

Darit, Ngabang, Kalimantan Barat
Indonesia December 1961

Dear friends,

Memories of loving farewells six months ago still linger on. We have written to some of you about the good trip by plane from Vancouver to Singapore, about the crowded boat trip across the channel to Borneo, and about the goodness of the Lord to us in the Pontianak Customs. Then came the amazing miracle of two months of dry weather (very unusual out here) which enabled us to bring all our barrels, etc., right through to Darit by Jeep.

Since then we have made some adjustments back to jungle life. As we unpack the barrels of food, clothing, and household articles - faces, names, meetings, etc., come to mind, and we thank God for you faithful ones who make it possible for us to live and labour here as a family.

The Christians of the Darit Church gave us such a precious welcome back with arches and feasts. They were eager to hear of those of you who are upholding them in prayer, and now return your greetings in Christ. It is surely Borneo's Hour of Opportunity. Some who had turned back to their old sacrifices have returned to seek forgiveness of God. The death of the elder who sought witch doctor help on his deathbed still speaks here. Yet, the devil is working as never before to get the 'very elect'.

Missionary Conference was held here at our station shortly after we arrived. The Lord met with us all as we caught up on news from home and field and discussed problems facing us here. Elmer has been to Djakarta and back, having received permission to bring in the new Dodge Power Wagon free of duty. By the way, we hope to have the new truck here before Christmas. We want to thank all those who had a part in providing it. We trust that the needed visas for our waiting candidates will soon be granted as well.

The most trying adjustment is the depressing, humid heat. It is hard on children and adults alike. Often it is almost impossible for our children to study after 10:00 A.M., though we have chosen the coolest room in our house for the schoolroom. Of late, too, we have been plagued with a strange illness - a combination of headaches, stomach-aches, and aching muscles. Often we feel that we will not be able to continue on, but then God gives strength and health again and we feel quite well.

The children's minds often wander back to Canada, and they miss their friends and loved ones very much. However, they are consoled in loving their cats, dog, a hen, two budgies, and now two little puppies. The language is returning to them quickly, so they do not feel as left out as at first. Pray for them, too.

Mail has been slower than usual. Some of your letters have taken two months to get here. If your letters are unanswered yet, please be patient. We do appreciate your letters very much and always read them eagerly.

October 16 was a big day here at Darit. Bible School opened with a record enrollment of 44 students. We had dormitory space for only about 25 of them. For two or three days we worked frantically to make new benches for the classrooms, equip these young people with the barest essentials for cooking their meals, and supply them with the books, pens, etc., which they would need. We were able to rent two, small, bamboo-walled houses nearby to house some of the young fellows. Pray with us that we will be able to secure lumber for the much needed Boys' Dormitory.

Bible School is not just teaching classes from 7:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. daily. These young people have more problems than one can imagine. Almost all our spare (?) time is spent in giving medical aid, comforting the homesick, counselling the head strong and lazy ones, and in 'just listening' by the hour to their many problems. Our prayer is that "our heart may be enlarged" for all of these.

Calls come from all directions, "Come to our village or district and preach the gospel to us too." As much as possible we try to visit all our churches in turn and go to the new villages as time permits. Pray that God will give the physical enabling and the spiritual fruit. God bless you all and grant you a blessed New Year.

Your Missionaries,

The Warkentin family.