

from the

REGIONS BEYOND

Bruce & Becky McDonald

May 2001

CENTRAL AFRICA: In June Bruce will conduct Pastor's Conferences and Crusades in **Eastern Congo** and in an **Islamic** country in **North Africa**. Holding both pastor's conferences and crusades concurrently in African summer heat is physically and emotionally difficult. We will teach pastors for 8 hours daily followed by evening crusades. While it is difficult holding both events at the same time, it provides an excellent opportunity to model effective ministry for developing pastors, to see thousands of people saved while the harvest is conserved through the local church.



Pygmy Village

Traveling deep into the mountains and wilderness to forgotten people



Rwandan Pastors receiving new bibles
Most pastors did not previously have a bible

Land of Volcanoes: After arriving in Kigali, I traveled by bus to Western Rwanda just on the border of Lake Kivu and about 1 mile from the border of Congo. The entire area is ringed by active volcanoes which speak of natural and spiritual wars raging throughout this area of Africa. The conference was held in the town of Gisenyi which has become one of the focal points of the peace negotiations between the rebel armies, Congolese Army and the United Nations. I was quite surprised one evening when the leader of the rebel army walked into a restaurant where I had stopped for something cold to drink and sat at the table beside me.

Rwanda Pastor's Conference: The conference was held in this small corner of Rwanda. Pastors from throughout Rwanda and across the borders of DR Congo attended. Several years ago Bruce III and I were in the jungles of Dr Congo in the village of Salomabila. We are not sure how the pastor and leaders from Salomabila found out about the Rwanda conference, but they traveled by foot for over two weeks to attend when they heard I would be there. There was a tremendous spiritual breakthrough with the pastors and a foundation for future growth and development was laid. The pastors in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo have been through great difficulty over the past seven years of war and genocide. A large percentage of the trained pastors were either killed in the genocide or actually participated themselves by leading their congregations to death and destruction. As a result, there is a great void in spiritual ministry and a general distrust of pastors. Most pastors have little to no pastoral training, bible knowledge and many did not even have a bible.

Pygmy Village: Following the pastor's conference, I traveled to a Pygmy village over the roughest road I have ever been on. The village was located on top of a mountain and the entire village crowded around me as I hiked up the mountain to the village. The Pygmies had never before seen an outsider and their local chief came to investigate and then gave his blessing to the entire event. Crowded into a small "building", every conceivable space was filled by hundreds of people. After sharing a salvation message, many of the pygmies were saved.



Pygmy Village

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

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Pygmies Are Hunted Like Animals: The lake area of Burundi, Rwanda and Congo have the largest pygmy population in the world. These children of God are unreached with the gospel, practice animism and are among the most despised peoples in Africa. They have been “hunted like wild animals” by other tribes. If we can train a few men called of God, they can reach their people with the gospel. The pygmies were very gracious and opened their hearts like few people I have ever seen. They have been largely ignored by previous missionary efforts and I was unable to discern any contact with Christianity other than the very few Christians in the village. By the fact an outsider came to them, Christianity gained credibility and a door has been opened for future ministry.



No Deadly Thing Will Harm Us: Having received several death threats, the church leaders were afraid to let me eat in restaurants for fear of being poisoned. They arranged to have faithful Christians come to Rwanda from Congo to cook all of the meals. They traveled back across the border every day to buy fresh food in Congo rather than take a chance of purchasing food in Rwanda. While never experiencing any fear or concern, I didn't want to argue with the pastors who were so insistent on my safety.

THE REGIONS BEYOND... **Congo...** I will be in Eastern Congo with Bruce III for eleven days in June. The ministry starts with a pastors and leaders conference. We are expecting over 500 people to attend the first conference of its type in the past five years since the war broke out. The latter part of the time we will also hold a crusade in which we are expecting a large attendance. The District Governor of Eastern Congo has invited us to meet with him on June 8. In volatile situations such as currently being experienced in Congo, opportunities such as this are vital to ministry. **North Africa...** Please pray with us concerning crusades in **Islamic Countries of North Africa.** In conjunction with one of the crusades, we will conduct a national pastor's conference. **Pygmy Ministry Plans...** While we are in Congo, we will visit the Mugunga Pygmies as doors to the pygmies continue to open. **Latvia...** Becky and Bruce were in Latvia the latter part of April and the first week of May. We will give you a report on this in next month's newsletter. **Siberia, Russia...** While we were in Latvia, we completed plans for fall ministry in Latvia, Moscow and Siberia. **Special Prayer Request...** The past two months have been two of the most challenging months financially we have experienced in many years. We have to move into another apartment in Nairobi due to rapidly deteriorating conditions in the neighborhood we currently live in. Our rent will increase \$300 per month and we need to have security doors installed in the new apartment.



Over 300 Children Are Being Fed Through Your Gifts Of Love And Compassion

Most of the children are street children who are either AIDS orphans or who have been abandoned by their parents. In addition to being fed a good diet of natural food, each child also receives the Bread of Life - Jesus. Becky is pictured delivering 200 kilos (440 lbs of rice). We are able to support this important ministry through the offerings received into our ministry. As a result of this ministry, children are being saved and are being given a future and a hope.