

from the

# REGIONS BEYOND®

Bruce & Becky McDonald

February 2007

**REGIONS BEYOND:** “Incredible” is the only word I can think of to describe our most recent trip to the border region of Sudan and Ethiopia. Our immediate goal has been to establish a church in one of the unreached people groups in the area, and that has been accomplished. Knowing that there are additional unreached people groups farther into the valley, we have attempted to reach them on previous journeys. After being rebuffed by swollen rivers on previous attempts to press farther into the regions beyond, we were successful on the attempt in early February.



Counseling Ventspils pastor

**Ventspils:** Founded in 1244, Ventspils became a major Soviet naval base. It is also home to an ex-Soviet radio astronomy installation, which is the branch of astronomy that deals with the origin and nature of emissions from extraterrestrial sources. The church in Ventspils continues to prosper in the midst of spiritual challenge, recently adding an additional service that ministers exclusively to gypsies.

**Seventeen 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. We would appreciate your prayers for Vasily as he is experiencing health problems.



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



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



McDonald's Apartment



Ina's 18th Birthday



Jurmala Church



Bruce & Leonia at Jurmala Church

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

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## On Location In Kalciums Former Soviet Penal Colony

Under Soviet rule, the city of Kalciums served as a penal colony.  
In 1990, while still under Communist rule, Bruce preached the first  
crusade in Kalciums and a new church was begun.



Kalciums has been without  
heat of fifteen years



Hope and Joy  
in the  
Kalciums church



Kalciums has been without  
hot water for over ten years

***THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . Islamic Country . . .*** When you receive this newsletter Bruce will be in an Islamic country ministering in four of the churches that have been started in the past year. **India . . .** In March Bruce will be in India for a pastors and leaders conference concurrent with daily evangelism in Hindu villages. **Ukraine . . .** During April a new church will be started in one of the many cities of Ukraine that have no viable church. Leadership for the new churches will be provided by our churches in Latvia . . . **Ethiopia . . .** Two new churches have been established among a previously unreached people group in a remote area of Ethiopia. **Democratic Republic of Congo. . .** Following the volcanic eruption in Goma, Bruce held two crusades in a refugee camp established to house those affected by the destruction. The government official appointed to oversee the refugee camp is now the governor of a large district in the interior of DR Congo. He has asked Bruce to hold a crusade in the capitol city of the district and plans are currently underway for the crusade.



Watch for news on our church  
planting effort among the  
people group in this photo

## Compassion Ministries



Home of evangelist to Islamists

We recently reported of a group of Moslems who were saved. The beginning of a new church has begun in an Islamic city and is being led by an evangelist from one of the new churches established in 2006. On Bruce's January ministry trip to the area, he discovered the evangelist's home in the condition in the picture to the left. The evangelist had no money to make needed repairs to the home. To encourage the evangelist who has made great sacrifice to minister to the Islamists, we provided the money to completely rebuild his house.



Moslems who were saved