



BORNEO

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BULLETIN

Elmer and Ruth Warkentin, Missionaries

Darit

- Ngabang

- West Borneo

- Indonesia

BULLETIN No. 3

December 12th, 1951.

"--- they came and worshiped."



Dear Friends:

The howling wind just outside the window, the soft blowing snow across the fields, and the fancy decorations in all the shops, and other things, no doubt, remind you of the approach of Christmas. Here, the flooded streams and impassable roads remind us that the rainy season is here. The 'boom' of a native drum from some village as they call the devil reminds us that Christmas has no meaning here.

However, the natives here have many decorations in their homes and fields. Somewhere in each rice field stands a pole with fancy bamboo curls. This is a sign to all that the owner of the rice field has killed a chicken, spattered the blood on the field, and called on the 'lord of rice' for a blessed harvest. Often we find in a 'kampong' (longhouse) a hanging of fine bamboo shavings. This is to signify that a medicine man has prayed over the sick and has expelled the evil spirit. By the way, these medicine men have real power --- power of the devil. And they can cure people.

But, where is the decoration to signify the celebration of the birth of Christ? Could we have looked into Bethlehem's stable we would have noticed not the surroundings but the Christ. Could you come with us and look into the hearts of some of our Dyak young people here you would notice not the finery but the Lord dwelling within. The first Christmas celebration found a lowly stable filled with the presence of Christ. Yes, and here at Darit the Christmas of 1951 will find the hearts of some Dyaks crude but indwelt by the Lord Jesus.

We praise God as we let you know that recently God has done a great work here among some young men. Before they mocked the Lord, but now salvation is born in their hearts. How eagerly these young men return to our house every night for Bible study and prayer. Sometimes this entails wading through flood waters up to the waist. They have done away with all the fears and customs which signified their alliance to the old life. Now the peace of God dwells in their hearts. Praise the Lord.

This will be the first Christmas for our precious little Loren. Ruth, Loren and I hope to celebrate Christmas by opening some of the lovely foods which you dear folks have sent. The Lima sisters, and we hope also to have a little celebration for our Dyak Christians. When they leave their old customs they have so little to break the monotony of their kampong life. We want them to see that as Christians they can get together to rejoice in the Lord.

Our family is in good health, thanks to your many prayers. We do appreciate your letters. Keep them coming. You should hear Loren laugh! At three and one-half months he already has a tooth. He is so good all day long that we are left free to work with the natives. The natives just love to see him, and he enjoys their attention. Pray for him too.

May this Christmas time find us all coming from our fields, America and Borneo, to fall down in worship before our Lord.

As you know us,

ELMER, RUTH and LOREN WARKENTIN.