

from the



# REGIONS BEYOND™

Bruce & Becky McDonald

August 2006

**REGIONS BEYOND:** I have just completed a remarkable month of ministry that began in Congo and concluded in Timbuktu. The combination of an exhaustive schedule, ministry in completely Islamic areas and the searing heat of the Sahara Desert definitely take their toll. Several hundred people were saved in the crusade and a new church was established in a previously Islamic area. I also visited several of the churches established in previous crusades. Perhaps the single most memorable event was the encouragement given to pastors that no matter how difficult the situation or how great the obstacles, our God is greater.



Meberatu & Bruce in Omo Valley



Six New Churches Have Been Started in the Omo Valley in 2006.

**Wild & Inaccessible:** These words are often used to describe the Omo Valley region of Ethiopia. Without doubt this is one of the most primitive regions of Africa and is home to some of the last remaining indigenous tribes. With a virtual lack of communication, few passable roads, frequent flooding, and a hostile topography, it is difficult to reach the area and people. Adherence to the old ways and customs, tribal religions and resistance to change have resulted in few Christians and even fewer churches in the Omo Valley.

**Challenge Extended:** On a previous trip to Ethiopia, Bruce challenged Meberatu, our ministry director in Ethiopia, to reach the peoples of the Omo Valley. Bruce McDonald and Mitch Horton made their first trip to this area in April 2006 and our first pastor was sent to the Omo Valley a few weeks later. Since that time several new churches have been established and two church buildings are under construction. The area we are working is very close to the border of Sudan and is one of the most inhospitable areas in Africa.



Location of Ancient Tribal Groups



Men Dress in Modern Clothing



Bridal Gown



Mitch Horton

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

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## On Location In The Omo Valley of Ethiopia



**THE REGIONS BEYOND. . . Ethiopia . . .** Our next trips to the primitive and remote Omo Region are scheduled in October and January.. **Latvia . . .** Bruce and Becky will be in Latvia during October for the continuation of leadership training. Independent reports on the condition of the church in general in the former Soviet Union are not positive and question the ability of the churches to survive to the next generation. The solution is the development of future leaders for the church and that is the direction we have pursued in the former Soviet Union for many years. **Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania . . .** Plans are being finalized for further leadership training in these areas. **Democratic Republic of the Congo . . .** Several years ago, the assistant governor of a large province heard Bruce preaching in a refugee camp. The man has now been appointed as governor of another province and has asked Bruce to come minister in the capitol city of the province. Although a large population center, the area is deep into the interior of Congo and is completely impassible by road. The Governor has advised that no outsider has ever held a crusade in this area and that the ministry would be well received. **Moving Update. . .** Our resident visas are issued, we have rented a row house type unit and are in the process of furnishing the house as moved with only a few suitcases. If you have ever made an international move you can begin to understand some of the challenges encountered including seemingly simple things such as what to do with garbage how to pay phone bills and where to find furniture.

### Automobile Update

We are close to the amount needed to replace our vehicle which we gave to a children's ministry that works in the slums of Nairobi. We appreciate your special offerings that are making it possible for us to have a newer vehicle after seventeen years of driving older vehicles on the mission field.

### Compassion Ministries

**Ethiopia Floods Kill Hundreds:** The Omo Valley region that this newsletter is written about was one of the areas severely affected by recent floods. Although none of the members of our churches were killed, there was widespread loss of houses, livestock and crops. We were able to immediately respond to the need and provide food for those in need. Not only did this demonstrate the love of God to the Christians, it has been an example to those in this animist region.

**Children Ministry:** Through your generosity we are able to directly provide financial aid, school fees, clothing and medical care to orphans and children of pastors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Nepal.

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