

from the



REGIONS BEYOND®

Bruce & Becky McDonald

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter at the beginning of 2005, it is important to reflect on the wonderful things God has done this past year. 2004 was a monumental year in our lives and ministry and one filled with significant advances in the regions beyond.

We began the year with an outdoor crusade in an Islamic country. The Moslem leader of the area sat next to me on the platform giving credibility to the power of the gospel. Following the crusade, we established the first church in the region.

Days after completing this crusade, I traveled to a remote area of Democratic Republic of Congo for the first crusade and leader's conference held in over ten years in this war stricken region. Every day several thousand people responded to the gospel.

The North Africa and Congo ministry was done in extremely hot areas including the Sahara Desert. Next came one of our trips to Sudan during 2004. This trip was complete with an eight mile hike each way to a remote village in temperatures that dipped all the way to 100° at night.

In 1991 we established a church in the forgotten town of Kalciums in what was then the Soviet Union. In the midst of a winter blizzard, eight grandmothers walked nearly two miles to attend the crusade. The church was established with these women and has grown into a thriving church over the past

fourteen years. In 2004 we lost two of the original members, Tanya and Leakadia. It is a victory beyond measure to know that these two women live in heaven as a direct result of your faithfulness in prayer and giving. A reward for your sacrifices is the knowledge that you made a difference in the lives of these women.



Several months ago when Becky and I were ministering in Latvia, a pastor came to the meeting from hundreds of miles away. I asked him why he had traveled so far. His response stunned me when he told me that although many now come to the former Soviet Union to minister in his church, no one comes to minister to him. More than anyone, pastors need to be ministered to and we will redirect some of our time to bring training, encouragement and ministry to pastors in the former Soviet bloc.

I have had to turn down several invitations to Islamic countries due to the lack of available time. With open doors in Islamic countries, we must seize the opportunity while it is available and we will continually direct more ministry to these areas as the opportunities avail themselves and we sense God's direction.

Thank you for your generosity to our ministry. Jesus stated that the sower and reaper rejoice together as the harvest of souls is gathered. Words cannot fully express our personal gratitude to you.

Bruce & Becky

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

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2004 in Review



Skeletons scattered across a battlefield: By tradition the bodies of soldiers killed in battle are left where they fall. Here is a brief snapshot of Southern Sudan. Land of Cush in Biblical times... Land of famine... Largest nation in Africa... Half the size of the United States... Most primitive place in Africa... Land Mines... War... Missionaries expelled for last forty years... Leaders boast of being the leaders of Islamic Revolution in Africa... Government has forced Islamization policy.

The Incredible Journey: Traveling south along the shore of Lake Tanganyika we crossed rivers, some with bridges and some without. The road was at time so rough it felt as if we would be thrown out of the vehicle. Throughout the journey we met people going to the crusade, many of them walking days to hear the gospel proclaimed. As only happens in Africa, word had spread throughout the land that a missionary was coming. The excitement was electrifying as we finally reached our destination.



Off The Beaten Path: After a long MAF flight and hours of driving over rough and dusty roads, we arrived deep into Congo. Following serious threats by a few who were not happy to see us arrive, we arranged security and settled into the "rustic" hotel located in the center of the town. After years of civil war, the harvest was ripe. Every altar call was responded to by people anxious for the hope salvation brings.

Can You Imagine: Can you imagine someone throwing a rock at Becky? It happened as Becky was teaching women in the daytime seminar that preceded a crusade. As she was speaking, someone hurled a large rock into the meeting area that narrowly missed Becky and fell harmlessly to the ground. Nothing could dampen the excitement of the women and the seminar continued without interruption. One thing most noticed in Congo is the void in the number of men. Eight years of civil war, had claimed many husbands. Other women had seen sons killed in the war and genocides that have claimed almost three million lives. In this setting, ministry is needed to women who have lost hope.

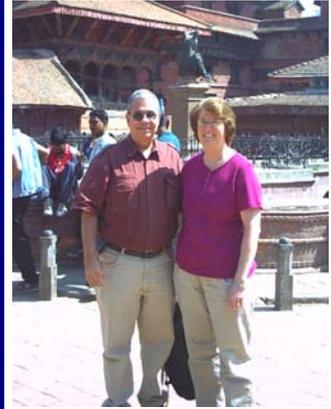


Becky Teaching Women



Greenhouse Church: One of the great victories of 2004 is the new church building in Latvia. Almost ten years of meeting in a greenhouse in the midst of sub zero temperatures did not diminish the fire of God in the church. Even so, with the completion of the new building, church attendance has more than doubled. Bruce and Becky held the inaugural services in the building in October while the floors were being installed.

The Regions Beyond: Preaching the gospel in *regions beyond* is the passion of our lives and ministry. Although we are involved in many aspects of ministry, our passion is going into areas of great need. It is said that there are reasons some areas are still not reached, and although we concur with the saying, doors are being opened to previously unreached areas and countries. In 2004 we were able to evangelize in two regions that are either completely or predominantly Islamic. In both instances the spiritual foundation of a new church has been started. In 2005 we anticipate continuing with the development of these new churches and are planning for additional crusades in Islamic countries.



Mountain The Buffalo Can Not Climb: Burundi was originally inhabited by the Batwa pygmies. Today the pygmies live in remote areas, are not considered equal and often are regarded as nothing more than wild animals. This is in contrast to their name “Ba” which means people. We hiked to the top of a mountain known as the “Mountain the Buffalo Can Not Climb” to visit the pygmies who live in beehive shaped structures made from sticks and leaves. Previously the pygmies lived in lush forests which are all but gone and are exiled to the top of a barren mountain with no water and no hope except that which Jesus brings.

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Road Is Constructed By Hand: The location of the crusade was so remote that it was inaccessible by vehicle. In their desire to have us come, the local church built a road by hand. For several days approximately 120 men and women constructed a road through the rugged terrain on what was previously nothing more than a foot path. The sight was indescribable as we entered into the crusade grounds. Waiting for us were thousands of people who began to shout with joy as our vehicle approached.



Church Members Dug A Road Through Rugged Terrain.



Salvation in Yirgacheffe

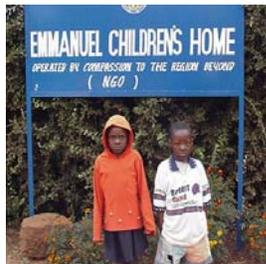
Yirgacheffe: Deep in the coffee growing region of Ethiopia, we held a pastor’s conference and “Big Meeting.” After winding up a mountain the vehicle veered off the road onto what seemed to be nothing more than a foot path. We were wondering where we were going and if there could possibly be any people at such an odd location. To our surprise a road suddenly appeared. An even greater surprise was waiting for us about two kilometers later as a large field filled with tens of thousands of people emerged.



Medical Clinic in Sudan



Land Mine in Sudan



New Children at Orphanage



Woman's Conference



Amanda in Pygmy Village

Where Are the McDonalds?

We are strategically located in the middle of our primary African ministry areas: Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and the Islamic countries of northern Africa. From this base we are able to travel between our African ministry and the former Soviet Union, where we lived for ten years. We do request your prayers as we seek the Lord's direction on the possibility of relocating. The security situation where we are currently living continues to deteriorate and is a serious concern when Becky is home by herself during Bruce's ministry travel. For more information, please contact our office.



Ministry Schedule: January - March 2005

North Africa... Crusade & Establishment of New Church in Islamic Country
India... Pastor's Conference & Pastors Training School
Africa... Orphanage Operation
Sudan... Evangelism
Eastern Europe... Pastors and Leaders Training

More Information

For more information, please write us directly or visit our web site:

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