

from the

# REGIONS BEYOND

Bruce & Becky McDonald

Summer 2002



Becky teaching at Bujumbura, Burundi Women's Conference

**A**FRICA: Our seasons are comprised of rainy and dry seasons rather than traditional summer and winter. We are now entering into the dry season which happens to be our coolest time of year. We are situated at an altitude of over 6,000 feet and we experience quite cool nights. As we write this letter the night temperature is in the mid 50's. As we have no heat or insulation in our concrete block home, sweaters are still part of our wardrobe. Our ministry schedule is very full for the next two months with crusades and pastor's conferences in Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia. We will also make an initial trip into a new Moslem country in North Africa. Becky continues to teach in the slums each week in addition to maintaining a home and 'normal' lifestyle for the family.

**G**uns, Grenades & Bombs are part of daily life in Burundi. From our hotel room we could hear the explosion of bombs fill the silence of the night. One night during the conference, the rebel army raided our Bible school building as the pastors slept. Every day, government soldiers searched people for guns and grenades as they came to the crusade services. The realities of life in war torn Africa did not deter people from coming to the first open air crusade in almost a decade in the township of Kamenge. A gospel explosion began to replace the explosion of bombs as people rushed to receive the eternal life that only Jesus promises.



Multitudes receive salvation every day



Burundi Women's Conference

**D**ue to the destruction of war, the number of women greatly exceeds that of men in Burundi. Having lost husbands, fathers and sons in the genocide and subsequent war, virtually every woman has been effected. In situations such as this, ministry to women is vitally important. Becky has a unique ability and gift to minister to these women. When Becky walked into the conference room, the shouts of joy were so loud that we had to stop the pastor's conference.



**Torn By War**

Money is scarce in this devastated land. Pastors and women come to the conferences both spiritually and physically hungry. Each day food was provided for the delegates.



Deaf Woman Healed by the power of God during crusade

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

**Exciting News From Latvia:** The church in Jurmala has received government approval to construct a building. Two years ago the church was forced out of the public school building in which they had been meeting for several years and were subsequently denied permission to meet in any public facility. We purchased property for the church near the center of the city's residential district, however, at that time, the government denied permission to construct a building for the church. As a result, the church has been meeting in a greenhouse for the past two years.



Jurmala, Latvia Church Building



Location for the church building

**The Greenhouse Church:** A greenhouse was situated on the property we purchased, and having been denied permission to meet in any public facility or to construct a building, the greenhouse became home to the Jurmala church. Throughout the harsh Latvian winters, with temperatures often reaching  $-20^{\circ}$  F, the Christians have remained faithful in attendance and their commitment. Although the plastic greenhouse is extremely modest, the Spirit of the Lord is present and the services are powerful.

**You Can Help:** Members of the Latvian churches will join together to do most of the construction. Although the church members are sacrificially giving of their finances to help the Jurmala, church, they don't have adequate money to purchase the materials which are estimated to cost \$33,000. The government has given only a limited window of time to construct the building. If you would like to help the Jurmala, Latvia church, please designate your special offering to ***"The Greenhouse Church Building Fund."***



The Greenhouse Church in Jurmala, Latvia  
Bruce & Becky McDonald, Dr. Barry & Gina Nolin

**THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . Jurmala, Latvia . . .** For more information on the Greenhouse Church, please visit our web site at [www.regionsbeyond.org/latvia.htm](http://www.regionsbeyond.org/latvia.htm) **Former Soviet Union . . .** We will be in Russia and Latvia in October and November for ministry to the leaders and churches. **Congo, Rwanda & Burundi . . .** We have both crusades and pastor's conferences scheduled in Central Africa throughout the summer. The ministry will take place in the midst of rebel territory. **Ethiopia . . .** Plans are underway for a pastor's conferences in August and November. The November conference will be combined with a crusade.

### A Missionary Experience

Following his initial surprise that we were even going to Burundi, a U.S. Embassy official recently told us about an excellent restaurant in the capital city of Bujumbura. Picturing the war-torn country of Burundi, you can imagine how the words *"excellent restaurant"* sounded. We drove out of the secure zone and towards the D.R. Congo border; however just before reaching the border we found the restaurant. Located in a long abandoned resort on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, all of the buildings had been virtually destroyed by bombs during the war five years ago.

### Would You Like To Visit?

If you would like to visit or minister with us, please let us know. Our plans are already well underway for the balance of 2002 and 2003.

### Update on Bruce's Mother

Bruce's mother is home from a seven week hospital stay. From our entire family, thank you for your prayers during her surgery and recovery.