

BORNEO BULLETIN

KOTAK POS 20, PONTIANAK, KALIMANTAN BARAT, INDONESIA

Regions Beyond Missionary Union

March 17, 1970

Our Dear Friends:

We're doing the same thing that many of you are doing back home. Ruth and I are both working out. At the sound of the bell at 7:30 A.M. we leave the house for the classrooms, and often don't come back till recess. Then we're off again till dinner at 1 P.M.. However, we don't have to worry about baby-sitters anymore. Loren is busy studying in his room all day, and the other four are still at the Conservative Baptist Missionary Society School 40 miles from here. We see them once a month. Then too, we're fortunate in that our rice, leaves and meat are already cooked for us when we come in at noon.

The 63 students in Bible School this year are a real challenge. The third-year class is the biggest ever — 18 of them. The total Bible School staff this year is comprised of five national couples and one missionary couple. The three former graduates are doing fairly well in helping with the teaching. With your faithful support and prayers, it is possible for Ruth and me to carry on the heavy schedule here and also to meet the daily financial needs for this fairly large complex. May the Lord bless you for your part.

The whole of West Borneo presents a tremendous challenge at this time. A few weeks ago the General of the Armed Forces of the Island flew into Darit by helicopter. You can imagine the excitement for these people who had never seen one of these 'birds' on the ground. As the General stood on a platform overlooking the thousands who had gathered, he said, "We want you all to enter some religion. Animism is not accepted in this country. You may choose Moslem, Catholic or Protestant. As for you Moslems, don't be bound by circumcision and taboo on pork." As we sat with him there overlooking the crowd, we could not help but think, "What an opportunity for the Gospel!" At an outdoor reception that night the Bible School students sang, "O Come Let Us Worship." The General was amazed at the Dyaks' ability to sing four-part harmony in contrast to the monotonous folk songs and dances performed for him that night.

Do you know that the government is paying teachers to teach religion in the public and high schools here, up to three hours per week? However, we don't have enough teachers of religion to place in all these vacancies.

Recently we received a letter from an area interior, north of us about two days' walking. On two large sheets of paper, the head of the district had listed the names of 220 families who want to become Christians. The man, whom we had never met before, asked if we could come to his area in April (by then their rice harvest will be in), and bring them the Gospel. Will you join us in prayer for this need? It is hardly possible for us to leave Bible School for this two-week trip. Then too, we must have someone to place there after we have made an entrance with the Gospel. We'd love to go, and still hope that it will somehow be possible.

Airstrips will solve some of these problems in the days to come. However, first of all we need a strip at the home base here. We have already slashed ten possible sites and still have not come up with anything suitable in this hilly region. Pray that God will direct in our search for something long enough and level enough. One place nearby is just what we want, but the Moslem owner is asking a ridiculous price.

We are scheduled to go on furlough this coming August. This will leave our Bible School station temporarily without a missionary. It seems Borneo has been forgotten by young people preparing for missionary service. The doors are wide open, the harvest is tremendous, and yet for almost ten years now, no new recruits have been added to our depleting missionary personnel here.

Will you join us in prayer that the Lord of Harvest will send forth more labourers to this needy field?

Your Missionaries,

N.B.

Until further notice, please send all changes of address to:

ELMER AND RUTH WARKENTIN

AND FAMILY

#11 - 610 East Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, B. C.
Canada