



SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST **MISSION**

International - Papua New Guinea / **Malawi Africa**

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Dear Pastor, Church, and All Supporters;

In this report I have several things I would like to share with you regarding our lives, the work and our challenges.

Firstly, I am stationed here at the Tanggi mission station where I grew up many years ago, as I have indicated in several previous reports that I am working on our house, the one which, which was built many years ago (54) has a lot of issues and needs to be repaired. This will entail a new roof; some of the trusses will have to be replaced, due to structural damage from a tree falling on the roof some years ago. Posts have rotted out in time past and by the time I found my way here to replace some of those posts there was already damage with the house sinking.

Secondly, I just wanted to share with you that life has slowed down considerably, we have to heat our bath water on open fires and use five gallon buckets to bathe. Our clothes are hand washed outside in buckets and hung up to dry. We do not have a fridge, or electric, nor running water, none of these things are absolutes in life, but they do make life go easier when one has access to them. There is a lot of time consumed in domestic duties, but we learn to work with and around this timetable. Hired help is secured in order to assist with the heavy work of the house and daily living.

Thirdly, the shopping here in PNG is much different than most places, being still very underdeveloped many things not easily accessible from within the interior. This means that shopping has to be done with a careful understanding of a timetable. Without a

Fridge the menu and diet must accommodate foods that are sustainable for long periods of time such as canned foods, the bases usually are limited to pastas and or rice or both.

Many of the 'wants, likes, and or dislikes' simply give way to the availability of what the shops have to offer. Either one will expand their diet to include other foods or learn to eat moderately.

We prepared enough food for a few weeks at a time, and made our trip out to the mission station. I would like to share with you some of what it takes to commute from Mt. Hagen Western Highlands Province to the Hela Province where our home and the mission station are.

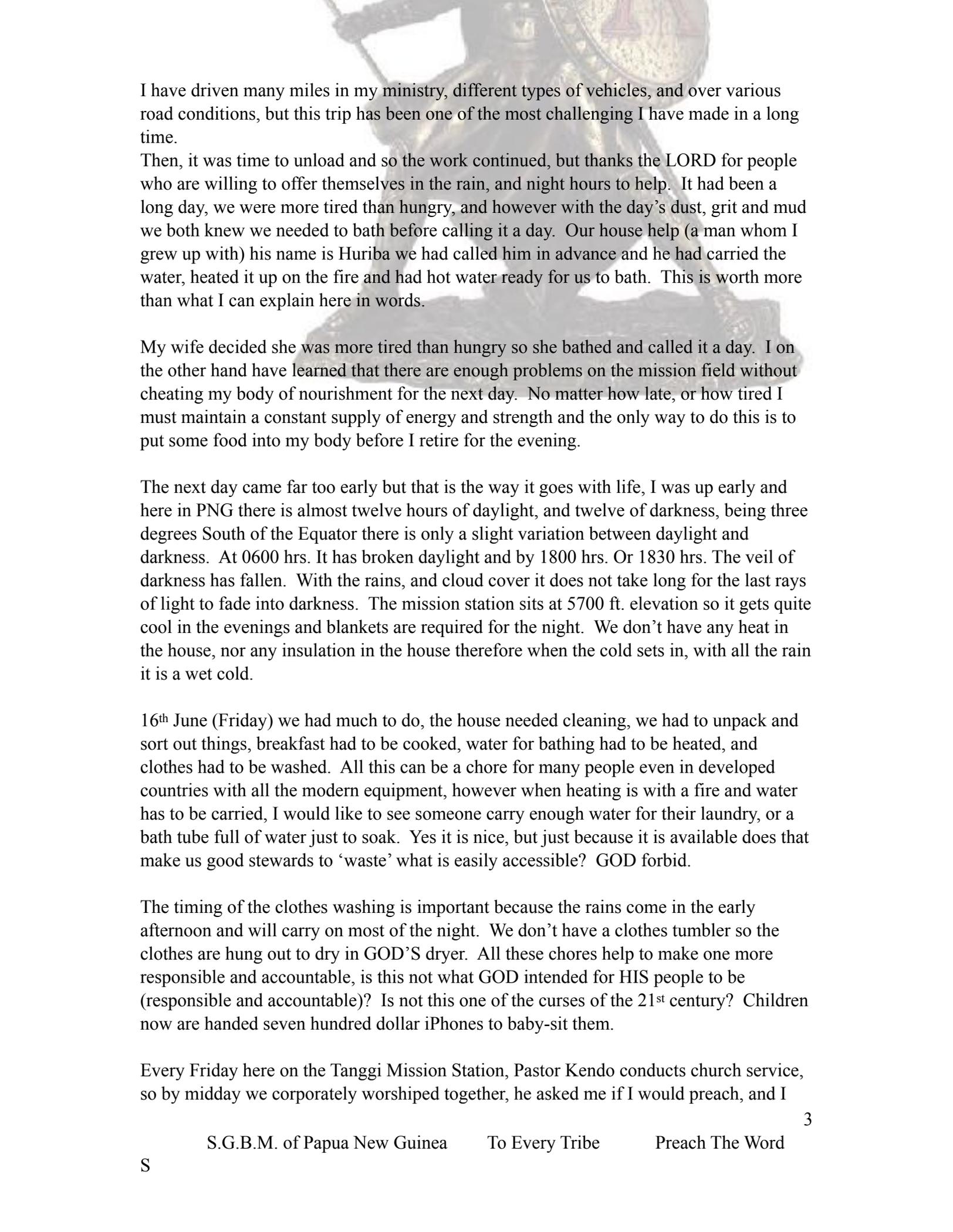
After working all week on the vehicle, we spent two days doing our shopping, some groceries, and some hardware for construction. Every 'item' has to be secured in the vehicle and strategically placed with priority on heaviest, heavier, and lightest. Our trip started on the 15th of June at 03:30 hours packing the last minute items, bags etc. and then the securing of bags, items, etc. with rope in the rear of the vehicle. Our departure started at 0400 hrs. And through out the early morning hours the rain and fog were heavy making an already challenging road even more difficult.

In the blackness of the night, and the constant changing of gears, the vehicle was often times pushed to near max engine power, straining under the heavy load, which it was called upon to bear once again. The road conditions deteriorated rapidly within five min of leaving town. My wife, Hepe and I were the only ones in the vehicle and as we sat in silence being transported through time and space we could not help but think what would the next corner reveal? A washed out bridge, or landslide, or perhaps a sinkhole that would swallow half the vehicle? These are the times when we not only offer our prayers, but we feel our prayers. If you don't understand that, then you have never lived under these conditions.

Two hundred and thirty miles and ten hours later we arrived at the Nogoli mission station, this is where our container is sitting and where we have what we own. We spent another three hours going through some things to load in the already overloaded vehicle, but we had no other option. Then we set off again for the Tanggi mission station, which was another four hours drive North.

The rains were heavy; the roads were riveted with potholes and corrugated making driving speeds ten to fifteen m.p.h. We arrived at Tanggi in the dark and having been on the road for fourteen hours driving time, all of us were ready to get out of the vehicle in which, we had felt like we had been put in a clothes tumbler.

It is one thing to endure long hours in a vehicle on good roads, but when the roads are so beat up that it is first, second, third gear and speeds are ten to twenty m.p.h. that is another issue.



I have driven many miles in my ministry, different types of vehicles, and over various road conditions, but this trip has been one of the most challenging I have made in a long time.

Then, it was time to unload and so the work continued, but thanks the LORD for people who are willing to offer themselves in the rain, and night hours to help. It had been a long day, we were more tired than hungry, and however with the day's dust, grit and mud we both knew we needed to bath before calling it a day. Our house help (a man whom I grew up with) his name is Huriba we had called him in advance and he had carried the water, heated it up on the fire and had hot water ready for us to bath. This is worth more than what I can explain here in words.

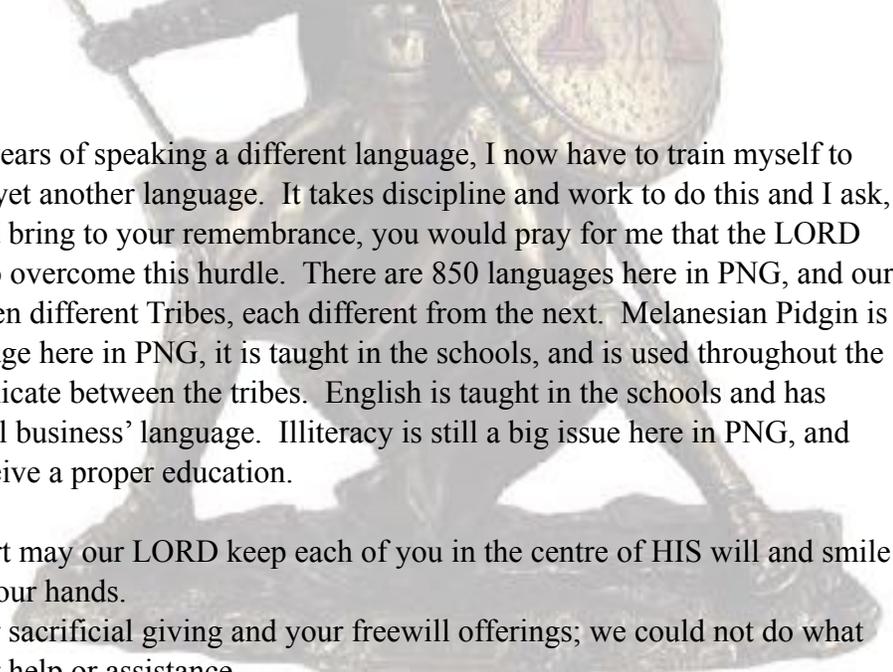
My wife decided she was more tired than hungry so she bathed and called it a day. I on the other hand have learned that there are enough problems on the mission field without cheating my body of nourishment for the next day. No matter how late, or how tired I must maintain a constant supply of energy and strength and the only way to do this is to put some food into my body before I retire for the evening.

The next day came far too early but that is the way it goes with life, I was up early and here in PNG there is almost twelve hours of daylight, and twelve of darkness, being three degrees South of the Equator there is only a slight variation between daylight and darkness. At 0600 hrs. It has broken daylight and by 1800 hrs. Or 1830 hrs. The veil of darkness has fallen. With the rains, and cloud cover it does not take long for the last rays of light to fade into darkness. The mission station sits at 5700 ft. elevation so it gets quite cool in the evenings and blankets are required for the night. We don't have any heat in the house, nor any insulation in the house therefore when the cold sets in, with all the rain it is a wet cold.

16th June (Friday) we had much to do, the house needed cleaning, we had to unpack and sort out things, breakfast had to be cooked, water for bathing had to be heated, and clothes had to be washed. All this can be a chore for many people even in developed countries with all the modern equipment, however when heating is with a fire and water has to be carried, I would like to see someone carry enough water for their laundry, or a bath tube full of water just to soak. Yes it is nice, but just because it is available does that make us good stewards to 'waste' what is easily accessible? GOD forbid.

The timing of the clothes washing is important because the rains come in the early afternoon and will carry on most of the night. We don't have a clothes tumbler so the clothes are hung out to dry in GOD'S dryer. All these chores help to make one more responsible and accountable, is this not what GOD intended for HIS people to be (responsible and accountable)? Is not this one of the curses of the 21st century? Children now are handed seven hundred dollar iPhones to baby-sit them.

Every Friday here on the Tanggi Mission Station, Pastor Kendo conducts church service, so by midday we corporately worshiped together, he asked me if I would preach, and I



did. After twenty years of speaking a different language, I now have to train myself to think and speak in yet another language. It takes discipline and work to do this and I ask, if the LORD would bring to your remembrance, you would pray for me that the LORD would enable me to overcome this hurdle. There are 850 languages here in PNG, and our work is among seven different Tribes, each different from the next. Melanesian Pidgin is the National language here in PNG, it is taught in the schools, and is used throughout the country to communicate between the tribes. English is taught in the schools and has become the 'official business' language. Illiteracy is still a big issue here in PNG, and many never do receive a proper education.

Until the next report may our LORD keep each of you in the centre of HIS will and smile upon the work of your hands.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving and your freewill offerings; we could not do what we do without your help or assistance.

In His Name,
Missionary Peter Halliman