

# That's My Line



## Lois Belsey missionary

Lois Belsey is a native of Midland who has been a missionary overseas since 1974. She has spent the last four years in Indonesia.

As long as I can remember I've wanted to be a missionary since I was a child. I met a lot of missionaries who came to our church and visited our home.

From high school I went to Bible College. From college I took training in nursing, specializing in obstetrics, and then I went overseas. Before leaving Canada I spent a year and half as a nurse in Hearst.

As a missionary I see a great need of people, in every way, but most of all spiritually, to know the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Many people live in fear, and poverty, and ill health. Knowing this is probably what made me want to go.

On my trips back home I've been most struck by the affluence of Canadians.

After four years of missionary work I have a year at home, but this time I have only nine months. I return to Indonesia in January. I am a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, which has 978

missionaries in 47 countries.

A typical day begins at 6 a.m. Bible School is the first daily event. There are no telephones in our village; the only communication with other villages is by radio. Between 8 and 8:30 a.m. we talk with other missionaries on the island.

Most of my morning is spent in Bible School. Afternoons I spend preparing the next day's lessons. Nothing is available in their language so I have to prepare their lessons. We start our generator around 5 or 6 p.m. so we have electricity between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Dark falls at 6 p.m. Sometimes we go out to different services in the village, or else stay home. A medical emergency can happen at any time.

We look after the clinic and are ultimately responsible for people's health. Difficult labours, cuts, pneumonia and malaria are some of the problems we have to handle. Patients are sent out to hospital if we don't feel we can treat them.

Interruptions happen any time of the day or night. Girls come to our door asking us to hide

them because their fathers want to sell them to a man they don't like. If we know them, and know they are telling the truth, we will hide them. We get in trouble sometimes because of it.

Women are not treated well and we tend to take their side. They are more interested than the men in Jesus Christ, because they have nothing to lose. The men are warriors. Their whole system is built on revenge. The men act very superior and are quite cruel to their wives. They are selfish as well. When they go hunting, they eat what they kill themselves.

Their diet has very little protein. They have pigs but the pigs are symbols of wealth. Pigs are used to buy wives or sacrifice to the spirits.

Women do most of the work. The men clear the land but the women work it from early in the morning through the afternoon, while the men sit and discuss how to become wealthy.

The children and the youth are the people I hope to work with, to get into their minds and hearts, to teach them to read and write, and the principles of health, so their lives will be better.

## Board to recommend council approve 20th apartment

Representatives of the group building the Knox Price senior citizen apartment building on Hugel Avenue, next to the Knox Presbyterian Church, have gained support to build a 20 unit apartment building.

The original application, which was approved, was to build a 19 unit building.

The building project is eligible to be subsidized by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and CMHC support is only available for projects below a certain cost ceiling.

Midland planning board members were told Tuesday evening that the addition of a 20th apartment into the building would help

lower the overall unit cost and help insure that costs would not exceed the CMHC's limit.

If the non-profit project became too expensive, CMHC would not be able to lend its financial support. The project would be in serious straits without government assistance, the board was told.

A request that the

\$4,000 impost fee already charged the project be refunded was not addressed by the planning board. The board felt the question should be directed to the town council because it is not within the planning board's scope. The board will recommend that council approve the building of a 20th apartment.

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