

# Sentosa

A ministry update from the Byrne-Mamahit family November 2008  
**Hello from Pontianak!**



Children in Sungai Pinyuh a small town,  
outside the city of Pontianak

## “What was that?”

“What was that?” Johnny screamed aloud after the blast rang out, the bridge and car still shaking. Our car was about ¾ of the way across the Kapuas bridge located over the very large Kapuas river. Four more huge explosions rang out. The cars and motor-cycles crowded all around to the left and right of us for a moment seemed frozen in fear – suspended in time. Luckily everyone maintained control of the vehicles. At that very moment I was thinking about the “meriam” or the canons that are fired off (usually at night) during the month of Ramadan, but more intensely during the Idul Fitri celebrations which mark the end of Ramadan, so I was not as shocked as Johnny and the girls. “The canons – it’s just the canons remember”, I called out to everyone. Everyone breathed again, and we all laughed and laughed. Before we got over the bridge another series of blasts rang out shaking the bridge and our car once again. When we arrived at our

destination we recalled our encounter to our friends. We were visiting on the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. Groups of the canons made from wood and painted different colours line both sides of the river, and are blasted off at random intervals as part of the Idul Fitri celebrations.

The next day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the holiday while visiting another family, whose home is built up on stilts so in reality it is over the river, we had another encounter with the “meriam”. This time it was I (Paige) who was not expecting it, and the location of this particular group of canon was so close to the home we were visiting that the blasts shook the windows and floor boards. My tea almost spilled right into my lap, and the cookie in my hand flew through the air. I was so obviously startled that it sent the children in the room into peels of laughter. But none of us could hear the laughter; we could not hear each other over the noise of the canons. It was a very strange sensation as if watching a movie on mute to see the children laughing while the house shook, and yet not hearing them. Again, it was as if we were suspended in time.

Visiting friends during Idul Fitri is a common practice all around Indonesia. Even many Christian families visit and prepare for visitors during Idul Fitri. Being a part of the community is such an important part of Indonesian culture and this is reflected in how people participate in each others cultures and traditions. Johnny and I were happy that we had made a few connections and were able to visit a few families. Our new Muslim friends also appreciated our visit.



The meriam cannons on the Kapuas river. October 2nd 2008.  
*Photo by Nakita.*



Paige and the ladies at the home built on stilts by the Kapuas River. We were visiting new friends in Pontianak on the Idul Fitri holiday to mark the end of Ramadan.

### Ask Us Questions

*Don't forget to send us your questions. If there is something you want to know, then for sure others do too.*

**Johnny, what is Ketapang like, are the roads as bad as you had anticipated?** Yes, the roads are very bad. I have only traveled in the rainy season, so we will see if the roads improve in the dry season but so far they are worse than what I had imagined. Ketapang city is bigger than I thought, and it does have internet service. The families servicing in this area are committed to the ministry and I appreciated meeting with them, getting to know them and seeing their work. I look forward to working with them.

**Paige, How is your back? Did you survive the flight?** (Not all of you know that Paige suffered from a back injury about two weeks before leaving Canada, and so the trip back to Indonesia was delayed by several weeks.) Thank you all for your prayers. My back is much better. It was not completely healed when we left Canada but the delay was well worth it as it did improve significantly. The flight from Toronto to Hong Kong was difficult, but manageable; I had some pain medication with me. After all the packing and moving it was very nice to arrive here and take some time to relax. Now it has improved even more and only occasionally do I feel a twinge that reminds me to be cautious.

### Going Interior

Besides going to Ketapang, since our arrival Johnny has had several opportunities to go interior. Usually this is in relation to the seminary student activities. On one occasion Johnny took a team of seven students to the villages of Mentonye Dalam, and

Karangan to do some practical ministry. The team stayed in the villages for three nights and four days doing ministry. They visited families, taught Sunday School, had some youth meetings, had bible studies, held some evangelistic meetings, and of course had Sunday service. Johnny was proud of the team of seven, some of whom had never been interior before and how they adapted to the circumstances in the village. For some this was the 1<sup>st</sup> time to bath in river, and live the difficult lifestyle experienced by poorer people in West Kalimantan. One student who is further along in his studies shared the preaching responsibilities with Johnny. Interestingly the village of Mentonye Dalam is where Johnny's uncle Rev. Karrel Languyu worked as a missionary many years ago, and the village of Karangan is where Paige and the team of young people lead by Blair Clark built two dorms in 1992. People in both those villages remembered Rev. Languyu, and also Paige and the team. The students come from various parts of Indonesia including Manado, Nias, North Maluku, North Sumatra and Kalimantan.



Team of students who ministered interior for four days from the seminary in Pontianak, STK.

### Prayers.

1. Pray for Johnny as he has three more trips to Ketapang area this year. Each trip means about a week away from home. The distances he needs to travel are long involving an eight hour boat ride (one way) and many hours by motor-bike. Pray for John's safety and health.
2. Pray for the ministry in the Ketapang area. Pray for the four national families who work in this area, for their safety also, as they serve in isolated areas interior.

Pray that they will see fruit in their ministry and be encouraged by this.

3. Please pray for the people in the area of Ketapang. This is an isolated area of West Kalimantan that does not have good infrastructure. Pray that they will hear the good news of the Gospel, and experience the peace, joy and hope that we know.

4. Pray for Paige and the girls who are at home doing home schooling. Pray for discipline and focus and some times of fun.

### Team Support News

We want to express to you our gratitude for your continued support for us financially in this time of fluctuation and uncertainty. We know that the financial situation facing the world is worrisome and we are so thankful for your ongoing support for us. Even here in Indonesia the world situation has shaken the stock markets, and caused increased prices in the local markets.

We know that God will bless you and your families. We continue to need support both financial and in prayer for the rest of this year 2008 and as we look towards Christmas and 2009. Speaking of which check out CBM's Christmas catalogue for your gift giving this year – there are opportunities to give a gift in support of God's work around the world including Indonesia.



### Family News

Our home is now located in the city of Pontianak, which is right on the equator. Below is a picture of Nakita and Shoshannah standing right on the equator marker in Pontianak. Originally located and marked in 1928 the marker has gone through upgrades and is now a small museum. Some of you may remember the photo of Nakita and Shoshannah on the equator marker located in East Kalimantan which is more primitive, and not located within a museum, but rather just in the jungle along the side of the road. Nakita is standing mostly on the northern side, and Shoshannah is standing mostly on the Southern side of the world in this photo

We are finding our way around our new city, learning about the people, and settling into our home. We have made some new friends and there are a lot of people here that Paige knew as a child growing up in Manado. We are enjoying reconnecting with them, and making new friends.

Paige and the girls are doing well in the home schooling. The girls are self-motivated and off to a good start. It appears that discipline and focus is the key to home schooling and so this will be our challenge. Both Nakita and Shoshannah like the materials and have found the A-Beka teachers on DVD very good and easy to follow.

Nakita celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday here in Pontianak and we want to thank you for the cards and notes that came to her. Still new to the city we did not have a party but did take her out for dinner.

**To learn how you can be a part of our ministry please contact** Canadian Baptist Ministries, 7185 Millcreek Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 5R4 OR Visit the website at: [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)

With all our Love and Prayers,  
Sincerely in Christ,  
Johnny, Paige, Nakita and Shoshannah.

Our Mailing address is:  
Kotak Pos 1051  
Pontianak 78010 KALBAR  
INDONESIA  
e-mail add: [johnnybm@telkom.net](mailto:johnnybm@telkom.net)  
Phone number: 62-561-732 231