

**SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION**

**Int. – Malawi / Papua New Guinea**

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Dear Pastor, Church, and All Supporters;

I greet each of you in Jesus' Name, He who was, Is, and Forever shall be Amen!

**Ephesians 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

This missions report is long over due, for the delay I apologize for the events in between I do not as I understand the Sovereignty of GOD, and balancing man's responsibility and accountability to that.

Through the weeks, and now months that have passed the LORD has been pleased to slow some things down and yet expedite other matters. *(Isa 55:8) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."*

*(Isa 55:9) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

During the month of June, and July I had the honour to assist in teaching at a Bible Camp located in Boon, N.C. which is under the authority of the Damascus Baptist Church and Pastor Dale Wallace. There were other preachers, and teachers there amongst whom my pastor Elder Steve Fulton was also there.

It is a great honour to labour in the LORD'S work amongst these giants of men. We never know what the LORD is going to do with this kind of work and the words, which are spoken and the messages used. GOD has promised to honour HIS WORD, not so much the vessel. *(Isaiah 55:11) "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

Mid July I was contacted by a government official in PNG whom I know personally and was informed that I would need to come to PNG and sort out the Mission Lease Certificate for the Mission, of which I shall explain.

Many years ago PNG was under the Republic of Australia, in due course they gained their independence in 1975. Through the years, different organizations have come and gone, all having been registered within the country to 'officially' conduct their business within the country of PNG. That being said, the PNG government has recently made some changes within the country as to the nature of business' organizations, NGO' companies etc.... some where removed, some not and so on. I was contacted and informed that if we wanted

our mission to continue in PNG then I would have to personally come in and fill out the applications and bring in the old certificate surrender it to the office and make application for a new one (in person). If not then not!

With that being said, I put some things in order and prepared for a trip to PNG on short notice. I departed Birmingham, AL on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Aug, and was prepared to be gone between two to four weeks.

The trip was made and the following proceedings were followed, I took care of the applications, and these were filed, a New Certificate of Registration for the Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission of PNG was issued and is in my possession.

I have written much about things like this in the past, regarding the mission work in Malawi Africa, I spent much time and labour with the Malawi government seeking this very thing in order that I might set up the mission work and stay within the country legally for more than three months to do this mission work. After six long years of pursuing this end, I was given a 'Certificate of Registration' with and for the Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission of Malawi.

To some this may not be necessary, and a waste of time and money, for others it may be the means to a ministry that has eternal results. You will draw your own conclusions, as I have mine.

I will also share with you, the reader, supporter that within PNG there is a huge migration of many of the young people into Port Moresby to seek employment only to find a life far different than the village life and what they grew up to back in the jungles of the Highlands. This now brings to us the challenge and opportunity of ministering to thousands of people.

We have the challenge of securing some land and a building of some type to worship, land is very, very expensive in Port Moresby and so the next option is to locate a building to rent until the LORD opens the door for other means.

One of the tasks we face when returning is to do just this, and with that being said, to start ministering in Port Moresby requires also a place or residence or some type for this work. Housing is terribly expensive and renting is not cheap, but then again if the LORD is in it, then all these material things will be supplied and put into place.

**De 23:21** *When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.*

**De 23:22** *But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.*

**De 23:23** *That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.*

In the preceding verses, I believe teach several things, depending on your biblical position with Tithes and Offerings, (I personally believe they are both required in our day of worship) if you disagree that becomes your prerogative, however a believer cannot consistently read the Bible and NOT agree that GOD has a 'financial program' for HIS churches, people, and mission work. That being said, I would like to deliberate on a thought that has troubled me for some time. I believe and teach, and practice the worship of paying my (Tithes & Free-will offerings) I personally do not believe 'ANY' of GOD'S people are exempt of this. Over the years, as Paul said... "I have robbed other churches" to do HIS work. Many of you have been a participant in the mission

work I have been involved in, and it has been a cooperative effort between you, your church, my church and I as the 'sent' messenger to a particular field.

Over the years, churches, people, individuals have all assisted in the needs of the work, some more, some less, but according as GOD purposed and led the hearts. The gift is blessed, and the giver of the gift is blessed. GOD'S people are slow in learning this.

In the past thirty years that I have been involved in mission work the needs have varied greatly according to the demands of the mission work at the time. I bring to attention to anyone reading this report a certain issue which had to be dealt with by a church, which made a commitment and 'free-will offering' to the work in Malawi. The name of the church is not important nor the year, nor any details but the substance of what happened is. After some disagreements between certain parties regarding the issue, this certain church then demanded that the offerings they 'freely-willed' for the need, were demanded to be re-sent to them. Objections were raised Biblically and pointed out, if the 'offering was free-willed' then it no longer was tied to their name but the LORD'S. Secondly, if we as GOD'S people start this habit, and condone this, then any person putting 'Tithe, and Free-will Offerings' could then make demands for these 'monies' to be rescinded. Is this where we are today as GOD'S people, have we become so 'attached' to what we say we have given to the LORD, have we given it or not? And if so, where does the ownership attachment come in? Would you agree if someone gives you a free-will gift of (100.00) that you are free to use this for bills, or enjoyment, or helping someone else, etc. etc. and so on? Then where does this stand with (free-will offerings)?

I will keep you updated as much as time and opportunity permits. I want to thank each of you for your sacrificial support and prayers for the work and for our lives. We are HIS people, the work is HIS, the cattle upon a thousand hills belong to HIM, including the money we claim as 'ours'.

In His Name,  
Missionary Peter A Halliman