

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION

International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi Africa

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Dear Pastor, Church, All Supporters;

Psalm 37:23 (KJV) The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Proverbs 16:9 (KJV) A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

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

I will begin this report having arrived here in the USA, am currently in NW Alabama, as the only home I must come to is that of me mum's (so home it is) for the time being.

This journey of mine has been planned, attempted, replanned attempted and finally came to fruition.

Please note the above bible verses and the teachings thereof... how often we preach and talk about GOD'S Sovereignty, until we fall into some 'hard place' then we look for every human reason to explain it away!

If GOD is NOT Sovereign over (all) the little things as well as the major things, then Jehovah GOD, the (I am) is not the GOD of the Bible, and if that is so, then we all are most miserable and let every man do that which, seemeth right in his own eyes....

I started back in January of this year working on dates, plans, and setting in motion this journey. Due to many international restrictions, both physical as well as technical, I was unable to do any booking (my end) therefore I contacted my sister Grace to assist me with the booking, this is after multiple attempts with an Air Niugini (head office manager) in Mt. Hagen, surely he would know how to book a International flight?, when you give the itinerary, confirm, and ready to make payment – what prohibits the action? Answer – (a don't care attitude, wanting to be paid off) under-hand, corruption money. I refuse to do this, thus it cost me weeks of waiting.

Grace booked the ticket for 11th of April this was two months in advance when booked through Expedia. The flight pattern was – Philippians Airlines – departing Port Moresby to Manila – to LA onward to Birmingham. All seemed well, I spent weeks preparing, setting things in order etc. Walking away from an active mission work that is in on board is not an easy task to set things in order. Here for the most part, you just lock up the house, get in your vehicle and drive somewhere, in PNG (not so different that Malawi)

but more attention. The mission station had to be secured, house, security put in place, vehicles etc.

There was a Bible Conference in March end, first of April that was being conducted on the Tanggi mission station and the hosting church Tanggi Bap, however I was deeply involved in the management and hosting along with the pastor and church. Food preparation, housing and so on. The transportation from Mt. Hagen to the Tanggi mission station, I would transport some eighty-eight people with cargo in the truck bought for the work.

That will be a separate missions report, forth coming, I returned to Mt Hagen, with two weeks to prepare, I wrote letters to the PNG government for travel permission, this was granted, a covid19 test with negative results was taken and obtained (350.00) the domestic flight, Mt. Hagen to Port Moresby.

I booked my accommodations, bought my domestic ticket (250.00) to Port Moresby, and started my journey. The International regulations stipulated, within three days prior to departure the covid19 test with negative results had to be in writing and uploaded to the airlines and Embassies.

I managed to obtain the necessary documentation and medical certificates, after four days in Port Moresby and awaiting my (24 hour online check in) which was on Sat 10th of April, I attempted to check in online, however no results were produced except the Manila onward to US sections. I called Expedia and all was confirmed, I spoke to the Mission home manager, and he suggested go to the Airport and check with Air Niugini.

I followed suite and found there were no Philippians Airlines operating with PNG since Nov 2020. The short side of this, Expedia sold me a bogus ticket. I tried to purchase a one-way separate ticket with Air Niugini to Manila so I could redeem the rest of my international ticket, however due to Covid19 restrictions, this was not possible.

I contacted my sister as she had made the bookings, with Expedia on the phone, they dropped the ball, lied about 'not knowing' and put the blame on the Airports and Airlines, again this is unacceptable behaviour and dishonest.

I was forced to abandon the trip, bought my domestic ticket back to Mt. Hagen and flew back on Sunday the day I was supposed to leave PNG for the USA. Disappointing yes, BUT read the opening verses again, I had to commit all this to the LORD and simply remain focused on HIS will.

This exercise cost me just at \$1500.00 not to mention the planning, time, energy, and documentation.

Another booking was made (again), I again went through all the same process of testing, documentation etc. Arrived in Port Moresby, went to obtain my International Covid19 test results. The certificate had to be printed out four times as errors were made on incorrect data, DOB, name, age, passport No.

You might think that a new hospital staffed with international personnel would get it right the first time. However, because someone has a job, cell-phone, car keys, and dresses nice – does NOT make them qualified!!

After all was in order, I had the test done on the twenty-four-hour timetable before departure, because stipulation if. The (72 hour) timetable for validity of covid19 test

results MUST fall within your travel time, meaning from the time you test, to departure to arrival (point of destination) MUST fall within this (72 hour) timeline.

The next day I was ready to depart and arrived at the international terminal where I was to receive another covid19 test before checking in for the flight. This was obtained and I passed, was checked in and soon would board my outbound flight to Hong Kong.

The flight to Hong Kong was six hours and on an Air Bus there were some fifty-six people boarded, cost of operations does this come out? Do the governments care? Do the Airlines care? Maybe, maybe not! The ticket prices are not reduced, no meals, nothing.

I had (23hrs.45 min) in Hong Kong, this gave me a window of fifteen mins and if the departing flight was late, or some mishap I would be quarantined for fourteen days at (own expense). The airlines wonder why people don't want to travel, why would you unless you just must correct?

The steps are ordered by the LORD, flight was boarded, and en-route to Doha, a 777-400 series again maybe one hundred passengers, at least I had room, but only so much you can do on a flight. Nine hours flight, but I only had one hour and half, the transition was made, and I was on the next flight to Chicago (fifteen hours) long time to be in the air.

Upon arrival, additional documentation was filled out, however when I approached the Immigration officer, I handed over all the covid19, medical, official receipts, letters written, I had a folder full of documents (official documents), but he said I was ok and cleared, he didn't even review them.

Customs, I repeated, but they cleared me and said your good to go, I asked the TSA if they needed to review the documents, they said no your good to go. I asked the Airport Police if they needed to check the documents, no your good to go!!

I was not just surprised but a little disappointed that after all the money, time, and effort in securing all these (legal, government mandated) documents, that no official in the USA would even review and confirm, what does this tell you?

I spent the six hours in Chicago, and on to Birmingham, arrived on time, collected my one back-pack, met up with my brother John and mum. Long trip, lots of expenses, and after sixty-five hours I was in a vehicle.

It will be a week tomorrow that I have arrived, the jet leg is slowly being overcome. With this I will conclude my (Trip report). What I learned, Governments, facilities, staff, aeroplanes, vehicles, and people are (all) under GOD'S Sovereignty and control.

Each step that I take has been 'ordained' and ordered by my LORD, is yours?

In His Name,

Missionary Peter Halliman