, we purchased land but were prevented from building. The church then met in a greenhouse for the subsequent five years. In 2005 we completed the new building for the church. We are told the building is the nicest church building in the entire country.



Becky & Bruce McDonald  
with Pastor Leonia Filimonov at  
Jurmala Church building



Bruce McDonald

**P**reaching the gospel in the *regions beyond* is the passion of our lives and ministry. Although we are involved in many aspects of ministry, including the compassion ministries, our vision is going into areas of great need. It is said that there are reasons some areas are still not reached, and although we concur with the saying, doors are being opened to previously unreached regions. In 2005 we were able to evangelize in regions that are either completely or predominantly Islamic. In each instance the spiritual foundation of a new church has been started. In 2006 we anticipate continuing with the development of new churches and are planning for additional crusades.

**L**ook Out For Land Mines: These were my words as we walked across the soccer field on which children were playing in Southern Sudan on the way to the ministry meeting. Within minutes I spotted a land mine about a foot off the narrow foot trail we followed. It is difficult to adequately comprehend the seriousness and what it is like to live and minister in these circumstances until you experience the problems first hand. This forgotten and difficult to reach corner of Sudan is considered the most difficult, primitive, challenging and disease ridden part of Africa. Entire areas have been laid waste due to a war between north and south without regard for the human suffering that ensues. In a setting like this, the harvest is ripe and plentiful.



**W**ith no facilities of any kind, every trip to Southern Sudan becomes a primitive camping experience as we bring all of our own supplies. Water frequently comes from little more than a mud hole in a dry river bed and purification equipment must also be brought. An essential part of our gear is a megaphone with a range of almost two miles enabling us to preach the gospel to the crowds that gather.



Ethiopia Children's Program

**C**ompassion Ministries: An important part of our ministry is to people in need. In the past year we have provided aid to victims of floods, drought and volcanic eruptions. Each month we sponsor children's programs in several countries in Africa and India. Please contact our office for details.



Africa Children's Program

**P**enal Colony: Kalciums, Latvia was once a penal colony during the days of Communism. Now it is the home of a thriving church that has the only building heated by its own heating system, making the church the town gathering place during the cold, long winters. Pictured from L-R are Marge Russi, Galina Filimonov, Tanya Basarab, Becky McDonald and Amanda McDonald, who returned to Latvia for the first time in ten years.



Volcano Overlooking Crusade



Ministry in Iraqi Churches



Ethiopia

