



SOVEREIGN GRACE



BAPTIST MISSION

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

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Dear Pastor, Church and All Supporters;

Mt 24:8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

Mt 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Mt 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Mt 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

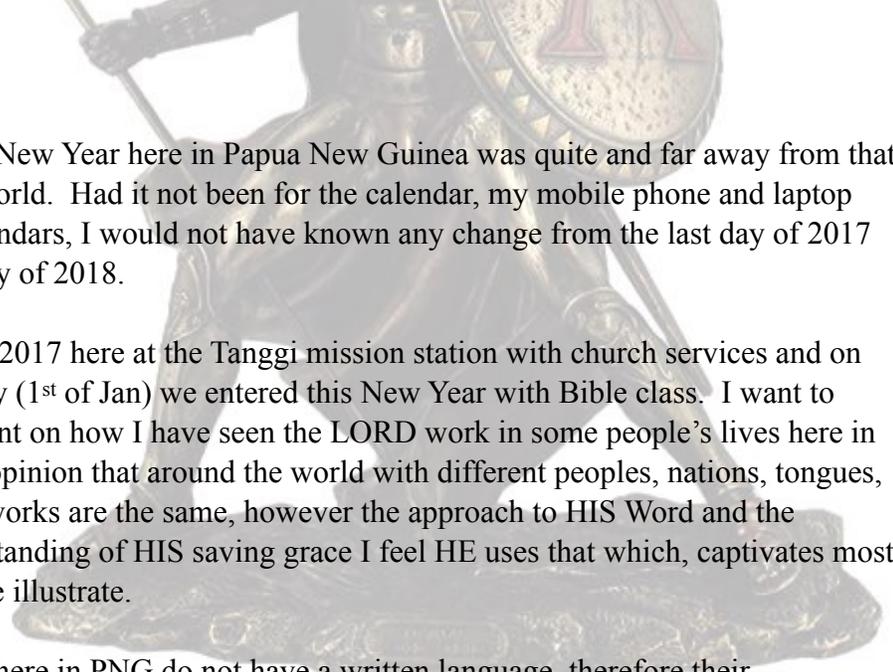
Mt 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Mt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The first month of the new year has already passed, though we do not know the time or the hour of the coming of the Son of man, we do know that it is closer then it was, and since HE did not come yesterday (week, month, year) HE may come at anytime (I believe in the imminent return of Christ).

There are many sorrows in this world, and in our lives, but those sorrows, which will come upon this world, which Matthew spoke about, are indeed on another level. There is one distinct character of GOD'S people, they will stay the course, stand to the post, preserve and carry on in the face of all opposition until our LORD comes for them.



The starting of the New Year here in Papua New Guinea was quite and far away from that of the developed world. Had it not been for the calendar, my mobile phone and laptop computer with calendars, I would not have known any change from the last day of 2017 to the New Year day of 2018.

I ended the year of 2017 here at the Tanggi mission station with church services and on the New Year's Day (1st of Jan) we entered this New Year with Bible class. I want to reflect just a moment on how I have seen the LORD work in some people's lives here in PNG. I am of the opinion that around the world with different peoples, nations, tongues, and tribes GOD's works are the same, however the approach to HIS Word and the coming to a understanding of HIS saving grace I feel HE uses that which, captivates most are attention, let me illustrate.

Many of the tribes here in PNG do not have a written language, therefore their vernacular, history, customs and traditions are all handed down from generation to generation by way of 'story telling'. As it is said here, (If one does not have a story, they have nothing) that is not said in the same tenor as the developed world, it does not mean...(story as in a lie, or made up) it means part of the fabric of ones' life and background.

All this being said, I have witnessed the LORD turning the hearts of different ones, using the Bible classes. It became very important to these people when we started studying the life of Abraham and his history, down through Jacob and his twelve sons. Through the historical recordings, GOD used this to draw the attention of some who were dead in sins, and pricked their hearts. In HIS time, the irresistible power of the H.S. could not be ignored and some have been drawn to Christ.

As it was so in the days of Malawi Africa, so too it is here, meaning I spend considerable time carrying out the necessary duties of life and infusing the ministry in-between.

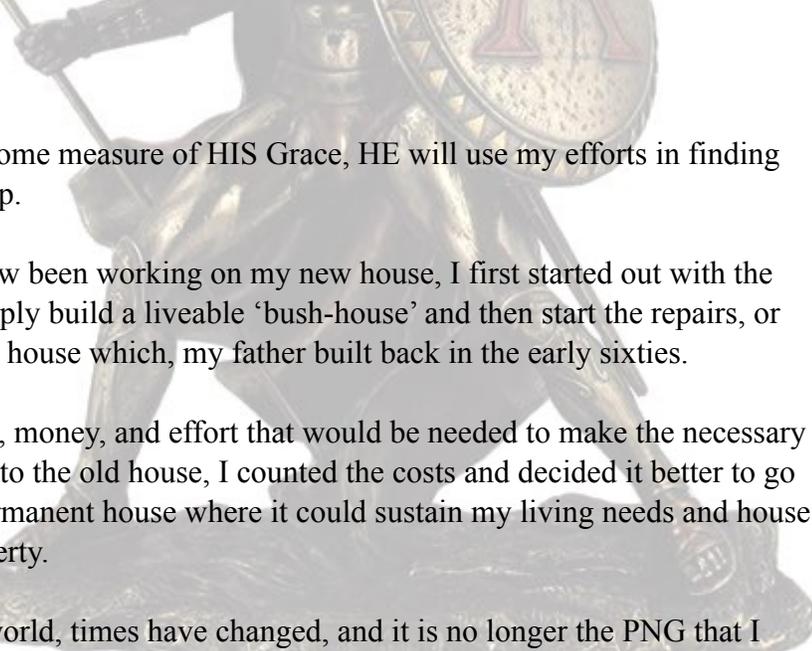
De 6:7 *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

De 6:8 *And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*

De 6:9 *And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

There is an application of GOD'S Word that is often 'missed' in developed countries or societies where many folks dress up, go to church, and when they leave the church house, the message stays there, "in the church house".

When working with Tribal people, and living amongst them, you 'become all things to all men' that you might 'win some' to Christ, as Paul stated. The life here in PNG, much the same as it was in Africa is surrounded with simple people, meaning, they live off the land, work the land, and live by a code. I use the opportunities that GOD gives from day



to day to teach, and by some measure of HIS Grace, HE will use my efforts in finding some others of HIS sheep.

I have for six months now been working on my new house, I first started out with the thought that I would simply build a liveable 'bush-house' and then start the repairs, or reconstruction of the old house which, my father built back in the early sixties.

As I considered the time, money, and effort that would be needed to make the necessary repairs, and renovations to the old house, I counted the costs and decided it better to go ahead a build a more permanent house where it could sustain my living needs and house safely my personal property.

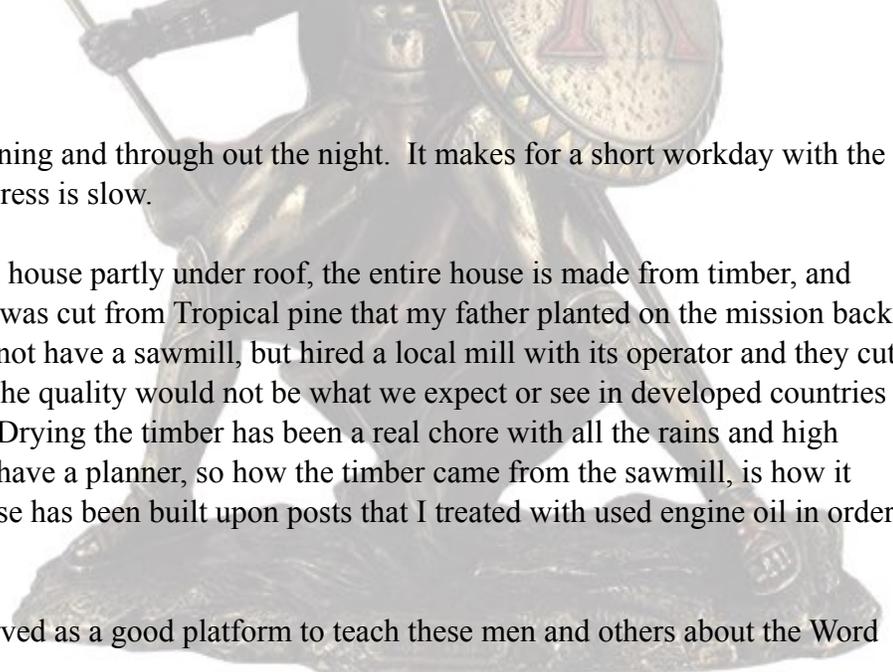
As in every part of the world, times have changed, and it is no longer the PNG that I spent my primary years in, meaning theft is common, and tribal fighting's are common without distinction to person, race, colour, and or creed.

This being said, I did not feel that a 'bush-house' would safely serve my needs unless I were to become a permanent structure, which is not what I came here to do or be. Therefore I needed a home that would house me and provide safe custody of my personal effects, tools, etc.

I will be sending pictures of the work with some comments attached, going back from June of 2017 to the current date. I have no good way of doing this, unless it is on the mission website, but I am not sure how many visit that website, or there is the public social media of Facebook, which, I can but I must have good internet connection to do this, and most of the time I only get 2G or 3 G network, and the connection speed times out before I can send pictures. I usually have to wait until I reach Mt. Hagen, which, is towards the end of each month or the beginning of the new. No, excuses here, just communicating.

A short summary of bringing you up to date on the construction of the house, all work carried out is with human labour, no machinery, no power tools, and no electric. All the supplies I purchase in Mt. Hagen some two hundred eight miles one way, taking twelve hours to complete. I have to count the cost and make every trip count with supplies for the mission work, hardware, bible school supplies, and food for the house. Therefore, it has been slow going but sure, one day at a time.

I have twenty-men employed to help with the labour, none are trained professionally, but all have a willing heart to work and help with what they can. We start each morning with bible study, and prayer. Through out the day, I take the opportunity to teach and talk about what GOD has done, is doing, and will do. We have short days compared to Malawi; there it would break daylight at 04:15 hrs. and by 04:30 one could be in the garden. Here we are three degrees south of the equator so we get twelve and a half hours of daylight, the rest falls under darkness. The rains come every day, mid-day, and early



afternoon, then evening and through out the night. It makes for a short workday with the heavy rains so progress is slow.

I currently have the house partly under roof, the entire house is made from timber, and some of the timber was cut from Tropical pine that my father planted on the mission back in the sixties. I do not have a sawmill, but hired a local mill with its operator and they cut the trees I felled. The quality would not be what we expect or see in developed countries but it is what it is. Drying the timber has been a real chore with all the rains and high humidity. I do not have a planner, so how the timber came from the sawmill, is how it was used. The house has been built upon posts that I treated with used engine oil in order to preserve them.

This project has served as a good platform to teach these men and others about the Word of God and us.

Messages and lessons were brought from day to day, reflecting on how we each like the trees were born into a jungle of sin, not any one better or worse then the other. How we all grew entangled with the course of this world, as the trees, each going their own way, some with more branches, some more crooked, some more knotty, some more rough and yet some more tender, but all the same, wild and each going their own way, no guide no rule.

As it was with each tree being cut out of the jungle and cut to specific needs, so too it was with each of us when the LORD cut us out of this world system and designed us to a specific way of life.

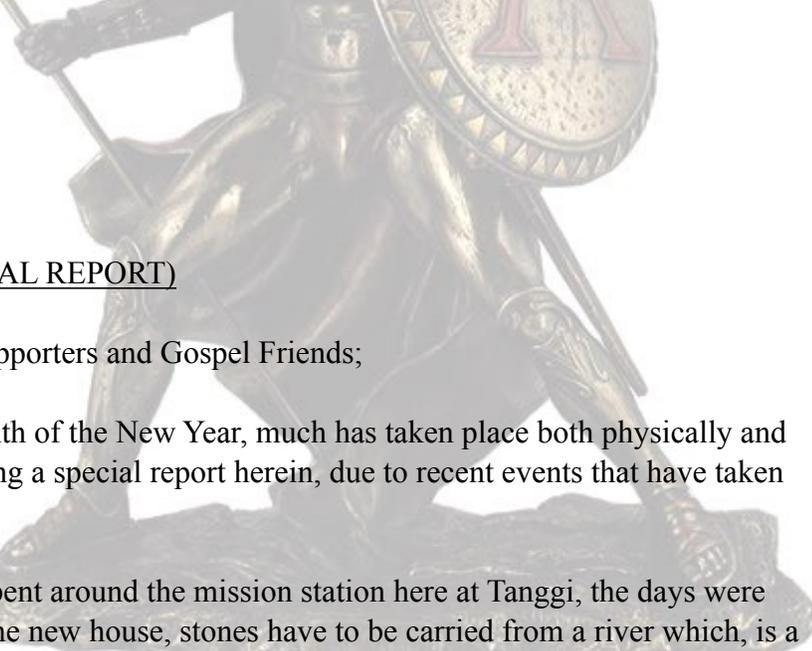
When the blade of the mill cut each board, I was reminded of how the Sword of the LORD cut away the old heart, and cut through the calloused skin of this old (sinful life) bringing new life, giving us a new heart, a new creature we are made in Christ.

As the timber was taken and air-dried I was reminded how Christ takes us from this world but not out of this world, for we are to become a testament to HIS saving Grace, and stand in testimony to HIS finish work.

When I drew up the blueprints for the house, again I was reminded how the LORD in eternity past drew up HIS plan for HIS election and determined the course, ordaining the means to salvation.

Many lessons from every day life, our work, nature, the universe, all of GOD'S creation preach to us about GOD. If we only look, listen, and observe there is multiple messages preached every day to us.

In His Name,
Missionary Peter A. Halliman



3rd March 2018 (SPECIAL REPORT)

Dear Pastor, Church, Supporters and Gospel Friends;

This being the third month of the New Year, much has taken place both physically and spiritually. I am including a special report herein, due to recent events that have taken place.

Most of February was spent around the mission station here at Tanggi, the days were taken up with work on the new house, stones have to be carried from a river which, is a quarter mile away, (carried by human labour), its slow and very laborious; there are several men who I have employed to assist me in the work, however 'none' are trained or experienced in even elementary carpentry, therefore most of the technical work I have to do, again its slow and laborious but necessary.

The LORD again has used the bible classes (which, are conducted every day from Mon to Fri afternoon hours) to call unto salvation those whom were elected within the covenant of Grace.

A week ago, I was in Mt. Hagen to conduct my business as usual, however on the 26th Feb at 04:00 hrs. I was awakened by a violent shaking of the house, a earthquake (7.5) hit PNG in the Hela Province (the centre) of the country and moved outward, thirty minutes later another quake hit (5.5).

It was not until daybreak that people could start assessing the damage, without proper communications and living in an under-developed country it usually takes days for accurate reports to come in.

I made a decision to drive back to my home and access the situation, reason being we had some communications from some of the people who had managed to hike up mountains to get network and call. Several people had been killed within our mission work, houses destroyed, bridges out, roads buckled, communication towers broken, and so on, and so on.

I did not know what to expect except the worst, we had reports coming in that the airport in Tari was rendered inoperable, no flights in or out, the road system was challenging at its best.

I loaded up with several men and what little supplies I had managed to acquire (mostly hardware) and we set off on Tue early a.m. For the next four hours we drove in the dark hours of the night. When we arrived at the Southern Highlands, (Mendi) the next town

Westward from Hagen, we seen buildings crumbled, roads had huge crevices. Along the route we came to a landslide, which covered the road, and no way to pass. We had to turn around and find an alternative route.

As the miles slowly passed by, the evidence of GOD'S hand was clearly seen. At one point the road was opened and dropped by four feet, local people had prepared a detour, but (toll) are expected in passing, upwards of fifty dollars a vehicle. We paid our fare and passed through. The next roadblock the road had disappeared and power lines down on the road. A huge section of the road was completely gone, a huge crater stood in the gap. We again paid our fare and passed. Negotiating a steep mountain, half way up around a sharp bend we ran into another landslide and roadblock, after some toing and froing we paid our fare and set off again. Our cash flow was running low but we felt GOD would see us through.



The journey took us sixteen hours of straight driving, it is hard driving, under arduous conditions, no room for mistakes, or you won't live to tell the story.

As we entered Tari it was evident that this part of the country had taken a direct hit from the quake. Nothing can tell the story like you being here and viewing it in person. If you have ever been in an earthquake of any magnitude then you will understand.

I only had one consolation as we continued to the mission station in the heavy rains, that is, all we have is our LORD, and HE gives and takes away. I have experienced both in my little lifetime as a missionary. I have had my cup filled and pressed down beyond



measure, and I have been stripped of all I owned except what I had on my person. It was with mixed emotions as we approached the mission station, however it became evident that GOD'S hand was restrained, and he had reserved the property, the church building, (though it suffered many cracks in the concrete floor). The old house dad built many years ago, and the new house I am building.

We serve a great and mighty GOD! HE who is slow to anger and full of mercy! Amen.

The next day, I observed the damage, some places in the ground had large crevices, several posts under the old house had been removed and the entire house shifted and sunk in places. Nothing beyond repair with time and effort, the new house had two main posts completely removed, the house did not sustain any damage nor shift in position.

‘And GOD saw every thing that HE had made that it was good’!

In His Name,

Missionary Peter A Halliman

