



Prayer Letter

Darit, Ngabang, Kalimantan Barat
Indonesia September 1967

Dear praying friends,

Probably you have never witnessed the burning of a charm on the lawn of the church after a morning service. I watched closely as someone went forward to stir up the fire and reveal the contents. What appeared to be an old tee shirt had been the owner's apparent protection from all evil and danger. Previously he had boasted that he was afraid of nothing, but now he testified that he had never had peace in his heart and was afraid to meet the Lord. This took place in the big city of Pontianak, but how many people in the jungles, yes and in Canada and the USA, still have not 'burned' their various charms.

'Burning your bridges behind you' is another mark of Christian progress. One of our Bible School students who owned a store and was quite prosperous, moved to Bible School with his family, lock, stock and barrel so that he would have nothing to tempt him back during his years of study in school. We have received applications from other married men who are also leaving their positions to come to Bible School next year and prepare for whatever the Lord has for them. Now we're praying for the 11 graduates who went forth from BERE A in July, that they too might leave all to follow God's will for them.

We pray for a burning zeal for the 70 graduates who have gone forth from our Darit Bible School these past 10 years. May they be as the 70 whom the Lord sent forth and equipped with His power. Of these 70, more than 30 are in pastoral work in our interior churches, and another 30 are in the teaching and medical professions. Two have backslidden, and we pray they will come back to serve the Lord as they did when they first graduated.

The months of June and July were busy ones indeed. We felt the impact of almost 400 young people from our various churches crowding into the little marketplace around our compound for the four-day Young People's Conference and Bible School graduation. Missionaries from various mission societies, plus our own, came along to chaperone their groups and to witness the graduation of their own young people. It was a joy for Ruth to play hostess to these many welcome guests although it did restrict her from attending the meetings. Missionaries and national pastors shared in the giving forth of the Word. Each church group presented a little program. Hunting Bible verses is always a highlight in which even the missionaries dare not compete.

Our church could not accommodate the crowd this year. Next year we'll have to have more space. We are also desperately in need of more accommodations for the married couples who have already applied for the next Bible School term. Nor do we have the land on which to build more. A lovely plot of ground adjoining ours is being offered to us on which we could build at least 10 dormitories. We'll need to do some fast working before school opens again in January. Pray with us that funds will be supplied for this land and building.

To stay slim, Ruth and I have gone on extensive bike trips. In May we made an 11-hour trip to have some teeth extracted. In July we covered half the distance to Pontianak (125 miles from our place) to where we could catch a Jeep to attend the ordination service in the city of two of our Bible School graduates. James and Douglas love to accompany us on these stints and always win the race. We know that our three in Chilliwick, B.C. would gladly join us if they could.

Praise the Lord with us that our ranks here have been replenished again. Let's unite in a forward thrust to reach the wide-open dark interior while the opportunities abound. We've had few letters from you. Please write and let us know you pray for us.

Your Missionaries,

Elmer and Ruth Warkentin