

# Bioscience Bulletin



July 31, 1979

Dear Friends:

We arrived home in Canada on July 3rd for a regular though perhaps shortened furlough leaving behind in Kalimantan our children, Loren and Becky, and our first grandchild born on May 31st. It was so good to be met in Vancouver by Janet, James and Ellen. Douglas came later for Janet's wedding.

As we reflect upon this past term we give thanks to the Lord for His blessings. Bible School took up most of our time, but we also ministered at conferences, revival and evangelistic meetings in our own churches and those of other Missions. Monthly we ministered in the mountain area close to the Sarawak border. The 25 minute Cessna flight there is getting costlier all the time due to the rise of price in fuel in Indonesia. However, we regard this monthly flight as important to encourage the evangelist and teach the dear believers there. Among these former head-hunters we have seen tremendous church growth.

We wish we could report the same spiritual growth in all of our churches. Numerically, growth is satisfactory, but because many of our churches are without resident pastors, there is a lack of teaching of the Word. Since most of the pastors are poorly supported, they resort to other means of earning money and thus do not sufficiently care for their flocks. Tithing and responsibility are not as yet fully understood by the Dyaks.

We had to leave Bible School with a depleted staff, though our Javanese teachers, Andreas and Heti, are willing to stay on until we return to the field. Also teaching are Alice Shelley and Gudrun Lima who are both due for furlough. Loren will also be helping out with classes one day a week, commuting by motorcycle.

Our BERE A campus now boasts the spacious buildings for our new post-graduate program. They are almost completed and we are waiting upon God for his choice of staff. We thank God for those who stood behind us in providing the means to build this complex and the Johnsons who came out to build it for us. The national pastors taking this intensive course will have to be subsidized from abroad.

June was our busiest month. While Bible School was in recess for the mid-semester break, the students were sent to teach D.V.B.S. For us there were several conferences, first our R.B.M.U. spiritual retreat at our villa on the beach, with Dr. Geary of the CBFMS as our guest speaker. From there we rushed back to our station to prepare for the influx of some 700 young people for the annual Youth Conference. Satan did everything possible to hinder this. A bridge near our place collapsed during the recent flood and torrential rains blocked some of the roads. The main generator on our station broke down and we had to make do

with two smaller ones. When all the young people arrived our whole station was deluged by another flood. Some of our church folk housing the young people had to improvise quarters in their attics. One night the meeting was held on the volleyball court as it was impossible to wade through the four feet of water to the church. During all of this Elmer was unable to get around to help as he had been bed-ridden since his two weeks of lying in traction in the CBFMS hospital. We entertained guest speakers and missionary friends who were with us for the Youth Conference, while packing to leave for furlough.

Through it all God over-ruled and blessed. The flood receded just in time for all to leave. Ruth got everything packed away, and we left our station on June 26th for Pontianak. Even though Elmer had difficulty walking we did not anticipate trouble on the way home. However, in Jakarta, he had a kidney stone attack and the rest of the trip home was almost a nightmare. Praise the Lord we arrived safely.

On July 21st we rejoiced in the Lord's goodness as Janet and Henry Armstrong were joined in marriage. (This was the main reason for our early arrival.) Janet and Henry will spend the next year in the Winnipeg area in preparation for the Mission field. James was recently engaged to Denise Cox and they were both accepted at the June candidate school as RBMU missionaries. Douglas is spending the summer in extension work with a quartet in camp ministries. Ellen is working to continue studies in college for further missionary preparation.

Thank you for your part in the ministry as "labourers together with God."

Pray for the Bible School staff as they finish this second semester.

Pray for us as we minister in various churches and Bible Schools during this furlough.

Continue to pray that edicts 70 and 77 will not be allowed to hinder missionary work in Indonesia.

Your Missionaries, *Elmer & Ruth*

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