

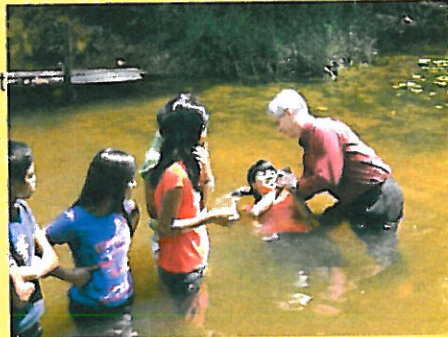
Merry Christmas

Warmest Christmas Greetings from Kalimantan

What is different about celebrating Christmas in Kalimantan as compared to Canada?

For one, we're at the plus extreme of the thermometer while Canada enjoys the extreme minuses. While we're "enjoying" plus 32 C with high humidity, giving it a real feel of 44C, Canada might be "enjoying" similar temperatures in the minus end of the scale. In Canada one is almost ensured a white Christmas whereas here one can only dream of it. But in Canada one wouldn't dream of doing outside baptisms at Christmas.

Here Bill has already taken part in two Christmas celebrations that have also included baptisms. What a joy to see a spiritual rebirth confirmed in young people at the same time as they're celebrating the birth of their Saviour. In Canada I sometimes hear that every Sunday or every day should be as special as Christmas. I don't hear that here.



What I see is churches making Christmas as special as possible by inviting guest speakers, Christians from all denominations and neighboring villages, by putting on as big a feast as possible for the guests, by making evangelism the focal point of the celebrations, by making it the largest item in the church's budget. The net result is that, spiritually speaking, things really do "heat up" at Christmas time. So we'd like to share some of the heat with you and send you our warmest Kalimantan Christmas greetings.

Merry Christmas,

Bill and Janice (in Indonesia)
Jonathan and Marigan (in Canada)

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