

Borneo Bulletin



July 1971

Dear Friends

Christopher Columbus was looking for a westward route to the Spice Islands (Indonesia) when he discovered America. Tho Indonesia has now a population of more than five times that of Canada, for centuries little was known about it. In recent years missionaries have penetrated many of its Islands with the gospel.

From this south eastern Pacific nation come some arresting news items:

- * Revival is being experienced in many parts of Indonesia in spite of its 85% Moslem population.
- * Hundreds of Moslems are turning to Christ as their Saviour and Lord.
- * The recently completed national election, the first of its kind in 16 years, promises further liberty for the preaching of the gospel in this ripe harvest field.
- * Approximately 20 airstrips have been constructed in Kalamantan Barat (Borneo) within the past 2 years. This is to assist missionaries to reach the here-to-fore almost inaccessible areas of Dyakland.
- * Some Mission leaders have stated that Indonesia may well become the last nation to become vitally involved in sending missionaries to other parts of the world.

Our R. B. M. U. Missjonaries and National pastors in Kalimantan Barat cannot begin to cope with the present opportunities for the gospel there. You see, many of the Animistic Dyaks in Borneo registered as Protestants in the recent National election since the gov't there does not recognize animism as a religion. Here now is a unique opportunity to reach these 'heathen' Protestants with the gospel before they are attracted to other religions or cults. This is why our national churches there are pleading for more missionaries and Bible School graduates to enter unreached areas and minister to those who are responding.

It has been our joy this furlough to acquaint you better with the tremendous spiritual challenges of Borneo (Kalimantan). We can say that we have really enjoyed this furlough and it has been the best ever. Perhaps this is because the new spiritual interest in many churches has encouraged us. You have all made us feel so welcome,

and your continued 'fellowship in the gospel' has been so evident by your gifts of love. We have had a good rest and have even put on some weight. And last, but not least, some of the many young people we have contacted are considering serving the Lord in Indonesia.

As we prepare to return to the field for our fifth term sometime the beginning of September, we are in need of your prayers as never before. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the great and effectual door open to him, he also reminded them that 'there are many adversaries.' Pray that nothing will hinder us from fulfilling God's will in our lives.

We never want to stop praising God for leading us as a family so wonderfully these past 20 years in Borneo. Our five teen-agers love the Lord and would prefer to go back to their native land. However, this is not possible for the older three. Loren will continue on at Prairie Bible Institute. Janet and Ellen will remain here to complete their high school next year. James and Douglas will do grades 10 and 8 by correspondence at our station at Borneo. Pray for us as we make final decisions and arrangements for them all.

Our outfit for this coming term consists of some food not available there, clothes, Bible School supplies, electrical equipment to rewire our whole station, a new washing machine and other supplies which have either rusted out or rotted away during the past terms. Our passage for four full fares is also a costly item. Please pray with us that God will supply these needs within the next few weeks.

To us all God has promised, "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it". 1 Thess. 5:24

Your Missionaries,

Elmer and Ruth

The Warkentins

P.S. We would love to hear
from you before we leave.

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B E R E A B I B L E S C H O O L ...Borneo
Staff and Teachers

