



# Earth Aflame

A Ministry Update from Ken Snyder

Merry Christmas! God is good, and it is an honor to serve Him. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support. This year has been packed to the brim with more than its share of both ministry and troubles, but by God's grace and your prayers we continue to press forward.

God has enabled me to make multiple trips and lead several teams to minister in South East Asia. My local church has moved to a new location, and our area of influence has grown as we seek to be a blessing to the community. All of this was done with limited finances, both personal and in the church. I believe I understand better how the disciples felt when Jesus asked them to feed the 5000 with only a few fish and some bread. At times the task before us has seemed impossible, but somehow God has made a way. Still, even now I don't know how the finances will come to pay for the upcoming events.

But it is a blessing to be asked by God to do the impossible, because that is when we get to see God move. When Jesus asked the disciples to feed the 5000, he knew that he would supply the power and miracle to provide abundant food. The disciples saw the impossible happen that day. And the miracle was repeated when he fed the 4000 later. As the disciples learned, with God the impossible is possible and the supernatural is natural.

Even though at times I feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task before me, and the seemingly lack of resources, I know that God is in control. I know that God is faithful to give us the resources we need to accomplish what He has asked us to do.

Christmas in Asia looks different than in America. There are few Christmas trees, few if any Christmas parties, no Christmas food, and no snow. It is not so much a 'season' as it is in the west, but it is a chance to share Christ with those that do not know Him. Like most churches, we will be having evangelistic meetings on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, sharing the good news of Jesus. There will be a drama and dance presentation, along with a Gospel message.

Christmas is solidly a Christian Holiday here, and many non-Christians are interested in the meaning behind it all. We hope to have a full house both evenings, packed with people eager to hear a message of hope first shared 2000 years ago. Pray that God moves in the hearts of those that attend and that His truth will shine.

January will mark the sixth anniversary of my local church, and since we are in a new building and a new community, we have much bigger plans than ever before. Each Saturday of the month we have extensive community events planned to connect with and bless the people around us. Over 3000 families live within just a few minutes walk from us and we want to be a resource for this area.

Pray for the finances to carry out the plan that God has given us, and for God to send people to each event so that we can be a blessing to them now - and in the future. Pray also that God's presence would be strong during these events and many lives would be changed.

This year I have also had the privilege of writing a two week devotional for new believers at the request of my church. We will be printing the booklet so it is ready for our Christmas events, and will be using it to help new believers get started with Christianity. The daily readings include topics such as “How to pray” and “How to read the Bible”, as well as some foundational aspects of the Christian walk.

Unlike in the US, most new Christians come from varied religious backgrounds and basics of Christianity are often foreign concepts. We don't try to change their culture or worldview into a “western” worldview, but we do want to give them a “Biblical” worldview. This includes an understanding that God is not distant and uncaring, but knowable and full of love and grace. Also, that as followers of Jesus, we are called to respond with love and forgiveness ourselves.

It has been an honor to prepare this devotional, tailoring it for the needs of local new believers. Next year I will be preparing a training and discipleship program with multiple modules to train up people to be reproducing leaders, equipped with the best tools we can give them. It has always been my heart to train locals for ministry. Their native understanding of culture makes them more effective, while at the same time having an exponential effect on the growth of the Kingdom of God. When there is already a strong church, such as my situation now, my vision has been to come alongside local leaders and assist them in their ministry.

I would also ask for prayer regarding my own health. This year, more than others, I have been suffering the effects of old injuries, especially in my back and ankles. For over a month I have been forced to limp when I could walk, and for a week I was even confined to crutches. I am tired of being less effective than I could be by not being able to move around freely and I am praying for complete healing in my body.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support, and for taking the time to read this update. I am held up in ministry by your support, and am so thankful for our partnership. May you be blessed beyond all imagination this season, as we celebrate the coming of our Glorious Savior. Let us proclaim Jesus and with it, as the Christmas Carol *O Holy Night* says, “a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.” Let us rejoice as we recognize the coming of our Lord and Savior, come to set us free from the bondage of sin and death.

Until all have heard,

Ken Snyder