

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi

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Date: 28th May 2017

Continued from last report....

(Proverbs 16:1) “The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.”

My Wife and I returned to the USA, as I had indicated in my last report in order to take care of family business.

I ask you the reader, do you have a mum? Do you care what happens to your mum? And if you were older, then it would mean your mum is older. I recalled some who have had to travel much, and endure great expenses to ensure their parents were taken care of.

Though no one has personally said anything to me regarding this, **Habakkuk 2:11** For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it. I informed my pastor of our actions and the responsibility I felt therein. Therefore, shortly after the New Year, we started making some progress in the direction of this move.

I will explain in short; if any of you reading this, know or have found a ‘short-cut’ to knowing the LORD’S will then may you share this. I have always struggled with knowing and being certain of HIS will, and the only what that I have of knowing is entering in serious prayer, and sometimes accompany that with fasting. At the same time, I try to move in the direction that I feel the LORD would have me go.

Many times, I have had the door closed, and had to turn around, sometimes I have walked through doors, and it has turned very bad for me ‘humanly speaking’ so again there is always the question...did I make a mistake?

However, in light of the Sovereignty of God, and man's responsibility, I don't see these two doctrines opposed but intertwined. I take the position that it is the LORD who opens and closes the doors, and Satan puts roadblocks along the route.

Anyhow who has been involved in a move can relate to the story, seems this has been my life and would appear the LORD has not been pleased with giving me a 'home', and I am trying to make sense out of that here on this earth, we are just sojourners and strangers, passing through.

Time passed, energy was spent and some trips were made from Winfield, AL to Nashville, TN. Why there? I have explained before, that I have a brother living there somewhat settled. We all have a concern about mum living alone at her age and some of her health problems being what they are.

The move was under way, but we just didn't feel it was right, due to many issues surrounding the house offered and the conditions placed upon that situation.

Since I was up against time, I asked some of our family to ask our LORD to give us definitive answers within a timetable. Is this wrong to do this? Is GOD constrained by time? No, however we have some examples in the Bible where GOD'S people were against time and as they poured their heart out to the LORD, HE answered.

Remember, GOD answers prayer in three ways, Yes, No, and wait...however we are not a waiting people and we mostly don't want to hear No either do we? As we tried to rule out the questions we had, by the ending of the timetable the LORD gave us our answer and the move was cancelled. Therefore the few trips we had made to take some of mum's things already packed, we made some more trips and retrieved them.

Was all this hard work? Yes, was it time consuming? Yes, was it expensive? Yes, was it necessary? Yes.

I don't think any one of GOD'S people can tell another what to do in a given situation, advise yes, make suggestions yes, assist and help, yes.

However as a parent deals with each child differently because of the needs, so too our Heavenly Father deals differently with each of us.

Our time ran out, and we again prepared to return to PNG. Our bags were packed, things were set in order and we started our journey to PNG.

No matter how old I get, or how often I have done this, saying our farewells are never easy. Walking away from family, loved ones, and those whom we hold dear to our hearts. This time was no different, Sherry and I were seen off by my two sisters and me mum.

Our trip to PNG was a straight shot, though it was very long indeed, it is just good to finish the journey. We arrived into Port Moresby and I decided to stay on in the capitol city take care of mission business that has been on going for months into years. Many of the younger generation has migrated to Port Moresby seeking employment and the open markets are packed full of people from the Highlands, trying to make a living, yet not much Evangelism is taking place here.

Port Moresby is one of the most expensive places one can live and lodging even in the Missionary guest houses usually goes just over One Hundred US a night, this does not include meals, and has no internet or data connection.

Most of the Hotels that would provide safe residency will go for Two Hundred plus a night, besides meals.

To spend very much time here would demand that one have some type of house, or home here. With that of course comes all the other expenses associated with a home.

Even in past years, I never stayed long in Port Moresby, only long enough to do business and then I moved on to the Highlands. I am looking for land here, in which I could submit an application for the government to draw up a mission lease similar to what they did many years ago with dad out in the Highlands.

We have been here now for three weeks and are about ready to move on to the Highlands, I have looked at several places, and plots. I have some people working on some paperwork (which always goes slow here in PNG), and in the mean time I will depart this week for Mt. Hagen where we will gear up to go out to the Tanggi Mission Station.

I had started the groundwork for our temporary house a few months ago and had to halt for our trip back to the US, so now I will pick up on this task.

I trust this will bring you up to date on where we are, and some of the challenges we have faced.

The country of PNG is going through an election year; this can be very disturbing and unsettling at times. Many are tired of the current government and want new leadership; this all comes at a price as with many countries.

Crime is on the rise due to the fact that most criminals know the country has its eyes on political parties and the campaigning, therefore any diversion is simply an act of opportunity. Carjacking is a common occurrence and armed robberies have been on the rise. Ninety percentages of those arrested and detained are let go due to corruption.

We know our LORD is still on HIS Throne and HE grace is sufficient.
In His Name,

Missionary Peter A Halliman