

Borneo Bulletin



Kotak Pos 20 Pontianak
Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia
December 1, 1976

Dear friends and loved ones,
The Christmas message of salvation in Christ is our only constant in this world where change is now the "norm". How good for you and for us to rely on Him. Let's proclaim even more eagerly to all that He truly satisfies. A blessed, contented Christmas to each of you.

Celebrations this year will certainly be different for us. We'll forget about snow, lights, and all that goes with them, but still we'll worship with His children, as we did last year in Canada. As we write, sounds of young people practising Christmas carols rings thru our open windows from the chapel. Dates for the feasts and programs range from the 23rd to the 28th. Our local program is on the 26th, Sunday morning.

Christmas Day, the Helmut Stobbes and Andrew from Prince George, B.C., Darrell and Sylvia Davis with their baby boy (they will then be finished language study), and our precious single ladies, with Vangie Guenter (preparing for service in Irian Jaya) will be with us. That makes 13. We look forward to this fellowship in our home.

While we rejoice in God's will, His work, and wonderful friends He gives, we cannot help but feel the gnawing of the distance between us and our family. At the same time we are feeling the strength of their young zeal encouraging us to keep on till they return.

Already Loren and his wife, Becky, are making preparations to come as full-time missionaries early in the new year. Janet is working hard at W.B.C.; Ellen and James are still at P.B.I., and Doug, now a senior in High School there. Their letters bring multiple blessings.

While Bible School is closed for the work season, we are trying to finish many tasks that have been waiting. We are cleaning buildings, visiting out-stations and encouraging evangelists and overseeing the constant building program on such a growing station. One task we are enjoying is preparing bundles to send to each evangelist. Thru

channels such as World Vision, Helping Hands, and others, we can supply vitamins, health and sewing packets, blankets, and clothing to them all. It is a lot of work, but it is a thrill.

Many, many changes are taking place in this part of the world, till it hardly seems the same area it was a few years ago. Roads are improved, planes take us to outstations, shops are filled with almost everything one needs, young people are getting education, and there is a look of comparative prosperity around the towns. It is good to see these signs, but more so to see changed lives and personalities as nationals surrender to the Hand of God in their lives.

Progress is also used by Satan. Our local "mayor", who was so good to our "Summer Workers", and is always helpful to missionaries, is feeling the evil influence in his home. Thru pressures he had to allow dances, gambling and other 'progress' avenues in Darit. Last week his wife left him with their 6 children, took the office Honda and ran away. What a shock to the area, as they were held up as models in the area. We find she has been playing with sorcery. Now she is home, but things are rough. Pray that we or someone who knows the Lord will have opportunity to show them the great victory Christ has won for us. Also do remember our young Javanese doctor and his wife who are stationed in our town. Surely it is not by accident, but for a purpose. He is a backslidden Christian whose godly parents pray much for him. Great problems, great answers from God's Word, if we will only bring it to them, and they will listen. The greatest miracle is "Christ in us -- the Hope" and the only hope there is today.

Both of us pray that we will always be willing to be molded and changed by the loving Hand of our Maker. God's will needs to be lived, not defended! We need your prayers for our health too. Thank-you for your faithful standing with us.

Happy in Him,

Elmer and Ruth Warkentin

