

GLOBAL MISSION'S **Frontline**

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR PIONEERS | **VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 2**

Help
Us Say
Yes!

**Reaching
the Dayak
for Jesus**



A longhouse family.



In 1963, Pacific Press® published a book called *Nyla and the White Crocodile*,* in which pioneer missionary Norma Youngberg shares the story of how the Dayak tribespeople of Sarawak learned about Christ.

In the past, Adventist missionaries have helped many of the Dayak people come to know Jesus. But the work is vast, and the grasp of animism is strong. There is still much to be done to reach these beautiful people with the gospel.

Sarawak is located on the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia. It's home to some 2.5 million people, many of whom belong to the Dayak-Iban tribe. Many of the people live in traditional longhouses like their ancestors did. A longhouse is a building comprised of separate dwellings covered by one roof. Each family has its own room, and each longhouse

A young Dayak woman carries her vegetables to market in a traditional basket.



A Global Mission pioneer gives Bible studies to several longhouse families. Group activities are conducted on the veranda.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church has sent Global Mission pioneers to live and work among the Dayak people. The pioneers are local people who are familiar with the Dayak culture and customs. They become part of the community, working alongside the members of the longhouse and becoming

has a chief. These communal buildings provide a safe and secure environment for the tribespeople.

The Dayak people work together in small, open spaces in the jungle, growing produce to sell in the local markets. They fish the rivers and tap the rubber trees that are plentiful in the dense jungles. Their shared activities create a strong, tightly knit family environment.

ing their friends. The Dayak people welcome them and allow them to become part of the longhouse families.

Having earned their trust, the pioneers are able to share the gospel. Many of the people are excited to learn about a God who loves them and wants to improve their lives.

The Dayak people are animists and live in fear of evil spirits. Their whole world is



A traditional longhouse in Borneo.

A floating market in Borneo.



guided by the omens and signs that are commonplace in the jungle. But when they become Christians, they lead new lives free of fear. They live in peace and hope.

When the members of a longhouse have made a decision to accept Christ, a local pastor is invited to hold evangelistic meetings. After the meetings, those who have chosen to follow Jesus are baptized in a nearby river.

Please remember our Global Mission pioneers who are serving in Sarawak and around the world. And thank you for

supporting them with your financial gifts. Thanks to you, many of the Dayak people have come to know and love Jesus.

* *Nyla and the White Crocodile* is available at the Adventist Book Center® or www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Selling the catch of the day.



Our church's passion for reaching the people of Sarawak began sometime between 1888 and 1903 with a visit by missionary Abram La Rue.

Former Global Mission pioneer Banyang Jamu (left) and a local pastor take the Adventist message to longhouse chiefs in Sarawak.



Dear Friend,

Over the years, other Adventist missionaries, evangelists, and lay people followed in his footsteps. It was slow, arduous work, beset by many challenges.

After the disruption of World War II, missionaries returned to Sarawak and reestablished their work among the Dayak tribes.

One of those missionaries was Norma Youngberg, who spent years working among the headhunters in Sarawak and wrote several books about her amazing experiences.

Another was Dick Hall, who brought the first plane to Sarawak in the early 1960s. Wearing boots and a cowboy hat, Dick quickly learned to perform simple dental procedures as well as teach the people about Jesus. He created airstrips in the jungle with the help of villagers who wanted him to visit regularly. "Every place that we made an airstrip," says Hall, "we raised a church. Then we would walk a short distance from that church to other villages and raise churches there as well."

In 2008, one of our staff traveled to Sarawak and met Banyang Jamu, a longhouse chief and former Global Mission pioneer. Banyang had visited the other longhouse

chiefs with a local pastor and shared the Advent message with them. Several of the chiefs joined the church, and their longhouse members have been baptized as well.

Most recently, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has sent Global Mission pioneers to live and work among the Dayak people. God has blessed their work, and their ministry has been very successful! It's common to have more than 50 percent of a longhouse's inhabitants decide to join the church after a year's time. A single Global Mission pioneer can often reach out to two or three longhouses in a year.

"We have tried our best to assign Global Mission pioneers to the longhouses," says Lawrence Banyie, president of the Sarawak Mission. "We have been able to build a church for the longhouse members who have had the ministry of a pioneer. We need more Global Mission pioneers. Then the work would really grow!"

Thanks to your mission offerings and your support of Global Mission, the church is growing in Sarawak!

Laurie Falvo

Laurie Falvo
Adventist Mission



P.S. Every dollar given to Global Mission goes directly to the front lines of mission.

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