

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION

International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi Africa

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Date: 04 June 2018

Dear Pastor, Church and All Supporters;

Mt 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Mt 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mt 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Mt 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mt 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

The LORD came to bring a Sword; it separates, divides, cuts, and removes. Much can go into that message. In the same Chapter Christ instructed the disciples not to take nothing more than what was on their back. No money, no bag, not two of anything but to just go and preach the Gospel. Later in HIS ministry, HE changed that directive, I believe it is twofold and has both a physical and spiritual application. If you (the reader) disagree with this, that is ok but the time will come (if the LORD does not return soon) that many Christians will review their stand on (arms). Be that as it may, I am here in a country where laws are what the people make them to be.

The National Government is all about how much money they can strip away from the country, and the common people are all about settling disputes, fighting's, and wars with guns and machetes. The sheer numbers of the people in the Highlands, and the primitive conditions under which, people live make it difficult for any type of law and order except what the local people want it to be.

It has become increasingly difficult for me to travel from the mission station to Mt. Hagen to collect supplies and do business. There are roadblocks along the way, (not government) but indigenous personnel, many vehicles are robbed, people stripped of all they have and sometimes even the vehicle is taken at gunpoint.

The National Government had sent Special Police (paramilitary police) into the Hela Province, but several of the Police were killed, and were no match for thousands of Huli tribesmen who are also armed with high-powered rifles. Then the Army dispatched a regiment of soldiers out, there is peace as long as the Soldiers patrol the main road, but

after a season of time they move out, due to lack of funds, food, supplies and so the fighting and roadblocks continue.

I have not been robbed, but been stopped several times, at one point it was demanded that I hand over my vehicle, I said sorry I cannot do that, they asked why? My reply, “it belongs to GOD” and if you take it, HE will become very angry and I cannot tell what HE will do to you”, oh, ok, and then pass through!

At other times, they have pushed a shotgun barrel in my face literally and pulled the trigger but nothing happened, I am not sure if there was no cartridge or if the LORD removed the firing pin? Do you still believe GOD is Sovereign? Was it HIS will for me to take my journey on that day, and meet those men, and be road blocked? Was it GOD’S permissive will that my life was threatened? Should I stay? Leave? Or move to another location? Is this tempting GOD?

There are many questions, and some answers...I have mine, do you?

The roads continue to grow worse as no road maintenance is carried out and with two and a half inches of rain a day (on average) the roads simply cannot carry the load of the vehicles, sustain the rains and still remain in good condition.

With the earthquakes and tremors that have continued up to just a few days ago it has taken its toll on the earth.

About two months ago I had made a trip from Mt. Hagen loaded with over a ton of weight, and about two-thirds of the way the vehicle sustained a broken anti-sway bar on the rear. One bracket that holds the bar to the vehicle (which is welded from factory) had actually broken into, this placed extreme pressure on the ball joints and in so doing broke both.

I removed the parts and finished my trip to the mission station, weeks later I drove back to Mt. Hagen and fabricated new brackets for the anti-sway, as well as a new anti-sway bar, this involves heat-treating and time. However, when you go to the Land Rover dealer here and they tell you, they are “fresh out” what they really mean, they don’t have, never did, don’t want to order new parts, and don’t care! End of Story!

I have spoken with the management about this after several attempts to get spare parts for my vehicle and the workshop manager tells me, they only have a limited supply of parts. So at the end of the day, what do you do?

I managed to find some ball joints, but they did not have the rubber bushings, and or nuts to attach.

The mission work in Mt. Hagen has attracted much of my attention the past two months, out of a request from many of the church members where the late Elder Ekere Ibagu was pastor, and now his son Hepe, they have asked me to come spend some time teaching on the foundational doctrines which frame what we believe as Landmark Sovereign Grace Baptist believe.

I stay with Elder Hepe and his family, the house is small but liveable. When Christ sent the disciples out two by two, where did they sleep? Who did they stay with? And what were the accommodations?

Doctrines and biblical principles that I have known all my life and grew up with, often I feel that every Christian should know these, but I am reminded every day here that simple, fundamental teachings often are overlooked and taken for granted.

There is more than one hundred people who attend the church services here at Mt. Hagen, like Rome in Paul's day being a very transit city and of great importance to establish a local church. Here too, Mt. Hagen is a very transit city, and is located in the heart of PNG. A strong local church has been established here and is faithful to the Truth, the opportunities to spread the Truth as we know it to be are only limited by what we do or not do, and not the geographical location.

The hard preaching of GOD'S Word and strong doctrine are defining who GOD'S people are even in this country. The younger generation has tasted 'some' of what the 'West' has to offer and they like what they taste. Sundays are becoming a 'world fun day' and not a worship day for Jehovah. The markets have become the life which, most seek as it is cheap, social, and where all the gossip is.

The idea of going to town on a mini-bus is the 'big thing' here now, and you will find hundreds of people loitering all over town. Nothing to do but sit, or stand idle, engaged in gossip, and offer themselves as the 'devils workshop'.

Until we meet, may our LORD keep you in the centre of HIS will, bless the work of your hands, and smile upon your life.

Thank you for all the support you send for this work, we could not do what we do without your cooperative efforts.

In His Name,
Missionary Peter A. Halliman

