

Report
1932
The Dutch East Indies Mission
of the
Christian and Missionary Alliance



Mr. and Mrs. Griffin and Mr. and Mrs. Jaffray

by
R. A. JAFFRAY - MAKASSAR, D. E. I.

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"The Uttermost Parts of the Earth," "The Isles of the Sea" and "The End of the Age."

Let us try in a few words to show how these three Scriptural expressions are interconnected. The two principle passages in which the expression "The uttermost parts of the earth" occurs are Psalm 2 : 7, and 8, and Acts 1 : 8. In the Old Testament passage, God, the Father, is speaking to God the Son, — "Thou art My Son..... Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the heathen for Thine inheritance and *the uttermost parts of the earth* for Thy possession." In the New Testament passage, the Lord Jesus commands His disciples. "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me *unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

In the Prophecy of Isaiah, the "Isles of the Sea" are identified with the "Ends of the Earth." (Isaiah 41 : 5) Perhaps the meaning is that the last to hear the Message of the Glad Gospel at the end of this Age, will be the "Isles of the Sea." Surely the Isles shall wait for Me!" (Isaiah 61 : 9).

Again the command to go to "The Uttermost parts of the earth" and "The End of the Age" are also closely connected in a number of passages. For example, — "Go ye therefore..... and lo, I am with you all the days, even unto *the end of the age.*" Matt. 28 : 19, 20) "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me.....

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unto the Uttermost parts of the earth." "This same Jesus..... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," (Acts 1 : 8, and 11). "God did at the first Visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His Name..... After this, I will return saith the Lord." (Acts 15 : 14, and 16).

ACCORDING TO THE PLAN

From these Scriptures we are again more and more assured that in this pioneer missionary ministry, preaching the Gospel for the first time to peoples of earth unto whom no witness has before been given, we are working in harmony with the will and plan of God for the closing days of this dispensation. We may believe that the Lord Jesus, the Son of God has asked the Father (Psalm 2 : 7, 8) that God, the Father, will fulfil His good promise, and will give Him the heathen for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the Earth for His possession. What strength and what courage this gives! Understanding God's purpose for our day and generation, and working in accord with His plan and His will, we are indeed co-workers together with God.

THE DEPRESSION, A SIGN

The present financial depression felt all over the world is a sign of the end of the Age. Rather than the depression depressing us, it is an added evidence that we are hastening rapidly on to the end of the Age. It will teach us lessons of missionary economy and faith in God for the full supply of all our needs.

Our work in the Dutch East Indies is now three years and a half old. In the very heart of this great archipelago, the Lord

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has directed us to open large unreached areas as our first field of labor. We refer to the East Coast of Dutch Borneo, the Southwestern Peninsula of the Celebes, and the three islands immediately east of Java, namely Bali, Lombok and Soembawa. In all of these fields we see definite progress, and we are opening, in 1933, another vast unreached area in the western section of the Dutch East Indies.

GOING INLAND

In the Borneo field we are getting away from the coast line, needy as it is, and at three points we are striking far into the interior where the need is far greater. Our Chinese missionaries first opened work in the cities on the East Coast of Borneo, at Balikpapan, Samarinda and Tarakan. The blessing of the Lord has rested upon the work, and a little Chinese Church has been organized in each of these places. Now the Chinese missionaries are impelled by the Holy Spirit to press inland, and to reach the "wild man" of the jungle in the interior. So the groups of Chinese Christians in the coast cities have been organized to conduct their own meetings, the Chinese missionaries making several visits to these places each year. The Chinese Christians meet all the running expenses of their stations themselves.

Our Alliance Missionaries too have been impelled by the same Spirit to remove their head-quarters from the coast ports of Dutch East Borneo away up into the interior. Consequently, Mr. Deibler during the past year moved from Samarinda and settled in Melak, a strategic centre on the Mahakam River in the very heart of the Dyak population. From Melak, with the help of the Motor Launch, the "Courier" Brother Deibler with

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the Chinese Missionaries has traveled extensively up many tributaries of the Mahakam River, preaching the Gospel to those who have never heard it before. There are many hungry hearts and many who are on the verge of decision for Christ throughout this entire district.

THE RAGING RAPIDS

Mr. and Mrs. Fisk, while they have had splendid opportunities to reach the Dyaks during the time that they lived in Boelongan, still felt the urge of the Spirit to move further into the interior. The fact that more than 1000 Dyks, who had found the Lord, live in the jungle away up the Boelongan River, far from the port of Boelongan, made them feel that they wanted to be nearer their people, so that they could more constantly feed them on the Bread of Life. In the latter half of 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Fisk, therefore, moved from Boelongan to Poedjoengan and are now located in the midst of Dyak settlements and within easy reach of those who have become Christians. It meant a great deal for the Fisks to make this move. Mr. Fisk had many times ascended the rapids, considering not the perils involved, but to take his wife and baby daughter up these wild, dangerous rapids, was quite another thing. But they went, and God in His gracious power took them safely to Poedjoengan. Praise the Lord, Mrs. Fisk is the first white woman ever to have braved the rapids of the Boelongan River. The terrible danger of going back and forth over these raging waters is hard to exaggerate. It is our conviction that God will provide a small Hydroplane so that our missionaries may be speedily and safely carried to the far interior. These people of the jungle, beyond the rapids, must be reached, and modern

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invention has made it possible that by air they may be reached in a few hours, instead of days and weeks of toilsome, dangerous traveling, ascending the wild and dangerous rapids. I am sure that our many friends at home will pray for these workers in the interior of Borneo, and that the Lord will give us a Hydroplane.

Our one object in pressing inland is to take the Gospel into the darkness, and reach tribes and peoples who hitherto have never been reached, and have never heard the message of salvation. It involves a great deal of real hardship and suffering, but it is well worth while.

HUNGER AND THIRST

May I anticipate your thoughts? Perhaps this question is in your mind as you read this report. "When these people hear, do they receive and believe the Good News of Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ?" In reply we may say in some places we meet with great hardness of heart. Among Mohammedans, this is particularly so. In other places we meet with many men and women who are truly hungry and thirsty for the Gospel, and who listen with all their hearts when the truth of the substitutionary work in the death of our Lord Jesus Christ for the atonement for their sins is clearly and simply presented. They rejoice and with real faith they accept the message in their hearts. And praise God, the same wonderful effects of the Gospel in the human heart may be seen in the interior of Borneo, among these, who perhaps of all people in the world, are farthest removed from what we call civilization. The Gospel is the same as it is at home. The need of the human heart is just the same.

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AN EAR TO HEAR

In the Boelongan District, Dutch East Borneo, this has been especially manifest. As we have said, over 1000 of these primitive jungle Dyaks have opened their hearts, and in simplicity of faith, have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has given to them as he does to us, the assurance that all their sins have been washed away. He gives to them the same peace and joy that is beyond human understanding. In the absence of the written Word, "Faith cometh by hearing." "By the hearing of the ear," the truth enters the heart; the Holy Spirit enlightens the mind, and the story begets faith in the Lord Jesus which regenerates their hearts and changes their lives.

BEAUTIFUL BALI

In the Isle of Bali also there has been abundant evidence of the gracious working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the people. Up to the end of the year, 235 have been baptized and many, many more are seeking the Lord and are ready for baptism. Notwithstanding the bitter persecution of the Hindu Balinese, there are many all over the island who want to follow the Lord Jesus.

The world tourists have come to Bali, but the Gospel has come too. Persecution has come, but the grace and power of God has also come to these people. Two years ago there was not one Christian in Bali. Now the fire has caught and is spreading all over the island. In the North of Bali, nearly 100 miles from where our work is located, there are about 100 enquirers. Pray for Bali.

PERSECUTION

The persecution of the Christians has been very bitter. For

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example, — land-owners refuse to rent farms to any who are Christians. Local Native officials have urged a complete boycott, in the matter of buying and selling, of all who have named the Name of Jesus. In one district the village authorities have cut off the water supply from the farms of the Christians which threatened the loss of the crops. The Hindu heathen claim that their gods send the water and that any who refuse to make sacrifices to their idols are not entitled to water to irrigate their fields. Because of this persecution a few of the Christians went back, but almost all of those who recanted have now returned to the Lord. They had tasted that the Lord was good, and they found that the agony of soul to be "without Christ" and to return to heathen idols, was far greater than the suffering of any persecution they were called upon to endure, so they have come back to the Lord, and now they would rather die than leave Him. This work in Bali is under the care of our Chinese Missionary, Pastor Tsang. In addition to the work in Lombok, Mr. Brill has given a good deal of time to the work in Bali. Mr. and Mrs. Brill are studying the Balinese language.

APOSTOLIC DAYS

It looks as though it would be impossible to make a compromise between the heathen Hindus and the Christians, and as far as we can see at the present time, it is most likely that many of the Christians will have to leave their native villages and seek a home elsewhere. It looks like a repetition of Apostolic Days. In the Acts we read "And at that time there was great persecution against the church which is at Jerusalem and they were scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judah and Samaria," and again "They that were scattered abroad wen't

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everywhere preaching the Word." (Acts 8 : 1 and 4). This is God's way of mightily and speedily spreading the Word of the Gospel in Bali. We venture to prophesy that our hundreds of converts will soon be increased to thousands. The River of Salvation is flowing, and no man can stop it. It flows on in power, and will break through, and wash away every barrier and obstacle. Trace this River to its source and it will be found that it comes from heaven. It is God's River. The persecution of the enemy will not hinder but will help; it will not retard the progress of the Gospel, but will advertise it. Again it is written, "So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed." (Acts 19 : 20).

BAPTISMS

Referring to our work in the Dutch East Indies as a whole, we may say that in the first year of this work, 1929, there were no baptisms, in 1930 there were still no baptisms to report. In 1931, the Holy Spirit of God began to move, and 278 Dyaks and 30 Balinese were baptized, making a total of 308 baptisms in 1931. In 1932, that is last year, the total number of baptisms was 958. Of these 734 were Dyaks of Borneo, and 205 were converts in Bali. In all there have been 1574 baptisms in our work in the Dutch East Indies. Almost all of these are people, whose race until three years ago had not known the Name of Jesus. That Name, until a few years ago, had not been translated into their language. Now thank God, they can sing the New Song in their own tongue, the Song of the Lamb of God, who has washed away their sins in His own precious blood.

OCCUPYING THE UNOCCUPIED

During the year 1932 we were able to enter a new part of

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Borneo, the Sesajap District. Messrs. Presswood and Post took the message for the first time to the Dyaks of this part of Borneo, and they found many, many hungry hearts among them. It is wonderful to hear them tell how the people followed them from place to place as they climbed their mountains, scrambled over their narrow, dangerous foot-paths, and forded their rivers. These people followed the missionary day after day, walking miles, not out of curiosity, but that they might hear again, and know more of the wonderful Story of the Savior's love who died for their sins. Men and women smote their chests when they heard the Good News. This is a Dyak mode of expressing great joy. The Lord has much people among the Dyaks in the interior of this part of Borneo.

The Sesajap district may be considered, perhaps the roughest and wildest part of interior Borneo. It is hard work and it is no small sacrifice on the part of the missionaries as they go and find these lost sheep, but it pays. One of our Brothers who went far into the interior of Borneo, and suffered much from the multitude of poisonous insects, leeches, etc., is still seriously effected, and is threatened with blood-poisoning as a result. He will be healed, we feel sure, and it pays a thousand-fold in the salvation of souls.

OVER-COMING

In the Mahakam Valley district, the Motor Launch, the "Courier" is still doing great work. Mr. Deibler was alone most of the year. He had the fellowship of the Chinese Missionaries, but there was no American colleague to send with him. He did a splendid year's work, and is an "overcomer." Friends at home may not realize just what it means to live almost alone in the interior of Borneo and overcome. It means that much of the

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grace and power of God is manifest in the heart and life of the missionary.

FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE

In the Celebes, inland from Makassar, some real missionary work has been done. Mr. Mouw, with a number of Bible School Students, drove our old bus laden with new Boegis Gospels of Mark and Luke, and our newly translated Boegis Gospel tracts. They went from town to town, often in the pouring rain, and from house to house told the people the Gospel Story. On the whole the nominal Mohammedans were glad to hear. They are naturally bigoted, fanatical, proud, and self-satisfied, but seventeen thousand Scripture portions and tracts were sold and distributed. Everywhere God has some open, hungry hearts who long for the peace that can come alone from the Lord Jesus. Mrs. Mouw held kampoeng meetings for women when her duties in the mission-home at Makassar permitted.

THE BIBLE SCHOOL

Mr. Clench has had a busy and blessed year in the Bible School work, and in special evangelistic meetings which have been held in the Kemah Indjil, — the Gospel Tabernacle, — in Makassar. In the Bible School work, in addition to Mr. Clench's classes, help was given by Mr. Mouw and Miss Griebenow. When the duties of office work permitted, Miss Kemp also helped. An average of 30 students have attended the Bible School, and the Tabernacle has been open practically every night since it was completed. Most of the meetings were evangelistic Gospel meetings, and the invitation to the unsaved was given faithfully. The Bible School Students helped in personal work, in song and sometimes students gave the message, thus, our Bible School Students are not only getting a

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thorough education in the Word of God, but also a practical education in the great work of soul-winning. The Tabernacle and the Bible School are working in harmony, co-operating one with the other.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

At the close of the first year, our Bible School is sending out its first students for a year of practical service in the work. One young man is going to Boelongan in connection with Mr. and Mrs. Fisk's work in Borneo. One is going to Lombok under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Brill. They will have a year in the work, and then return to Bible School to complete the three year course. The latter part of the training in the Bible School, after this practical experience in the work, is of greatest importance. There are other of our Bible School Students who are also ready to be sent out into the work, for a year of practical experience, but for lack of funds we are not yet able to send them.

Right here may we pause to say, that the secret of the situation for the evangelization of every district where we have opened work, and where God has given us souls, lies in the training of Native Workers, — men of that particular tribe, speaking their own language, who can go back to their own people and be their evangelists, pastors, teachers and leaders of the church. We believe in giving these Native Workers a thorough education in the Word of God, and practical experience in the art of soul-winning, so that they may be used in their own home field to preach the Gospel and teach others in the way of life. Most emphatically we want to say that we believe thus, not in the organization of a foreign church, but in an indigenous church. In this way it may not be long until the

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foreign missionary, whether American or Chinese, may be able to move on, and carry the Gospel to some new field where it has not been introduced before.

A WELCOME VISITOR

During the month of August, our work was visited by our good friend, Rev. Oswald J. Smith of Toronto. He traveled in company with Mr. Willis, through Southern Sumatra, Java, Bali, touching at Lombok, to Makassar. Here at our head-quarters Mr. Smith spoke to our missionaries, our Bible School Students, and to the people in the Tabernacle. The power of the Holy Spirit was certainly upon him, and the work of the Spirit was manifest in the meetings. The altar-call and after-meeting are somewhat of a new thing in missionary work in the Dutch East Indies, but blessed be His Name, the people broke before the Lord, and many wept their way to the altar, crying to the Lord for mercy. Nominal Christians were born again, finding Christ as their Savior for the first time. Backsliders were restored, and heathen and Moslems were brought into the light of the Gospel. We thank God for the visit of our Brother Oswald J. Smith.

THE LIVING WORD

We have had continued evidence of the Lord's blessing upon our Publication Work from many parts of this island world. We have received testimonies of the Spirit's blessing that has come to the readers of "The Kalam Hidoep," (The Living World). This bi-monthly magazine in the Malay language has a wide circulation, and goes far afield to distant islands of the Dutch East Indies, and to other parts where Malay is spoken. It is a translation largely of Bible Expositions from our Chinese

Monthly, the Bible Magazine. Through its message, many a lonely, hungry Christian, perhaps a member of a formal church, finds food. We have also published in Malay a number of clear, plain Gospel Tracts which have had a considerable circulation.

SUBTLE OPPOSITION

The opposition of the enemy in connection with our Publication work has chiefly been seen and felt in our attempt to translate these Gospel messages into the language of other islands, for distribution among people who have never heard of the Lord Jesus. For example, we have felt very subtle opposition in trying to get these Gospel Tracts translated into such as the Balinese, the Sasak and the Boegis languages. Sometimes the translators, sometimes the printers, who are not Christians, have been moved by Satan to try to change the text. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" has been deliberately changed to "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting *death*." A statement as follows: "Trust in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" has been changed to "trust in the Lord Jesus and you will not be saved." In every case, thank God, the error has been discovered, sometimes before printing, and always before distribution. Please pray for us. We purpose going right on with this work, destroying the error, and reprinting where necessary. The enemy seems to be determined to fight us every inch of the way. We surely need your help.

"REGIONS BEYOND"

With the beginning of the new year 1933, we are launching forth in the Name of the Lord, into new fields. Here again

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we find it a terrific struggle. Satan does all in his power to hinder and discourage. His anger and hatred, as we press out into new fields, is manifest on every side. The three new fields before us are as follows:

1. Southern Sumatra, where Mr. and Mrs. David Griffin of The World Wide Christian Couriers are opening up a great unoccupied field with an approximate population of 2,000,000.

2. The islands of Bangka and Billiton, and the entire group of more than 200 islands, between Southern Sumatra and Western Borneo. Pastor and Mrs. F. L. Ching of The Chinese Foreign Missionary Union are going to this field as the first missionaries of the pure Gospel. About half of the population is composed of Chinese and the other half are Malay-speaking people, a mixture of Moslems and Animists, among whom, as far as we know, there are no Christians.

3. Western Borneo, up the Kapoeas River, where there is a large population of Dyaks, to whom no one has gone with the Gospel message. Mr. and Mrs. Mouw go forth in His Name to this great unoccupied region.

PRAY FOR THE PIONEER MISSIONARY

We would again remind our friends at home that this work of going into new fields where the dense darkness of the Devil prevails, where Christ has never yet been named, is sure to mean a sharp conflict with the enemy. As we bring the Light to these dark parts of the earth, it must scatter the darkness. The sharp conflict with the enemy is because he has settled down in these parts, and never before has he been disturbed or challenged by the proclamation of the Gospel of free salvation through Jesus Christ. These workers will need your prayers as

they enter these new fields. When you receive this report in the homeland these missionaries will be there, with their feet already upon Satan's territory. Their message of freedom from the bondage and thralldom of sin and Satan will be the first that has ever been given to the people of Southern Sumatra, Western Borneo and the islands lying between. Again we say, they need your prayer. Stop for a moment in the reading of this Report, and pray and believe with them for a great and glorious victory.

There remaineth much land still to be possessed in the Dutch East Indies. With the new year we are launching out into new fields, but there are still great areas, hundreds of island to which we must go. Someone must pioneer, someone must travail in prayer, someone must give money to carry the Gospel farther and farther into the darkness of this island world. Who will help? Will you do your part, however small it may be? We earnestly seek your help. We, that is, you at home and we on the field, we must go to "the uttermost part of the earth." We must reach with the Gospel Message the last island, the last tribe, the last language area, where Christ has not been named. We must hasten on, for the time is short. The Coming of the Lord draweth nigh. The Dispensation speeds on to its close. Our time for further pioneer work for the Master may not be long. Do you believe it? We may very soon hear the trumpet sound, which will summons us to meet Him in the air. When we shall see His face, we will not regret any sacrifice we have made. Glad and glorious day, speed on. Even so Lord Jesus, Come Quickly!