

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST MISSION
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Dear Pastor, Church and All Supporters.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Ro 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Ro 14:11 For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Ro 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Another year has ended, and a new year begun, and so has it been since the beginning of time to now and will be so until the LORD changes the world as we know it to be now.

What was done, cannot be undone, they could have', should have', would have, maybe', ifs, (all) go down the tubes when it comes to GOD'S Sovereignty and Predestination, GOD'S directive will, and HIS permissive will.... Is GOD the author of sin? GOD forbid such thoughts; does HE allow it? Yes, reasons known to HIM!

This past year of 2020 has been a challenging year for me and the work here in PNG, I will in this report highlight and caption only those things (good and bad) that has helped shape where we are today and stand.

Some months only one report was sent out, some months more than one, it is a task here (at least for me) to decipher, determine and select the most pertinent material to share with you the supporter, reader.

Whilst I was in the US, back in 2018, there was a need in the mission work such as was in the work in Malawi/Mozambique Africa, meaning a bigger vehicle to carry the loads of the mission work and meet those demands. This said, a vehicle was found, agreed upon and secured. Much has been written about this, and those who were involved. No need to repeat, those who were involved know, and those who were not, read about it or (not) and others don't care, and it's not important to them anyhow.

That vehicle was prepared for shipment and I was back in PNG June of 2019, this timetable I am referring to is the end of that year (2019) and the truck finally arrived in the port city Lae, which is the port city for the Highlands.

I made two trips to from Mt. Hagen to Lae to sort out the paperwork and clear the vehicle. For those of you who had a part and have interest in this mission work (that I do)!! The vehicle is an x-military 5ton truck (M928A2) she has a name,

suggested, and adopted as (Ebenezer Grace) this name came by way of suggestion from someone within our circle of fellowship (US).

After near thirty-five years of mission work in the countries that I have been involved in and done what I do, I feel I know a little something about what it takes to operate and manage the mission work in these countries. The work in Malawi/Mozambique would not have been able to become what it did without the military vehicle that was secured and shipped there. So too, I believe here in PNG, I have written many times that from Africa to here (PNG), my life did not go up, but went down.

Jan- Feb I spent the biggest part in business with the government/ Customs, Road Traffic, and documentation for the truck. Business moves slow here in PNG and is far less efficient than Africa (for those who knew about the work in Malawi) this should say something to you!

One of the benefits of the truck (with permission) and by consensus from my pastor, and those who were involved for the securing of the vehicle and ground shipment, that the parable of the (talents) be applied... fast forward in the story, since the truck has arrived and been in operations, she... (Grace) has retrieved just over four thousand US, which, has been reinvested into the mission work!

March – I was busy preparing for the upcoming Bible Conference which, would be held in a very remote area of the jungles, in which there was a mission point established. The people (about 80) in this area, on different occasions had hiked for two days (three for me) to different Bible conferences which, our mission hosted, thus I felt it was now time for us to visit their area and what better time than for a Bible Conference.

Preparations include but not limited to, food, (my own water) for hiking purposes, camping equipment, medicine, cooking utensils, hiking boots (x 2) one pair usually within thirty minutes of hiking the boots are already water-soaked, dry feet are not only important but critical in the tropics.

Rains are on an average of two inches per day, you must live in these conditions to appreciate what I am saying here. Besides the physical needs, and preparations, there are the spiritual needs and preparations. Much prayer and study are poured into these conferences; I do most of the preaching, due to the fact that this time is an opportunity that I take to do a lot of (preaching/teaching) to and with the Pastors.

During the twenty-five years that I have been out of PNG, there has arisen a generation of people who know not the LORD, and those who do, know very little about doctrine or 'The Baptist Way'!

Therefore, I prepare much material for Doctrinal preaching as well as the Gospel messages. When it takes time for the packing, careful attention must be used in making sure things are waterproof and packed properly (thus, time consuming)!

April – The month of the conference, I wrote a lot about this, (have not sent pic's yet) this usually gets published on my website (www.sgbm-malawi-africa.com) Elder David Green is the tech chap for the website. I wrote much about this mission patrol/conference/ - a (new) church was born, the first in twenty-five years of this mission work, not because it had to wait for me, but simply because no one was doing, going, (Acts.8,9).

GOD will NOT bless – when the seed is not being sown, the heartbeat of any church is 'mission work'!

If you didn't read the reports, go back, and read them, if you did this is simply a recap of the highlights, there were several people saved, and a new church established. New life, new blood, and new encouragement, yet some here, as well as back there, bellyache, and murmur about what it is that I do. I follow the advice of a great pastor, and dear brother, 'don't waste your time throwing stones at the devils' rabbits'!!

April was a good month for the work, and encouraging, however as soon as there are blessings... “Then came Amalek”. I have preached on this before and have lived through that message like many of us who have spent years in the LORD’S Work.

It was shortly after the Bible Conference, one pastor in particular set out on a mission to halt the work, have me removed from PNG (foolish actions) GOD is Sovereign, and many don’t read the Bible, yet attempt to frustrate the Grace of GOD.

So too there were many who opposed the Apostle Paul in his mission work, it only takes a casual reading of the N.T. mission work for one to read about the many attempted disruptions in Paul’s missionary journeys.

Instead of rejoicing (here in PNG) there were some who in fact complained that a church was organised, simply because they were not invited, however, the complaint falls on deaf ears since being a Bible Conference (all) pastors are invited, and asked to attend, so at the end of the day (who) halted you, not to come to the Bible Conference? You yourself! I don’t have time for such foolishness and immaturity.

May – June: I felt the need for accommodations here in Mt. Hagen as the mission work is shifting from the ‘old mission station’ to a new work, amongst a new people, therefore the requirement to be near the work. Further to this, the days of letter writing, Post Office are all but gone, my communications with family, pastor, church, and some supporters all hinge on the internet. With no internet out at the old mission station, it is not in my personal interest to remain there for long periods of time. Thus, I needed a place to stay.

I would like to share some information, which I have chosen to keep private for the most part, however, due to circumstances that have arisen in the work and these circumstances have forced me to make decisions that otherwise I would not have made, therefore, I have now chosen to share ‘some’ of this with you the reader, supporter. Whilst you are reading about this, you may ask yourself the questions, “What would I do in such situations” and after you answer, then ask, to what end? And for what purpose would your decision come?

For some three and half years, as I came and went from Mt. Hagen to the old mission station (230 miles) one way 12 hrs of hard driving. I found myself many times forced to stay in Mt. Hagen at the residence of the late Ekere Ibago. If you want to know a little about the accommodations, ask Bro. Mark Jakobson (fellow member of my home church) lives near Sacramento, CA, you can call Elder Rick Perdue and obtain his tele No. if you’re interested in hearing from an (American, born, bred, raised) citizen who visited this mission work a few years ago, he stayed at the same house I am now referring to.

I faced roadblocks (Tribal fighting) and up to twelve weeks at a time I was forced to stay here. I had no other place to stay, I helped with food, electric bills, and water bill etc... the land is a mission station so no rent. A sweet-potato garden provides staple diet; fresh veggies can and are bought out of the local Mt. Hagen main market.

Off and on, I spent considerable time here; I have written much about all this in previous reports. A family of four siblings, all with children (Total – 14) all under the age of 16 (now) the houses all small, but within twenty-thirty feet from one another. All share the same bathroom, toilet, and bathing facilities. (A pipe coming out of the wall with cold water for a bath) – would you bathe like this?

I would take three nights a week to teach bible studies in the home, much like Paul did, and on Sundays I would teach Sunday School and preach the main service. This went on for some three and half years. The young man whom the church here (voted for pastor) I have never heard his testimony as to how the LORD called him to preach, did HE? I don’t know, but the church voted for him to be their pastor. Does GOD allow unbelievers and false prophets to teach and preach HIS Word? Read the Bible to get your answer!

There were many internal problems, the house was rat and cockroach infested, would you stay in a place like this? When you have worked all day and there are four women residing on the property and yet the bath water is not heated, (I like my bath water to be heated if I can have it this way) don’t know about you? But when this is not performed, and then the customary way with these people is to eat late at night, nine, ten pm and go to bed.... Would you? I prefer to eat early and

sleep early as I get up early, maybe you the reader would enjoy this? I didn't and used Scripture to teach the 'early rising' of the Bible, yes, it's in there! Did they change? No, did they want to? No!

Some friction and differences in standards of living, the cleanliness of the house, rubbish, leftover food, left out, drew the rats, and cockroaches, but all the teaching of tidy living had little effect.

With little to no hygienic teaching, the children would use the toilet any kind of way (use your imagination), I need to use the toilet, only to clean up before doing so? Would you? I can get very graphic but most of you would not enjoy the detail.

On another note, when the late Ekere Ibago passed, the eldest son took charge (as per custom) and they buried the body on the property, nothing wrong with this, unless there are ulterior motives, meaning....there is a Huli Tribesmen custom that goes like this, if you want to stabilise the ground where you are living, then bury your dead there, this causes great contention and often times high compensation from those who wish to remove you or even tribal fighting.

Why do I say this, because, custom dictates that they (the family) would have transported his body back to his home village, so why would they bury the body in Mt. Hagen on the mission station, when the land originally belonged to a people from 'another tribe' with 'another custom'; answer – in order to stabilise their residency and (IF) in the event they were 'evicted' then the 'original landowners' would have to pay a healthy compensation in money and pigs (PNG custom).....

On another note, where I will disagree and I have drawn a line, is the fact that they (the family) mostly the eldest son, had the body put into a shrine, (built an idol) ... bear with me as I deliberate.

Many races of people from the Asian countries have come to PNG and set up life in the past twenty-five years. I have been away and ministered to those in Africa (Malawi/Mozambique), during this timetable, Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, mixed races, indigenous tribes all have followed the way of Baal (idolatry) setting up groves in 'High places' including those who call themselves Christians and even many of our Baptist church members.

For those who want pictures of such monuments, these can be provided free of charge. I felt it was important to first teach from GOD'S Word, and be patient allowing GOD'S H.S. to convict and change people.

As time moved on, little change with the family progressed, I needed to make changes in my own life and after speaking with the two sons of the late Ekere Ibago, to grant me permission to build a small personal dwelling (prophets' quarters) I started the construction and hinted about the shrine to be removed, no comment was made.

I completed the foundation and halted my work, having a meeting with the two sons and said I would ask them one more time and based upon their answer, I would make my decision. The matter was brought up again to remove the shrine and bury the casket in the ground and get rid of the idol... every Sunday just outside the church building is this monument. You tell me what it is, when it has seven steps leading upwards, a small house built, windows, curtains, paint, roof-sheets, concrete and fenced in with iron posts and a chain? At one time there was a light within the house...??

I don't know about you, but I believe GOD'S people are simply to be buried in the ground! I also believe the spirit and soul (depending on if you're a dichotomist or trichotomous, however the Bible says, "The spirit shall return unto Him who gave it").

Their answer was, what is done is done, and cannot be reversed! I simply got up and left the house knowing my answer would be for me to find another place to reside.

This custom conflict has no biblical basis, yet has caused much contention, again, I do not teach custom or tradition, I simply teach the Bible and believe that (IF) one's custom conflicts with Biblical teaching then you as a Christian have a duty to change your ways to please HIM!

There are many who fit (Mt.15:8,9); This contention has grown sharp at times and after several 'sit-downs' and discussion differences, prayer, embracement and apologies all in accordance with Mt. 18 this was followed; however when the same party again and again bring up 'contentions' that were dwelt with, character assignations, allegations and gossip become the theme of the day, you advise me now what is there left to do?

I am not asking because I don't know, I am giving a rhetorical question!

The only course of action that I had was to move off the property and so I did, this eased much of the contention and as one brother pastor put it "**Hosea 4:17** Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone."

July – I spent much time here in Mt. Hagen teaching Bible studies every Tuesday and Thursday, Sunday I would teach Sunday School and preach the main service, in-between this I was busy with studies, preparing lesson, messages, and material for the upcoming Bible Conference in Aug. Amongst the many duties and chores, I face, I also make frequent trips out to the old mission station where I have most of my personal and household things. The trips are long, hard, and arduous both on the vehicle as well as the body. I will have another special report on the vehicle situation and the demands thereof.

August – the mission organises three Bible Conferences per year, (every four months) April, August, December – anymore than that, people lose interest and become complacent. As I have indicated in many reports for the past three, four years now, that there have been a 'host' of problematic issues that have crept into the mission work, churches, and lives of these people who (claim Christianity). One being the Bible conferences had turned into nothing more than a show of demonstration of **(3 John 1:9) "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not."**

One pastor above another, dominating, receiving man's praise, I, I, I; the three-day bible conference was not a conference about the Bible at all, rather, bellyaching and fighting over who gets what, and how much! They only had one speaker preach about thirty mins and would spend the rest of the time in feasting upon the fatted calf, chasing the people away only to sit and quarrel amongst themselves about 'nothing' vain thoughts and repetitions.

When I began to change things, there were signs of protest and great offences, Mr. Missionary this is the way we have always done so.... (Truth is) it is NOT the way things were done or taught in this work. My father knew how to do mission work, and he taught me first-hand. The LORD was my great teacher in Africa and so it is now that I make changes (Biblically) and demand an adherence to these principles (IF) a pastor or church wants to work hand in hand and fellowship with me, on the other hand, no local church or pastor is bound to align themselves with me or this mission work.

As I geared up for the Bible Conference, there were rumours circulating that the pastors were going to have a 'court session' for the Missionary, and this would take place before the conference! I have faced such before in my ministry and it's not the first time that tribal people feel, they control and dominate the missionary, there were people in Paul's day also who felt the same thing and questioned his calling, office, and authority! Most of this kind is without Biblical warrant and nothing more than a demonstration of 'pride'! The issues at hand were, somehow, I was to give account to the local pastors why? I was spending so much time in Mt. Hagen. Answer, I don't recall GOD coordinating HIS H.S. with a local pastor to lead, convict and direct my footsteps in HIS vineyard.

There is this Tribal mentality here in PNG and elsewhere in the world with Tribal people that somehow, they (the people whom you work with) own you and they dictate to you where, when, and how (really!) **(Galatians 1:15) "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,"**

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I prepared and made my trip, in the Land Rover, as usual I had a vehicle laden with supplies, tools, and men. Some fifty miles from the mission station I experienced a broken half-shaft to the final drive (rear-axle). After some time of mechanical work, the rear prop-shaft was removed and usage of the front axle -diff-lock I managed to limp onward to the mission station.

The next few days were laborious and taxing, not only the preaching, along with all the 'idle and foolish talk' BUT GOD is still Sovereign and will call out HIS elect even amongst the foolishness of men. The power is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to call and save men, no other name is given among men (save that of Jesus' Name) whereby we are saved!

I don't use Facebook, though many do, I choose not simply because of the gossip and slander used, I have a mission website in which, my mission reports and pictures are posted. (www.sgbm-malawi-africa.com) contact Elder David Green for further assistance.

I will soon be uploading pictures of past mission patrols and bible conferences of this past year.

Sept- Oct- Nov- I spent the biggest part of this time here in Mt. Hagen, sixteen weeks I took care of the local church here in Mt. Hagen as their pastor was off in the village, I am not sure how a pastor can be gone, sixteen weeks from the church and still have a church to pastor when he returns? Perhaps someone else can answer this?

I have come to the place in my ministry here that most of my preaching is recorded (it is in Tok Pisin) National language of PNG, not that I am fond of listening to my own preaching, however due to ill reports, false statements, and added words to what I was preaching, there was a continuous undercurrent (most likely some goats in the church)! It didn't matter what topic I preached on, from Salvation by Grace, to GOD's Sovereignty in sending reprobates to hell, I preached for sixteen weeks taught S.S. lessons on various topics and subjects (all recorded) and yet the contention and bellyaching continued.... any pastor reading this, sound familiar?

December – our final Bible Conference for the year – again I had prepared material for some hard preaching, the rumours again were, some (including the pastor of the church here in Mt. Hagen) along with others were going to break off from our mission work.

Understand something very definitive here in PNG – the Government and Companies (oil/gas) mining – gold other minerals etc... will ALWAYS, ask local churches, what Mission are you aligned with, in so doing many pastors, church members will engage in lengthy dialogue writing letters, filling out applications to these departments in order to solicit money. I for one, as a Baptist Missionary – do NOT condone this, nor embrace this, I teach against this and teach we as GOD'S people are to rely upon GOD, taking our needs and requests to HIM in prayer, having faith and waiting upon HIM to supply our every need!!

Thus, the desire to align oneself with a 'Mission' that is already established and registered here in PNG. Therefore, I made strong statements that any pastor or church was free to continue in fellowship with me, and align themselves with the principals, doctrines, and commandments of our LORD, and in accordance with the N.T. On the other hand, if any did not wish to continue any longer with our mission work, then the name (Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission) would also no longer be free for their usage. Each church here has a name, the churches are local as in any country, and again, no one church (must, or is bound) to work with me, end of story!

Three days of hard preaching, the first day out in the sun as there were too many people to fit into the building and they had not prepared any suitable shade. I am of the old school, 'don't send a boy to do a man's job'! I have instructed, advised, and taught until I am weary, how the church, pastor, and people of that area should prepare for the people attending.

I will now go into another area that will touch ‘some’ on this side and ‘others’ on your side, I make no apologies for my report and or biblical principles that I stand to and teach.

I recently sent out a ‘Open letter’ to all, not limiting to supporters, but included all. Again, I will openly state, I don’t try to tell any pastor how to shepherd the church they are called to pastor, on the same token, I will not be dictated to by ‘another’ in how to run this mission work. My home church, who authorised me, I humbly submit, and to my pastor I take advice, along with some other ‘Senior Pastor’s’. I am not beyond learning or being taught.

Any local pastor in a third world, especially with a ‘Tribal background’ will have many strange ways, foreign ideas and complicated tactics to those of a ‘developed – Whiteman’s world. The only way to understand these people, one must cohabit and work amongst them. Just to come here and spend time in PNG, does NOT mean you learn the people... the old saying – you get to know someone when you ‘live with them’!

I will not say it is unbiblical for am church to support a local pastor in any country, however I feel the Scriptures for N.T. Mission work are stretched for some to justify this ‘support’! I understand the ‘sending of relief’ to the Saints at Jerusalem - Romans 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. I understand the benevolent giving of GOD’S people for others. I understand the manifestation of HIS LOVE within us in this demonstration, I understand it is a good testimony.

However, when a local pastor is being supported by the local church (on his, their level) of standard of living (important you understand it in that light), and when that pastor makes claim of doing ‘some mission work’ and does not, I feel (personally) it becomes a breach of Scripture in supporting such.

Further to this, any church in the US whom (may feel led in some way) to support a local man on some mission field, and there is a ‘missionary’ that has been sent there to do a mission work, and indeed is working with the same church and pastor that is being considered for support (financial) it looks like to me, the pastor of said church in the US, would contact the missionary on that field, and enquire as to the character, testimony, and worthiness of that man, is this asking too much?

How would you (Mr. Pastor) in the US feel, if someone from another church, Pastor or not, completely ignored you as the ‘spiritual leader’ and began to take sides with those within the membership of whom you were trying to pastor? Yes, it has been done many times, many Pastor’ have similar stories, and the ending thereof is always (bad).

I am not Pentecostal, but Baptist, I do NOT believe that once a person is saved, the ‘old nature is eradicated, Paul was very clear on this speaking about himself. This said, many of the old Tribal habits are slow to die out, slow to be removed slow to change. Sanctification is progressive!

The PNG people as a Nation have from the beginning of time, lived in a world of deception, with intent to deceive the enemy, lying is not looked at as sin here in this part of the world, but a way of life to survive!

Lastly, how do you (whomever you are) know when someone is lying to you, whom you have never met, you speak not their language, have never lived with them, know nothing of their customs and traditions and yet you take their word for what they tell you to be (Truth); on the other hand there is a man (whether you like him or not) has a history, and track record of mission work amongst these same people, speaks your language, knows your customs and mannerisms, comes from a very similar background as you, and yet when (he) gives forth his statement or advice, it is ignored or rejected!

Anyone is free to explain that to me!

The end of 2020 and the end of this Mission report for the year.

In His Name,
Missionary Peter Halliman