



# Earth Aflame

A Ministry Update from Ken Snyder

"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." These are the words of William Carey, known as the father of modern missions. And these words seem to sum up my heart during this season as well. This year has been a very busy year, full of seemingly impossible tasks. I thank you for your continued prayers and support, without which I would not have been able to tackle the impossible. But I am determined to see God move, and to see South East Asia changed and transformed, becoming what God has called it to be. I am determined to see the world changed.

My time in the US was incredibly busy, but also very good. It was great to be able to spend time with as many of my supporters as I could, and I wish I could have spent more time and been able to meet with everyone. Hopefully next time I am in the States I will be able to connect with everyone to share all the great things God is doing in this part of the world. But this last trip was just too short, so forgive me for being able to give you the time that you deserve.

Just a few days after I arrived back home in Asia, I led a team of 5 guys including myself to East Malaysia on the island of Borneo. We were privileged to work with the Iban people, a tribe of former headhunters and warriors. The Iban live in longhouses along the rivers that snake their way through the jungles. It was great to sit and drink tea with the tattooed headmen of each longhouse we visited, and afterward to encourage them in their faith. Many of the Iban have become Christian, but since their villages are often deep in the jungle it is difficult for the local pastor to visit often. Because of this, although some have been Christians for many years, they are still quite young in their faith, only having a church service a few times a year.

As the Iban trip came to a close, three of the guys returned home, while my house-mate and I flew to another region of East Malaysia and joined two girls from our church for a trip to visit the Penan people. Like the Iban, the Penan live deep within the jungle, and we had to take 4WD trucks on logging roads, longboats along rivers, and hike through the rainforest to reach their villages. The Penan are nomadic by nature, and while some villages have now put down roots and built houses, they still do not do any farming, preferring to continue as hunters and gatherers.

The Penan are very shy and reserved, but while we were with them they were very hospitable, showering us with gifts of beautifully woven baskets. The Penan are perhaps the poorest of the tribes in East Malaysia, and have been taken advantage of by logging companies and the government. They have lost some of their traditional hunting grounds to logging, and are often looked down upon by the other tribes. We shared with them that they are not forgotten, and that God knows them and loves them, sending us on our long journey to meet them and encourage them.

I sense in my heart that God has a plan for the Penan people, and I was expecting to see God move. He did, and He blew me away. At one village, we offered to pray for those that wanted more of God in their lives. Two of the people there had walked ten hours through rough jungle, over hills and mountains, to join us for the service. The hunger in that room was so strong you could almost feel it, as every person rushed forward to receive. We began to pray for each of them one by one, and I began to cry as I felt the incredible calling and destiny God had placed upon each person. It was as if I was praying for people that would become

Elijahs, Davids, and Pauls. The authority given to each of them was enormous, but in most cases the Penan fail to see it. Because they are always looked down upon, they cannot see that God has lifted them up. God loves to use the weak and the small, and I firmly believe with all of my heart, that Penan will somehow change the world. It is exciting to be even a small part of what God is doing with the Penan, and I cannot wait to see what will happen in the future.

The time of prayer also made me wonder how much authority we have and fail to notice. We are sons and daughters of the most high God, the ruler of the entire universe. But we rarely if ever walk in that power and authority. What would change in our lives, our communities, our world if we did? I want to find out.

Back home, work continues on our church building, and we continue to pray for finances in order to pay the bills and complete the renovations. For our church, this year is the Year of Harvest, and we are focusing on impacting our local community for the remainder of the year.

Please pray for the Iban and the Penan, that they would be able to grow and be disciplined. That God would raise up leaders in each longhouse and in every village to pastor the people and help them to grow. Please continue to pray for the finances of our local church so that we can meet our needs. And please keep praying for me, that God would meet all of my needs and that I would continue to be bold enough to follow His leading.

Thank you once again for all of your prayers, and for all of your support. Truly, I cannot express how grateful I am for your willingness to partner with me in extending the Kingdom of God in Southeast Asia.

Until All Have Heard,

Ken Snyder