

Perspective Digest

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Frontline Man (Good News)

Yuvanisius Lokabal

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A column for those tired of hearing the bad

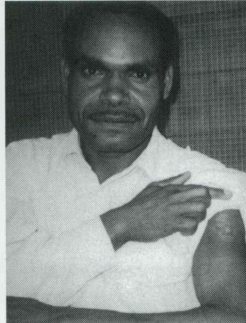
Frontline Man

His name is Yuvanisius Lokobal—the villagers in Tingginambut (a highland village of Irian Jaya, Indonesia) call him “Yufan.”

So Yufan it shall be in this bit of good news from Yufan to the General Conference Global Mission office.

“Although I am the only Global Mission Pioneer in this village,” he writes, “it is clear that I’m not alone when I recount experiences God has already led me through.

“A few weeks ago a neighboring tribe came to make war with the people I am growing to love. About one hundred warriors stood on either side of the airstrip. [Tingginambut is accessible only by air or traveling for a week on foot.—Ed.] Arrows started flying. I knew many people would die unless something was done. So, holding my Bible open in front of me, I ran in between the groups yelling, ‘In the name of the Lord, please stop!’ Of course, I was praying all the time! I reminded them how precious life is, and that once you take a life you can never get it back. I begged them not to take



All the arrows didn't miss.

their revenge out on one another. I felt the arrows swishing by me, but, when they saw that a higher power was in control, they stopped fighting.

“God used this incident to open doors. I am now respected here and in the neighboring villages.

“The authorities even told the people not to damage the jungle chapel, because ‘It’s God’s house.’ The villagers have fenced around the airstrip and cut the grass. The plane owned by the Adventist mission is the only one the villagers have ever seen!

“I close with a miracle: Pigs play an important part in all villagers’ lives here. However, I’ve been teaching them health principles, and not to eat pigs. Last month, throughout the entire Kacam Matan (local region), an epidemic affected all of the pigs, and destroyed the majority of them. Guess what people are saying? ‘The guru Yufan has been telling us we shouldn’t eat pigs. Now the pigs have died.’

“Sincerely,
Yuvanisius Lokobal.” □