

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi

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Continued from last report....

(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 things GODS’ way, and HE will open the doors, and fight the battles, do things your own way, and you open the doors and you fight your own battles! A hard lesson for GOD’S people to learn. Ask the Children of Israel this.



I had to set up a bank account in Malawi, no P.O. no bank account, no account, no way to receive money. In those days, no internet, no cell phones, no computers (in Malawi) and no ATM’S. Ninety days were about to expire, what do we do? Pack our bags fly back to the USA and tell our home church well, it just didn’t work out and GOD made a mistake, Really?

No, I exited Malawi and crossed over into Mozambique for a week. Where would I stay, I knew no one and did not have the finances to stay in a hotel so I took my tent, sleeping bag and pitched my tent in a village.

I returned to Malawi, received another ninety days and continued on the legal side of things whilst trying to do mission work inbetween. The days passed, more delays, and more money was spent.

In time I was awarded a PO Box, then a Bank account, and was able to receive money, this all came at a price.

I did not have a vehicle but used my mountain bike to cycle everywhere I went, to town to do business, to preach out in the village, and even to cross the borders to exit the country.

This was repeated, every ninety days until I received a the legal paper work which was submitted to the Malawian Government for the registration of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission, with a 'official receipt' Immigration gave me a temporary work permit, this was only good for two years and so I had to secure the registration of the mission within this timetable, however due to corrupt officers it was six long years later.

What happened in the mean time with all this, I continue to work the mission work, and I continued to exit the country and spend days in pitching my tent in the bush, trusting the LORD and looking to HIM for help, answers, and fruit for my labours.

After enough days of cycling my mountain bike, and after enough visits to the Government offices, after enough excuses and stories and delays and exiting the country, after enough money had been spent (which no one knows about except the LORD and I) then, the LORD turned the heart of the king and the registration for the mission was granted.

The work began to take its shape and the LORD built the house, HE added and blessed, it was THE LORD who determined the timetable and allowed the delays. With this springboard I will now turn to recent events in PNG.

In 1960 my father had a wife (me mum) and three of my elder siblings leaving Chicago for Papua New Guinea, due to regulations he had to stay in AU for a few months, before going on to PNG. When entry was made into PNG, my father was told that he was not even supposed to be there due to his paper work not being supported by any organization or entity within Papua New Guinea.

His reply, 'but I am here' and so life started for him and his family around the coast. In time he left the family (mum and the three kids) in Port Lae and he went inland, and so the story goes he established the mission work in the Jungles of Papua New Guinea right in the heart of PNG.

Again, it was THE LORD who blessed, opened the doors, closed doors, turned the hearts of the kings and governments.

The timetable is 2015, I arrive in PNG to clear our container which we shipped to PNG from Malawi, my wife and I were here for six months, and it is during this time we faced great expenses, not only with our shipping container, but the vehicle which, had to be taken to a workshop, all of which I have written much about in past reports.

The point I want to make is this, we had not yet had opportunity to sort out our paper work for PNG, so we too had only been given sixty days temporary visa. This was about to expire and we had not completed our work and had to exit the country to Australia stay

a few day and then return. This was not a village and we were not sleeping in a tent, meaning it was more costly.

Travel in PNG is very expensive and when there are two of you the expenses are twice as much. We repeated this twice before we were ready to return to Malawi in Dec of 2015.

We finished out our time in Malawi and returned to the US, an spent time visiting churches. In 2016 during the month of August I was contacted by the Authorities in PNG stating that I was required to sign in person and submit fingerprints for the new mission registration, I made the trip (of which I have also written about) and again I will mention this, the expenses of the trip was not paid out by any support funds, however there were other offerings which had been made by some others, former US Military personal whom wanted to assist when they could in our mission work.

I have written much about the helicopter training from the time it all started, nothing has been kept a secrete and I stated from the beginning I did not know where it would all go, and did not presume to know the LORD'S WILL or mind in this thing.

As the LORD raised up and used some Huli Tribesmen to bear the cost of our shipping container from Port Lae to the Nogoli Mission Station in the Hela Province, (20,000.00 USD); the LORD has also raised up some 'others' that have showed a interest in me and the work we do.

I took my trip to PNG, after informing my home church and pastor and due to the fact that it was going to be short and for business my wife did not go with me. I was in the country for nearly a month. The new certificate for the 'Registration of the Mission' was produced and given to me after signing and fingerprinting. The rest of my time here, then was to fly out to the Highlands, and go to the mission station where I would spend several days settling the land issues with the local people as some amongst the younger generation felt that the mission grounds were to be re-compensated.

Again allow me to explain, back in the day when the mission ground were surveyed and mapped out, the Australian government paid off at current land pricing (at that time) for that time) and drew up a ninety-nine year lease for the mission. Therefore it is all legal and done according to the laws of the land. This is a constant ongoing issue here in PNG and unless one has the 'original' documentation it becomes a very difficult to sort out.

I do hold in my possession the 'original' documentation, mapping, and also the most recent updated 'Certificate of Registration' for the S.G.B.M. of Papua New Guina.

I returned to the US and Sherry and I were trying to put things in order for returning to PNG.

We prepared to do this and my paper work had been submitted to the PNG Immigration/Citizenship for approval, so it was at that time, I gave much to prayer and decided it was better to invest our time into the work no matter how short or how long.



Therefore we purchased our tickets and again the funding for this was provided by 'others' who showed a interest in our mission work, us and further investment in the Nation of Papua New Guinea of which I will outline briefly.

We departed mid October and arrived in PNG, we spent sixty days in country, in which we were heavily involved in the mission work. A bible conference was conducted at one of our local churches located in the bush, and each day we would drive the vehicle from the mission station to where the road would end and then hiked up this mountain to where the church was. I preached for three days to a crowd of near two thousand people.

I have sent a number of pictures to my pastor and have them on disc and file, when we figure out the best way we would like to share them with you, I think the evidence itself is impressive.

After the conference there were several who had been saved and I baptized them in a mountain river, and unlike Malawi where the water is usually hot, stagnated, filled with a green slime on top, these waters are cold, clear, and running.



We spent some time getting the ground work, trees cut, posts sized up, holes dug, post set and the base materials prepared for our temporary/permanent house. I have also written some about all this and even though the process is going slow, it is going. I could say, I could choose to do nothing but work on my house and not extend my energy into the work except what would be near or convenient to us. However, I do not do mission work like that.

Again, we only had short term visas so after sixty days we were preparing to depart and I was given my 'work permit', and told that when I would exit the country I would be given my Resident Visa, by one of the PNG Embassies.

I weighed the option to exit and go to AU which is an hour and half to a place called Cairns, we have been there before (2015). However there was a situation developing with me mum who is now (83) and though she is still strong our family (my siblings and I) discussed for months the possibility of moving her near one of my elder brothers (Daniel) who lives in Nashville, TN. We all prayed about this and felt it would be better for all concerned.

This decision then helped me to make my decision, and that was to return to the US, help mum pack up and make the move to Nashville and once she was settled I would be comfortable and then we would return to PNG.