

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION
International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi
Africa

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Dear Pastor, Church;

“Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

Do you agree that it is within the Sovereignty of GOD that Jeremiah speaks about? What about when things go terribly wrong? Is GOD still Sovereign? And is GOD still gracious, and good and great? Is GOD still in control when everything seems to fall apart and you find yourself in great peril?

As you have already formed your opinion and or position on the above questions, muse over the following details.

I need to update you on our situation and the mission work.

Firstly, I will simply say we are not in harms way, even though the country is just about sideways with everyone due to the elections going on. Lawlessness has reached a level where car-high-jacking is common; yet going to get Police assistance is almost a joke.

Armed robbery, gang violence is rapidly gaining momentum and other ‘non-indigenous’ personnel are being targeted. Just a few days back, the ‘Mission home’ in Port Moresby was robbed at gunpoint, and the one who was assaulted, had a gun pointed at their head and the trigger pulled. Either there was a miss-fire or no bullet in the pipe. Either way, the intent to kill was there.

A Missionary family (husband and wife and two boys, young) living in Port Moresby, the husband was out and a gang of Fourteen or so men broke into the house through the back into the bedroom, tied up the two boys, and were going to rape and kill the woman. She salvaged the rape by telling them she was on her monthly period, they removed her clothes and only after they found evidence of what I said, they were going to take her as a hostage. They stole multiple items in the house and then stole their vehicle and were going to take her, but there was no room in the vehicle so they let her go. This couple has since flown out to Australia for counselling.

All of this has come to be simply because the elections, meaning the Politicians everywhere are out of office campaigning, and the Police Commissioner has directed Seven hundred mobile squad (special Police) like our SWAT, to the Highlands to control the elections and enforce some level of safety.

Meanwhile, with the attention on the elections, criminals have taken advantage of an opportunity.

All this being said, we are in Mt. Hagen, we flew out on Sat this past week, had church services here in Mt. Hagen with the church and mission where Bro. Ekere established and set up. His son is now pastor (Bro. Hepe Ekere).

We were trying to get things in order (our shopping) to go out to the Mission Station, and would have been gone already, however, there is another problem. The Land Rover, which, had been left here in order that we would have transportation out to the mission station, the fuel gauge was not working, and the fuel light was illuminated even though there was a full tank.

I was concerned that this error would send the wrong signal to the main computer and shut down the fuel pump, and or engine somewhere out of town and or along the desolated road, and then we would really be stranded and the vehicle would be at a high risk of getting stolen, vandalised, or damaged.

I took it to the Land Rover workshop here in Mt. Hagen and as you might guess the same story is about to be repeated as the story in Lae two years ago. Meaning, the mechanic does not know as much as I do, and I am not a certified mechanic. We worked together and got some other issues sorted out, like the indicators and hazard lights were not working, now they are after a full day of testing and repairing a relay. Even a simply relay for the Land Rover they do not have in stock, they would have to order this. Tuesday we put the vehicle in the workshop and one whole day was spent on repairing one relay to get the hazard and indicator lights working.

Wednesday, I worked all day with the mechanic and we ended up having to drop the fuel tank, remove all the fuel lines and in the process, one of the fuel lines (male inserts) broke. These are made out of PVC for durability and usually last the life of the vehicle (in most countries or under most conditions.) however, not here in PNG, leave it to them and they can break anything and tear up a M1 Abrams' Tank.

This will be a real issue, no spares for this (in the country); they don't have much of anything when it comes to spares, even simple wiper blades.

This will now ground the Land Rover, and I expect we will have to turn to either the UK or Australia to find this part. I am also not sure what this will entail, meaning if we will be able to purchase the one line or if we will have to get the complete set (4 lines) there are three feed lines and one return for the fuel system.

The other issue is all the rubber bushings have all but wore out, rotten out, deteriorated and from here its only a matter of time I will be driving a vehicle with metal parts against metal parts.

This problem started in Lae from the time the vehicle sat in the container from 2014 to 2015, besides we have to remember the vehicle was already ten years old from Africa and had done a immeasurable about of work those ten years, and had carried loads that no normal vehicle would ever carry.

I am not sure what my next step forward here is, I know that I cannot trust public transport for us, and am not prepared to put my wife in or on a public vehicle during this time of the year in this country with the elections going on.

I am not asking for anything special, I am simply communicating, as this is also my duty to report on 'everything' in our lives, the good, the bad, the blessings, and the challenges. At least you all can know more about how to pray for the LORD to assist us here.

For some reason, the LORD has halted us here in Mt. Hagen, I was prepared to be at the Tanggi Mission Station by tomorrow, but this will not happen. We have much to do at the mission station and the demands of the work are high however I must be resolved in the fact that for whatever reason (not yet revealed to us) the LORD has delayed our trip.

It may be because of danger, or trouble, we don't know but we trust HIM to take care of the needs and us.

In His Name,
Peter & Sherry