



BORNEO

Regions Beyond Missionary Union,
1935 East Willard Street,
Philadelphia, Penn.

BULLETIN

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Canadian Address: 989 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont.

Darit — Ngabang — West Borneo — Indonesia

BULLETIN No. 6

July 25, 1952.

Dear Friends:

I wish you could hear the chatter of the Dyaks passing our house on their way to a certain river to catch fish. Huge, homemade baskets are taken for this purpose. The natives wait till the river is low and then they gather from many villages for this special fishing day. They begin at a certain place and work down-stream, dragging the river bottom with these net-like baskets. Every crevice and log is combed in the search of hiding fish. Down stream a ways the river is blocked so that no fish can escape. You should see these natives. They do not care how filthy they get in the muddy river; they are out for food.

In the kampong the catch is cleaned, salted, and mixed with cooked, red rice. This mixture is then placed in earthen pots and left to ferment for a month or two till the natives are through with the planting of rice. When cooked this provides a real delicacy for these people.

Now is the season to catch men and women for the Lord before they drift down-stream into hell. We must go to all means to do this. We praise the Lord for those who are being won to Him. Our group of Christians is increasing constantly; but, oh, when we see the many yet without we feel that we are doing so little. The Enemy is doing everything he can to prevent the spreading of the gospel. The Communists are growing very strong in this country as almost all the Chinese here have turned that direction. However, a number of Chinese have begun to come to our meetings also. Pray that they will be won soon.

The sound of the axe also reverberates through the jungle at this time of preparing for the planting of rice. Each family chooses a plot on his land which has not been used for 8-12 years. Of course, this is overgrown with brush and trees. Two or three families get together and work their fields in turn. The underbrush is out first. The tall trees are cut about three feet from the ground so that they will be visible above the rice and thus keep the natives from stumbling over the trunks while cutting the rice. Huge, crackling fires dot the hillside during the month of July when all these fields are burnt. The fields are then ready for planting.

The month of July also means the opening of the school which we have built. I spent the last month in the making of desks and tables for the school. This was not easy work, but I gained weight while doing the same. The Lord has already provided us with a native teacher who will be teaching class four. Ruth and Miss Lima will aid in the teaching of the lower grades. Pray for us as we need much wisdom in this new venture.

Right now I am on my way to Pontianak to welcome a new missionary arriving on the field. We praise the Lord for this new recruit, and would welcome many more of them. Ruth is as busy as ever giving out medicine, teaching sewing to some Dyak young people, helping with the work among the children, and doing personal work. Just recently we returned from a trip to Ngabang to have Loren vaccinated for small pox. However, it did not take and so Loren will have to have another trip to the city. He is too busy all day long. In his large play-pen he loves to throw his toys around and crawl under the small table from which he cannot emerge by himself. By the way, Loren is so used to seeing only native people that he cries when he sees a strange white person.

Many of you are wondering if we have cows here in Borneo. The only type of cow we can boast of here is the kind that draws ox-carts. The natives never drink any milk, but we can buy canned milk on the market. Powdered milk is available from Australia, and this is what Loren drinks.

Pray for us as we continue on in the work of spreading the gospel. Goodbye.

As you know us,

P.S.: Elmer and Ruth have recently donated \$15.00 to the Borneo government towards a bridge to replace the pole which is the only means of crossing the deep river in front of their place with their bicycles and all their supplies.

B. LOWEN.

RUTH, ELMER and LOREN.