

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION

International – Papua New Guinea / Malawi Africa

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Dear Pastor, Church and All Supporters;

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The closing of another year is upon us, and the dawning of a new day is about to begin, will the LORD find (faith) upon the earth when HE comes? Will He?

This past year 2019 in which I will have another report forthcoming that will caption on the highlights, challenges and blessings we have seen.

In this report, I would like to share with you some of the challenges that I have faced and continue to face.

Not too long ago, after a day in Mt. Hagen town conducting business, I made my way to my residence, the road is a dirt road, up a mountain (newly built). Much like the cowboy days, horses and guns, rules are made by the day (as though it were) in 2018 I was run off the road by a large truck, it was either the ditch or hit another oncoming twenty-ton truck. I sustained a lot of undercarriage damage to the vehicle, it cost me over five thousand dollars to order parts from Land Rover – UK and after several shipments via (airfreight) the contents still cost me (77%) less than what they were going to charge here, and the Land Rover dealer still did not have the parts in stock.

As I have stated the Land Rover was bought new for the Malawi work and served its best years there, it did not have an easy life. Shipped here and more problems but we worked through them. I managed to fit, weld, straighten, and align and the vehicle was back in service again.

2020 around August I was again rail-roaded and to avoid a head-on collision I took the ditch more like a trench, the vehicle was sitting in a trench at some (35 dg) angle, the wheels (bank side) were suspended in the air, the road side wheels were on the edge of the trench.

I was unhurt, after two days I had the vehicle out, I had to hire a excavator and in tandem with the military truck, the Land Rover was recovered. After a few days of assessment there was again undercarriage damage, steering components bent, wheel bearings damaged, shock mounts broken etc... I have managed to repair what I could, some things need to be replaced and I just take it one day at a time.

DID GOD KNOW ABOUT THIS OTHER VEHICLE RACING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ROAD OUT OF CONTROL? Yes, did HE stop it? Maybe I don't know they never stopped when I went into the ditch, however down the road some two miles there is a river with an iron bridge and the vehicle ran into the bridge failing to turn the curve onto the bridge!

I have a local bank account here that I use to deposit the mission funds and in turn I have a bank debit card (locally) that I have used for the past three years. The funds are derived from my home bank (in Henderson TX) which both my pastor and I are on, the mission support funds are deposited monthly into this account (Henderson, TX), I also have an International MasterCard / Debit card that I have used at the local bank here, to withdraw cash off my US debit card, then the funds are deposited into the local bank here in PNG.

For three years there were no problems and I managed quite well, however for the past year now, the local bank has no longer accepted my US – debit card, by this I mean, their card reading machines give a (error code) reading when a transaction is made (by them). Understand the environment, you walk into a bank here, all the windows/counters are secured by iron bars and heavy mesh wire with the glass behind all that.

A small hole is cut out in the glass for communications, however, talking and understanding is very very difficult, the human traffic, the noise, no sense of order or rule is set in place, the senior staff all hide behind closed doors and only the junior staff face the public. To ask for a manager and or supervisor is near impossible to get any assistance.

Week after week, month after month I have spent countless hours in the bank here trying to get the issue resolved. Understand that Mt. Hagen is in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea, all the headquarters of almost anything is located in Port Moresby, there are no roads only accessible by air, the air travel to and fro is just over six hundred dollars (air-fare only) so it has to be urgent with no other option to fly to Port Moresby to remedy the problem.

The banks here in Mt. Hagen are only branches, all technical or senior decisions have to be made by the head office bank in Port Moresby. To obtain a telephone number, cell phone number, name and position of someone who (may be able to help) is like pulling teeth and one would think it required an act of Parliament!

I have used my US debit card around Mt. Hagen in various shops to make necessary purchases, medicine, groceries, hardware etc... however, to get the cash that I need (and need indeed) all fuel, paying workers, funds for the road, market food, and many shops do NOT take any type of debit or credit card, end of story!

Cash is needed to live, operate and run a business and or mission work here. Yes, if one has the funds already to deposit into a local bank that is another story, but to get those funds.

The exchange rates and economy is too volatile for me to have my US bank deposit large amounts into the local bank here. For nearly a year now I have literally lived on a day to day basis and when I could I have picked up some work in order to get cash so as to run and operate on.

My bank has been involved (US side) with the bank here to no avail, the local bank here denies they are the problem, however when I go into the local bank here with receipts from the grocery store where I have just used my US debit card, (and other places) the bank here says, maybe you don't have enough funds in your account, or there is a

problem with your card. For how long do you argue the point? The real answer is they (the staff) are all corrupt and look for payoffs in order to assist the clients.

I took a stand in Malawi against the corruption there and I take the same stand here, however at least in Malawi I could get my funds on a timely manner.

Out at the old mission station there is no network, therefore I go off the grid and this is ok for a few days, however all my business, communications, and mission work now revolves around having internet. The days of letter writing are gone, the PO cannot be trusted here, therefore I am spending more and more time in Mt. Hagen and would appear that the LORD is opening doors. I will report more on this in the next report forthcoming.

May our LORD keep each of you in the centre of HIS will and bless the work of your hands.

I want to thank each of you who have a part in this work, and just know that I could not do what I do without your financial and prayerful support.

In His Name,

Missionary Peter A. Halliman