



unto the uttermost..



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Holiday Greetings to you all. It's hard to *feel* like it's Christmas time when it's 85 degrees and all the grass and trees are green. I wish you all could come here to meet my people. I thought it well to introduce you to something of them. Almost all of my prospective members are from the Subanon tribe.

"...that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."
1 John 5:11

Currently updating our website:

theuttermost.net

Here are some pictures of their traditional dress at a festival complete with native wedding. Their native weddings are performed by their local leaders, *Timoi*, and are legal. Sometimes the marriages are arranged by the *Timoi* and teenage weddings are not unusual. I've met some ladies who were married in their *early* teens! Some have 10-12 kids. Their family life is very *communal*. I understand what it means to live hand to mouth. Almost nobody has a refrigerator! Often meals are shared between families.



Superstition or spirits?

I'm a pretty skeptical one. But I have to admit that I've seen and heard some things that I cannot explain. Some times Subanon leave offerings near their crops for a good harvest and faithfully follow suspicious rituals. I've met their native healer(?), who is wholly trusted although the case I saw she did nothing *medical*. Talk of spirits and strange creatures is commonplace. The term used is "[they are] not like us".



Being a cultural minority they are often disrespected. They often keep to themselves, often transfer locations. I've seen a few truly malnourished babies and am told that gets worse in the more remote areas. A major problem is alcoholism. I was talking one day with a few of my regular young ladies when the subject came up about a certain local intoxicating drink. All of them tried to convince me how good this strange mixture tastes. Their ages range from 12 to 18 years! I think *all* my prospects have a heavy drinker in their house.



Religion in a Fishbowl

Nobody comes to Lakewood by accident. Nobody just *passes thru* here. Because this is an isolated place, I've noticed how much of a *microcosm of religion* this place is. This is a very religious place. It can be seen how various religious groups have evolved or rather *devolved* without much outside influence. There is one of the largest churches here, for example. I think they started here 1960's. I've examined there doctrinal positions on their website from the States, I can't find *anything* wrong with their fundamental beliefs. They've adopted modern worship music. They have some nice programs. But if you ask their members simple questions about salvation they can't answer. Vice in the church is common. The lost remain lost and *not far away*. THIS IS NOT HOW CHRIST'S CHURCH IS SUPOSED TO BE! One of the great tasks I've set out to do is to instill in my people the hope and expectation for sometime MORE than this. Church is more than just a club for Christians. Power doesn't lie in program's but in prayer. Revival is not a word I have EVER heard from Filipino lips. I think some would be offended if you told them they needed it! But THEY NEED IT!

My work in the Mission here has been slow. Focusing on the unsaved / unchurched, I've been digging deep to root up some bad foundations in their beliefs. I am seeing some change, some fruit, but slowly. Maybe by next month we will be talking baptism. Our chief need here is the Holy Ghost to fall.

I covet your prayers for God's blessed work here. *Please pray*

Thanks again for your prayers and support,

Brian Ethridge

Your missionary to the unreached



Evangelistic film showing planned for week after Christmas in remote area



Sending Church:
 New Beginnings Fellowship
 Baptist Church
 155 N Jackson st
 Sulphur Springs, Tx 75482
 (903) 885-0624 nbfb.org



contact :
 Fruitful Harvest Ministries
 PO Box 1130
 Sulphur Springs TX
 75483
 fruitfulharvest.net

