

from the

REGIONS BEYOND®

Bruce & Becky McDonald

August 2002

NAIROBI, KENYA: It was difficult to say good-bye to Amanda and Bruce as they returned to college following their summer with us in Africa. They grew up as missionary children before returning to the USA for college. They have been vitally involved with our ministry and are currently helping with many administrative functions while they attend college. Amanda attends _____, majoring in historical preservation. Bruce is starting his senior year at _____ and is in the process of applying for graduate schools. We would appreciate your prayers for Amanda and Bruce as they embark on the academic year.



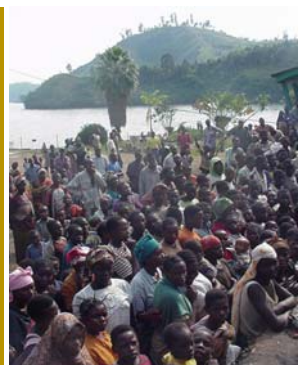
Becky teaching in Nairobi slum



Impromptu Meeting in Goma Refugee Camp
Over 10,000 people attended first ministry service in camp

Land of Volcanoes: Last summer Bruce III and I held a crusade in the center of Goma, DR Congo. Located on the eastern border of DR Congo, next to Gisenyi, Rwanda, Goma is surrounded by volcanoes and is on the shore of Lake Kivu, a volcanic lake emitting poisonous gas. During the crusade, thousands of people accepted Jesus. As a result of the crusade, five churches with an attendance of over 800 people were started. Recently one of the volcanoes erupted and lava completely engulfed Goma. In the knowledge and goodness of God, the day of salvation preceded destruction.

Refugee Camp: While holding a pastor's conference in Gisenyi, Rwanda, I was asked to visit the refugee camp for survivors of the volcanic eruption. Crossing into Congo, I had to leave my passport at the border and entered unofficially. Over 10,000 people attended a spontaneous meeting on the shore of Lake Kivu.. With such an amazing hunger for the gospel, all ministry plans were immediately changed and a crusade organized. The meetings were broadcast over local radio as this was the first time anyone had been to the camp to minister the Word of God. Reports of the meetings quickly spread throughout the area as people told of being encouraged in the midst of despair. Hundreds of people came forward to receive salvation and a new church was started in the refugee camp.



Lake Kivu from platform



Volcanic Destruction in Goma



Approximate Location of Crusade



Church Started Through Crusade



Crowd To Right Of Platform

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



Goma, Congo Summer 2001

Bruce McDonald, III with rebel soldiers. The rebel army controls this part of Eastern Congo. God has opened the doors for us to minister in this war torn area of Central Africa.

Years of genocide, killing two million people, and the devastation of the volcanic eruption have left Eastern DR Congo in physical and spiritual turmoil. Affirmed by the incredible events of this past trip, the greatest spiritual hunger we have ever experienced is arising from the devastation. Occasionally in our ministry we have the awesome sense of being in the right place at the right time otherwise known as the perfect will of God. Seldom have we expressed personal feelings in our newsletters as we have often struggled with the emotions of the destruction we have encountered and keeping the proper perspective on our ministry calling and the purpose of God for our lives. These are real issues as most of our ministry are in areas of great physical and spiritual difficulty. I was astonished when entering Goma and the refugee camp. In Goma I was stunned by the destruction, in the camp it was by the hunger for God. The only way I can adequately describe my feelings is through what I told the Lord that day, "This is what I was created for."



"We Lost Our Husbands In The War"



Life in Refugee Camp



Choir from Goma in Refugee Camp

THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . More Information on Central Africa . . . Please refer to the following newsletters: **Land of Volcanoes & Pygmies May 2001**; **Goma Crusade Summer 2001**. Copies have been uploaded to our web site at: <http://www.regionsbeyond.org>. **Jurmala, Latvia "Greenhouse" Church . . .** The foundation is complete and we are waiting for approval from the building inspectors to begin the next phase of construction. \$29,520 of the estimated \$33,000 needed for the church building has already been received. Please pray for approval by the inspectors and for the additional money needed for the building. After eight years of meeting in a rented room followed by two years of meeting in the plastic greenhouse, the church will have a permanent sanctuary.

Breaking News

As Bruce was preparing to go to Burundi and Congo for a crusade, three important events occurred:

1. A second volcano erupted in Congo.
2. Fighting has again broken out in Burundi in which over 500 people have been killed. Current reports are that rebel forces have crossed into Burundi and are planning to launch an offensive.
3. Congolese rebels have forced as many as 40,000 people from their homes in the midst of heavy fighting. Reports are being received of church leaders arrested.

Life In Africa

Security is a daily part of life in Africa and an issue we are constantly aware of. Ronald, our compound's day guard, was severely beaten on his way to work. A band of thugs accosted Ronald on the street in front of our compound, about a block from our front gate. Attempting to steal his bicycle, the thugs repeatedly hit Ronald with a metal pipe. Severely injured but with his bicycle, Ronald made it to our home.