



We were amused to hear two little Dyak boys discussing the April calendar page. "It must be a special month", they said, "for we see many red days on the page."

Yes, the month of April has been invisibly marked with special days for the Warkentin family in Borneo. The 2nd was Janet's birthday, and that can be very special to a 16-year-old celebrating it with her Dyak friends. The 3rd was the last day of Bible School before the two-week Easter vacation, and so we closed classes with a special Easter Service and Communion. During the lengthy prayer service that followed many of the students got right with the Lord and with one another as they stood up and confessed sin. Dyaks weep just like anyone else once the Lord convicts them of sin. That afternoon the 70 left for home with cleansed hearts and prepared to witness for their Lord.

The 4th was Good Friday and we had a service in the church. The faithful ones were there; and together we 'remembered the Lord's death' as with singing, a message from God's Word and communion about the Lord's table, Christ was uplifted before us. Easter Sunday, the 6th, more than 400 again crowded into our Darit Church to hear the message the angels preached that first Easter Sunday, "He is not here". After the service several were 'raised from the dead' by the Holy Spirit as they prayed the simple prayer of faith and confessed their sins to God. Among them was the friend our Douglas brought to the Lord.

Monday night, the 7th, we all gathered in our screened bedroom to discuss the pressing problem of what to do this coming year. Loren, Janet and Ellen came out last August prepared to stay one year. They are finding their correspondence courses very difficult as the heat is so intense and the interruptions so numerous. What about the next term? Elmer has been asked to stay on another year as there is no one else available for the Bible School for the next year. Should Ruth and the children go home to Canada and let Elmer stay on alone for a year? This is not advisable with no other couples on the station. The Conservative Baptists kindly offered to make special concessions for us since we also have many of their students in our Bible School. They have never before taken in children of other Missions in their school. Dr. and Mrs. Ferrell offered to be house-parents to our five for this next year so that they can all attend school there.

The pros and cons were brought forward by us and by the teen-agers. It was precious to hear that all concerns were centered around the will of the Lord and the need of the people here to hear the Gospel. No one was unaware of the difficulties involved or the fact that this might retard the children's schooling since these bamboo-walled, thatched-roof classrooms do not offer the proper facilities for subjects such as science and chemistry. The children also wondered how they will be able to pay the school fees of \$1200.00 to be payable before school opens in Sept. We bowed in prayer and told the Lord we were all willing to trust the Lord to meet our every need and to stay on till the Summer of 1970. Now all are happily resigned to be separated by 40 muddy miles for the next school year. We would appreciate your prayers for this new venture and all that it entails.

April 10th was another special day. We recalled getting off the ship in Pontianak exactly 18 years ago to begin our missionary work in Borneo. Then there were

no churches in the entire interior area. As we finished our delicious meal we bowed to thank Him for the fruit He has given these 18 blessed years. The some 35 churches, many Christian schools and a Bible School from which 74 have graduated within the last 11 years, all speak for themselves of what God has done.

What else happened in April? Many souls found Christ as their Saviour in an amazing work of the Spirit which is sweeping our areas. A layman has brought almost a whole village to Christ. In a former Catholic village more than 200 now gather every Sunday. The Darit church is bursting at the seams. At our first visit to a new area some three days distance from Darit, we were greeted by some 500 new believers with wide open doors and many begging us to stay on to instruct them in the Word.

What else happened in April? Many of you prayed faithfully for us and gave of your support to help the work out here. Let us continue together in the months ahead, to labour together with Him. Write to us please.

Your Missionaries,

ELMER AND RUTH WARKENTIN

Here is some news received from Borneo dated 2 May, 1969.  
We share it with you for your interest and prayers:

"Elmer has just sent a prayer letter from Pontianak, and since then some exciting things have been happening around here which we trust will be to the furtherance of the Gospel. We had known that MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) planned to start a missionary service in Kalimantan Barat, but were quite taken unaware when one morning while Elmer was in Pontianak, a small red plane swooped low over the station. We read the letters on it, and so were not worried about being shot at, but some of the people here were almost crazy with fear. After the 3rd swoop they threw out a plastic bottle with a letter in it. So we got an air letter from Daddy, and knew why he couldn't come home yet. Then Elmer and the two pilots arrived by Honda in a couple of days. (So we have a new honda, but had to pay quite a price for duty). Our pilot is to be Dick Parrot (son of Grady Parrot) here in KB. All permissions have been granted, and we're to have our air strip ready by June. It is a big job, and we will need finances for it, but it will be a real blessing. Right now we have not had supplies since Christmas. They can do the trip in 25 minutes! It is like a wild dream after 18 years of living like this. The two men went on to the Baptist station, where they can get a truck back to Pontianak. They had never seen roads in this condition, and cannot imagine living here without contact.. But God... Often we have recounted the ways in which He has always provided our needs, and during the days when there was no way out He kept from harm. No broken legs or arms. Yet we are looking forward to swooping into the city looking clean and human.

More than this, we are thrilled that they are anxious to get airstrips in the areas where missionaries find it difficult to reach. This means we can hope in the near future to get to the tribe that has never been reached even by a Dayak. We have offers of two men whose wives are from there, to trek with us into this area and open a work. They say this tribe has a strange language, wear only loincloths, and are still hostile. With the imminence of the Lord's Coming it seems the right way to get there with the news of Salvation.

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