

from the



# REGIONS BEYOND®

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**Bruce & Becky McDonald**

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Dear Friends,

As we write this letter just after the beginning of the New Year, we are reminded the year just past was one of great challenge, yet even greater victory. Into our nineteenth year as missionaries, we recognize that spiritual advancement is often accompanied by opposition. We reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year and the lasting fruit and we believe that the past year was the greatest year of ministry to date.

The victories of 2007 have been significant with more people saved, more pastors and leaders trained, more churches started and more new unreached areas opened to the gospel than any time in our ministry.

Our administrative structure has also been made stronger with the best administrative staff we have ever had. This has taken a tremendous burden off of us and enabled us to focus more on the ministry of preaching and teaching.

Challenges that we faced included physical threats, several of which occurred in Ethiopia. On one occasion, “thugs” were hired to stone and beat Bruce. In another instance, soldiers came to arrest Bruce. In North Africa Bruce was slashed while ministering to Islamists in a prison. Throughout all of these, and other, situations, your prayers were heard and the Lord protected Bruce.

We live by faith and it is that faith and your faithful giving that have enabled us to emerge from the greatest financial challenge we have ever experienced. While it had impossible, we were able to enter the new year with all bills paid.

The US dollar lost approximately 45% of its value against most foreign currencies in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Because of this, our cost of ministry and living has doubled.

It is a strange economic situation when it is now less expensive for visitors to purchase airplane tickets from the USA than it is for us to purchase a ticket from overseas to fly to the same location. Due to the devaluation of the dollar, it is much less expensive to live in the USA than in Africa. This is primarily due to the high cost of security, water, telephone and electricity in Africa.

In all of this we must never lose sight of the value of a soul as that is what missions is all about. For each \$100 gift, 33 people were saved and three pastors were able to attend our conferences and receive needed training and encouragement.

Thank you for helping make this possible.

*Bruce & Becky*

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

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# 2007 in Review



Thousands respond to gospel

**Deep In The Horn Of Africa:** It is often not easy to reach places where revival is taking place. Two days of driving led us a nondescript village located deep in the mountains and far removed from the amenities of modern life. Thousands of people walked up to twenty miles to attend the outdoor evangelism services. Life expectancy is forty nine years and falling and over twenty percent of children will not see their fifth birthday. In this setting people turn their hearts and hopes to eternal life.

**Near The Border of Sudan:** Two and a half weeks of ministry, over 1,200 miles of African roads in a 4 wheel drive vehicle and a mysterious parasite from eating stewed goat and a form of fermented pancake have me recovering from one of the best trips we have experienced. The ministry began with a conference attended by several thousand pastors and leaders and was concluded by another outreach to an unreached tribe that can only be reached by 4WD.



**Steam filled the conference hall:** The heat was unbearable from over five thousand pastors and leaders crammed into the largest hall that could be located in southern Ethiopia. The government provided armed security for Bruce due to numerous threats made by those who did not want to see the meetings take place. If you look at the closely you can see the small door at the top of the photo and can see the crowds completely fill the building.

**Eighteen Years of Ministry With Vasily Filimonov:** In 1990, Vasily opened the doors for us to move to the Soviet Union. Over the years we have started several churches together, including a church in an ice hockey stadium in the middle of the winter. We also held several crusades to Communist Party officials that were later broadcast through television. Vasily passed from this life into the glorious presence of Jesus shortly after this photo was taken..



Vasily Filimonov, Leonia Filimonov,  
Bruce & Becky McDonald  
Jack & Debbie McDonald



Hundreds of people responded to the gospel

**Concentration Camps, Mass Graves & Nuclear Weapons:** These were the surroundings of our recent ministry in Ukraine. Amidst some of the most horrific history of the world, the door remains open to the gospel. Throughout our years of ministry in the former Soviet Union, we continue to press into new areas where the church is still not established. So many meetings were scheduled that Bruce had to request the regional coordinators plan for a few hours off each day to allow time for some prayer and rest.



**The Fastest Growing Religion in North Africa is Islam.** In a land that was predominantly Christian hundreds of years ago, radical Islam is now the dominant force. Children are a target of extremists who indoctrinate them against Christianity and the west. In the midst of Islam, we are able to openly hold “big meetings.” Thousands of people have received salvation during the meetings and radio broadcasts in which we can freely preach the gospel over Islamic airwaves.

**Wild Omo Valley:** While eating stewed goat and fermented bread, a sixteen year old girl walked up, began to curiously stare and asked why I was there. As I told her about Jesus and she responded she had never before heard the name of Jesus. *“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”* Romans 10: 13-15 Bringing Jesus to those that have not heard is our life and is the reason Regions Beyond exists.



Pastor's Conference

**Discipling Oppressed Pastors:** For over fourteen years we have ministered to a dedicated group of pastors in India. Growing in spiritual knowledge and encouraged through the conferences, the pastors take the teaching back to their churches, most of which are located in Hindu villages. India's schedule is always full with conferences during the day followed by night evangelism in Hindu villages. During the evangelism we were threatened by Hindu fundamentalists who opposed people being saved.

**Churches in former USSR continue to prosper:** International concern over the ability of churches in the former Soviet Union to survive to the next generation have been raised. We are fortunate that, through the building of a solid foundation of trained pastors and leaders, our churches continue to attract young adults who assume leadership positions in the churches.



**Archives from the Soviet Union**



Jurmala, Latvia, USSR  
First Communion Service



Omsk, Siberia Church  
Bruce McDonald, III & Bruce McDonald



Siberia, USSR  
Baptismal Service Following Crusade

## Where Are The McDonalds?

We are in our nineteenth year as missionaries and have developed an extensive ministry network as shown on the adjoining map. Our focus in ministry has remained two-fold: the training and development of church leaders and crusade evangelism. These culturally diverse areas present many challenges, yet unparalleled opportunity. With few exceptions, these are among the world's most difficult regions.



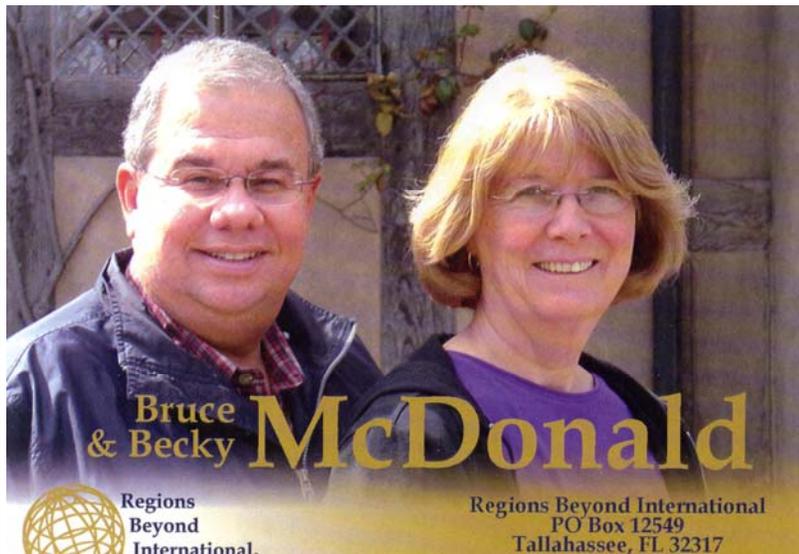
### Ministry Schedule: January - April 2008

- North Africa** ... Crusade & Establishment of New Church in Islamic Country
- Angola** ... Crusade & Leaders Training, Establishment of New Church
- India**... Pastor's Conference & Pastors Training School
- Burkina Faso** ... Crusade & Leaders Training
- Latvia**... Pastors and Leaders Training
- Middle East** ... Pastors and Leaders Training (tentative)

### Mailing Address Change

Please note the following:

**P.O. Box 12549  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
Telephone: (850) 308-5640**



- I / We are committed to pray for Bruce & Becky
  - I / We want to receive news updates
  - I / We want to contribute to the ministry
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per month      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ One time gift

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions are tax deductible*