

THE PENAN OF MALAYSIA

HOMELAND: Northern Sarawak in East Malaysia

POPULATION: 10,000 (est. 2015)

LANGUAGE: Penan

RELIGION: Animism, Protestantism, Catholicism

EVANGELICAL BELIEVERS: 0.3% (est. 2015)

SCRIPTURE: New Testament

CHRISTIAN RADIO: None

GENERAL: The Penan are generally hunter-gatherers well-versed with the jungle. Most of them have settled in remote longhouses with a small minority still leading their traditional nomadic lifestyle. The Penan face the serious prospect of losing their ancestral lands to logging activities and dam projects. While spiritual breakthroughs have occurred, nominalism and inadequate discipling of the younger generation are areas of concern for the Penan churches.

“The PENAN will call upon the Lord, and He will answer them; He will be with them in trouble, He will deliver them and honour them. With long life will He satisfy the PENAN and show them His salvation.”

Psalm 91:15-16 (NIV - personalised)

Father God, we pray for Your ways to be made known to the PENAN. We praise You for the revival that is taking place among them.

Do a new work in the hearts of the many nominal Christians. Free those who remain deep in animistic beliefs.

May they truly know You as the One True God who is faithful and who requires their full allegiance and obedience in their daily lives.

Cause the PENAN to rely upon Your wisdom in their efforts to protect their land. Intervene, O God, even as they face the threats to their natural environment from logging activities and dam projects. May access to good healthcare and education be improved.

Strengthen the PENAN Church. May the authority of Your Word and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit enable them to stand firm in the faith and overcome those who are seeking to undermine their faith in You.

Expand ministries to disciple the young generation and to reach those who do not know You as their personal Saviour and Lord.

Father, may the precious PENAN know the reality of Your love and faithfulness. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.