

Borneo Bulletin



November, 1971

Dear Friends...

"What's it like to come back to the field for the fifth term?", someone asked as we arrived back in Pontianak. Others said we looked well with the weight we had put on. Some had not even been aware of our being away on furlough. The two ladies, Miss A. Shelley and Miss G. Lima who had managed and cared for our station so wonderfully during our absence, were happy to see us back. And we are happy to be back.

After waiting in Pontianak several days for the M.A.F. plane, we flew into Darit just one day before our annual Young People's Conference was to convene at our station. Even the termite-ridden floor of our house looked so clean and inviting as we settled into our home again. The boys ran around from room to room to reminisce and exclaim over what they remembered or had forgotten. Ruth had no time for much investigating. Since our goods had not yet arrived, she had to resort to the barrels and get out the stored (and mouldy) linens, dishes, etc. and prepare to host the many guests who would soon arrive.

On Oct. 21st in the morning, they began to arrive. There were several plane shuttles. Some came on trucks. Most of them had walked a good part of a day or even a couple of days. 50 of them came two day's journey by small outboard. After a cup of tea and a warm welcome, they were registered and assigned to Christian homes in our immediate vicinity. How these 700 young people could all squeeze into those meager quarters is beyond us.

The almost incessant rains during the three days of Conference did not seem to dampen the spirits of these young people. Crowded into the church, they sat still for up to four hours without a break. At night we could hear a low rumble of voices all around us as they chattered away into all hours of the night. For many of them this is the high-light of the year.

The closing day was crowned with the graduation of 22 young people from Bible School. This is the largest graduating class we have had since we opened Bible School in 1957. Their testimony had already challenged other young people to consider Bible School training.

The Conference guest speakers created quite an international atmosphere about our lengthened table three times

a day. Baptist and R.B.M.U. missionaries ate Indonesian food with the Indonesian and Chinese, while they in turn enjoyed our oatmeal and toast for breakfast. Needless to say, Ruth was kept busy.

We did have one week between this Conference and the Missionary Field Conference which was also held at our station. Since our boys are no longer small, they had to give up their rooms for families with little children. Nor did they mind sleeping on the floor in our front room. The 14 adults, 5 teenagers and 5 children enjoyed the time of fellowship and the cafeteria style meals. The Lord met us as each day we listened to the Word and then sought His will in our plan to reach out to the Regions Beyond us.

After Conference Elmer 'Hondaed' to Pontianak to clear our goods thru Customs. In answer to your prayers and ours, all our goods arrived in good condition and with almost no duty. The officials afforded us every leniency possible. A Chinese truck took all our barrels and Elmer loaded the heavy boxes into our new Mission vehicle. The 125-mile trip to our station was almost a night-mare. The roads are much better than you saw on the slides we showed you, but the bridges beggar description. Many had half the planks missing. Some had bare girders, one to fit each wheel. Others were just cocoanut tree trunks. How we thanked God that night when all our goods were unloaded safely into our own godown. Surely the Lord has been good to us.

While James and Douglas plug away at their school courses (amid all the disturbances and excitement), we are preparing for two lengthy trips to interior areas before Christmas. Then there are the Bible School courses to get ready and assign before School opening again Jan. 10th. Loren is also very busy at P.B.I. and would request your prayers. Janet and Ellen in Chilliwack would also appreciate your encouragement and prayers.

As we see the Lord's goodness in all His ways with us, we are reminded of the words in Isaiah 30:18. "He is just waiting to bless us. May we wait on Him to receive the blessing." Pray for us and write to us.

Your Missionaries,

Elmer and Ruth Warkentin

HOME ADDRESS:
9299 Carlton St.,
Chilliwack, B.C.

MISSION ADDRESS:
Regions Beyond Missionary Union,
5 Winlock Park,
Willowdale, Ont.



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

Staff and Teachers

