

from the

# REGIONS BEYOND

Bruce & Becky McDonald

February 2002

**A**FRICA: The past weeks have been some of the most intense we have ever had; including a Pastor's Conference in East Africa, a crusade in Southern Ethiopia, a visit to the children's feeding program and detailed planning for conferences and crusades for the next few months. As you receive this newsletter, Bruce will be in India teaching in the pastor's training school, conducting a leaders seminar and holding nightly evangelism services in unreached Hindu villages. Please pray for safety, health and for the anointing to minister effectively during this extensive time of ministry.



**D**omarso, Ethiopia: At this remote and primitive village, a crusade was held. Impromptu kitchens, huts, shelters and a medical tent were constructed to contain thousands of people who attended. With services continuing around the clock, the spiritual atmosphere was electrified as people were saved by the grace of God. Even though the sun and heat were intense, people eagerly sat to hear the Word of God. In this land of hardship, which is one of the most primitive areas of Africa, there is great spiritual hunger.

**A**lmost eight hundred pastors and evangelists crowded into a dusty church building constructed of bamboo: None of these men have had the privilege of attending seminar or receiving any formal training. Traveling great distances, the men arrived tired, but excited and ready to receive and be taught. One of our purposes in holding crusades in conjunction with pastor's conferences is to demonstrate effective ministry to the leaders. Practical teaching includes organization, preaching and retention of new converts from the crusade.



Almost eight hundred eager pastors and evangelists are taught at conference



Lame Man Healed



Blind Man Sees



First Words Spoken



Lame Walk



Bruce in Traditional Clothing

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

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Traditional Injira being prepared over open fire

**P**reparations for leaders conference are titanic: In addition to almost eight hundred leaders, there were an additional five hundred in attendance, including the support personnel. Where do you sleep almost 1,300 people? How do you feed them? Sanitation? Water? Medical facilities? Security? All of these issues must be considered and planned for. Pictured at left are two of the church members who served as cooks for 1,300 people. They are preparing traditional “*injira*” which is made from teff seeds. Fermented and made into a pancake like batter, the mixture is poured onto a pan over the open fire. Bitter and sour tasting, injira is the staple of the Ethiopian diet. Usually served with very spicy hot sauces, the entire meal is served community style and eaten with hands. Meals are accompanied by extremely strong, but delicious coffee.

**THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . Special Prayer Request . . .** Bruce will travel in a Middle Eastern Islamic country. Please pray for safety. **India. . .** Bruce will be in India during parts of February and March. The trip includes teaching in the Pastors Training School, a leadership seminar and nightly evangelism in Hindu villages. **The Rock of Asheville . . .** A special time of ministry is planned for Interns from The Rock of Asheville. The team will minister in the slums of Nairobi and the Children’s Feeding Program in Nakuru. **Burundi . . .** Bruce and Becky will be in Burundi in the next few weeks. Bruce will minister in a pastor’s conference with a crusade following the conference. Becky will teach in a woman’s seminar and visit the woman’s sewing program that provides employment to war widows. **Additional Plans for Women’s Projects & Ministry . . .** We have had numerous requests for additional projects similar to the one in Burundi. Not only does the project provide employment for women, we also use the project as a way to teach tithing. This has been a tremendous help to the pastors and churches in the area. We are currently exploring similar projects in Congo and Ethiopia. Becky also continues to receive requests to teach women. She has a unique gift to relate to these women. **Goma, Congo . . . Update on Volcanic Eruption. . .** The initial reports we received from leaders in Goma, Congo and Gisenyi, Rwanda were positive following the volcanic eruption that devastated the area. Subsequent reports, however, have not been so favorable. One church building in Goma and one in Gisenyi, Rwanda were destroyed by the disaster as were the homes of numerous Christians. One of the children of a pastor in Goma was killed during the eruption. Almost two hundred church members lost everything and are living either in the homes of other pastors or in refugee camps. There is a need for food, blankets and clothing. If you are interested in helping, please contact us directly. Due to transportation difficulties in Central Africa, made worse by the volcanic eruptions, we will need to provide any assistance locally.

**Tentative Ministry Schedule  
Future Events**

- Kenya - Pastors Conference
- Ethiopia - Crusade
- India - Pastors Training & Evangelism
- Burundi - Pastors Conference & Crusade
- Kenya - Feeding Program for Street Children
- Kenya - Slum Ministry & Evangelism
- South Africa - All Africa Conference

**Note Concerning Our Schedule**

Due to ongoing security concerns, we are not currently publishing our specific schedule. For details, please contact us directly.

**Ministry e-mail Updates**

If you are not currently receiving our periodic e-mail updates and would like to be included, please send us a brief message with your request.