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Latest from Guy in Alotau, MBP, PNG

Despite being the focus of a lot of missionary and evangelistic activity for well over 100 years the present situation in PNG is dire and it behooves us believers to act.

Big Ministry declares that 96% of PNG is Christian and most go along with this false notion unthinkingly, which for many provides an excuse not to support missionary activity in PNG. This statistic stands against another figure which gives the lie to the first one. This is the fact that PNG is near the bottom of the International Corruption Index at 127/180 places us among the most corrupt nations on the Earth. Furthermore, this figure is only measured against public servants and does not take into account the private and business sectors which are just as bad. What this does do is highlight a huge void in Christian character among professing believers.

Of course we feel a bit frustrated in our present position, not having boat transport any longer which is our sole means of income apart from my small UK pension. We vacated our office last year because our money is running out. We have no regular support but our trust is always in God, so don't send any money *unless* the actually Lord prompts you to. We have peace and confidence in God that He will break through for us somehow. Of course we are waiting on Him for provision and direction regarding a replacement for *Kwadima II* which will immediately restore our source of income.

Papua New Guineans are keen to hear God's Word but churches simply do not *teach* it objectively so as to build upon the foundation of the New Birth. This place begins with repentance and simply understanding and recognising the need to embrace the vital personal change necessary to move forward in the quality of life (*zoe*) that God has for us.

At the village level where we began our ministry from 2008 until 2014, we learned to discern exactly how the decline works and how the enemy progressively destroys lives by obstructing individual self-control. This is through bad habits and indifference arising from cultural practices which in turn weaken all forms of individual decision making especially inside social groupings; this is mainly affects males. The result is 'gang forming' among the young males, where individual decisions and personal responsibility are not valued as a priority as they give themselves over to a 'group think' mentality. Their choice habits are: betel chewing, JJ (jungle juice) bush alcohol, smoking and evening prowling for females. This usually occurs with these boys climbing through windows of girls rooms after making 'magic love rituals' for sex while their parents are not even aware of the fact that their sons have left the house because they have themselves been chewing betel nuts at home with their friends and telling stories and are in such a state of mild euphoria that they lose interest and don't even notice what their boys are doing and even who climbs into their houses.

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On the economy side. Papua New Guinea is blessed with abundant natural resources in minerals, copper, gold, timber, fish and marine as well as outstanding natural beauty of its land and people and yet after 50 years of Independence remains among the poorest of nations and dependant on overseas aid mainly from Australia. So what is holding her back? In the main it is more adult bad habits arising from a culture of slackness and the *wantok* system. However, God's leading through the influence of His Word and Holy Spirit leads them away from this lifestyle. I have spoken to many Christians who report the Lord leading them not to chew betel nuts and there is a good witness that the Lord convicts people of the habit. The betel nut comes from the Areca palm and it is worth studying to see its effects as a drug and medically too.

It is worth remembering that during the colonial period that Papuans were more receptive to the Gospel and considerable progress was made not only in their walk with God but also with their adapting to handle skills and learning. After 35 years of the Kwato mission Papuans built a 51ft boat and even today boats are still built in some places directly following the Kwato mission influence. The input of Scripture into a receptive heart will increase the quality of human life. God's Word plainly states that:

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple [Psalm 119:130](#).

In 2009, we began to teach our Basic Concepts Course at Bwasa on Normanby Island and also began to build a 17ft clinker boat with young men on the course. I had bought two Woodmizers and brought tools from England to teach carpentry, milling and boatbuilding. We made progress in the community but circumstances brought our work there to an end at the end of 2013. This did bear some fruit among young people that came from the whole Sewetai Bay region of North East Normanby Island.

Following this, Colleen and I went to England for 4 years caring for my mother in England after suffering a stroke; she went Home to be with the Lord in October 2017. After winding up my family affairs, I prepared our schooner *Living Water* for sea. I had been a delivery skipper since 1997 when I qualified as an RYA Yachtmaster and had collected some 44,000 NM in that work. In 2018 I collected my Papuan wife and four Papuans to sail from England to PNG in 2018/9. Although *Living Water* is not suitable as a transport vessel, she has great potential to train young men in Biblical studies and sail training once we free the rudder and can overhaul her. At this time we also sent tools and equipment to Milne Bay which was processed through Customs and stored by my friend the late Sir Chris Abel in Alotau who went Home to the Lord in Dec 22.

The adventure we all had in the voyage from England can be seen here on this website. When we left England, He had already made the initial provision for us after our arrival in PNG through Summer Institute of Linguistics SIL gifting the vessel *Kwadima II* into our ministry. We took delivery of this vessel after our return to PNG in November 2019 following a wrangle between SIL and JAARS who were kindred organisations; one engaged in Bible translation and the other in providing aviation transport for SIL and owning 4 aeroplanes based in Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands. So we ran the boat profitably and well for nearly 5 years fulfilling our promise to SIL regarding carrying translators under a leasehold arrangement with JAARS taking the ownership from SIL. We happily transported Wycliffe translators to the Louisiade Archipelago and to the

D'Entrecasteaux Islands too. Then JAARS unilaterally decided to take the boat back in July 2024 and they now keep her at her anchor in Sanderson Bay here in Alotau.

From the outset it became clear just how important *Kwadima II* became as the main thrust of our ability to communicate with the islands and also as it was the main source through which the Lord provided for us financially. Having no regular support as I mentioned earlier, We are dependant on the Lord to stir fellow believers who are committed to making disciples of all nations, in our case PNG.

I sent out many emails and letters by 'snail mail' seeking a Christian foundation or charity that made grants to missions but was surprised that only about quarter of them replied like the rich young man in Mark 10:21-27 There is so much treasure in what Jesus taught us there and also had others with more of a **James 2:15-16** response and so I enquired of the Lord why this was so, that such massive amounts of money were held by Big Ministry and yet comparatively little dispersed. The Lord took me to Romans 7:18 and told me that this is a spirit/soul battle with Christians today. This is the reason so few actually embrace His call too and why giving money is difficult for most of us. He said that most of His people make nearly all their decisions in the 'natural man' which is in the flesh. This is made clear to us in 1 Cor 2:13-15. Which states:

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which

the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

He also told me that most board meetings when leaders and execs pray, they pray formal prayers without getting into the spirit and that even when some do' disputes arise because natural and logical, even self-reliant thinking prevails in some cases, while others are more perceptive to My Spirit but that does not always achieve My will'. This is where

II Chronicles 16:9 a. relates:

16:9a For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly

support those whose heart is completely His."

It is so good to give that time to the Lord and be willing to let Him direct us as it is He Who is building His church.

The Three Levels of Operation for LWM

1. The first level is for the provision of the boat and I have found the most fitting vessel in the Queensland Fishing Brokerage. Her name is *La Meridian*.

<https://queenslandfishingbrokerage.com.au/boat/293967/1v370-18-5m-steel-fishing-vessel/>

This vessel will be able to fulfill all the functions and more of those filled by *Kwadima II*. By operating from Port Moresby to Misima Island and/or from Alotau; we would be providing a service to Misima Islanders and also serving the roadless villages on the Aluwabwa coast (North coast). She is also large enough to serve youth group meetings in the Louisiade Archipelago and we would continue our service to the Bible translators.

2. The second level is revelation that the Lord gave me from Malachi 3:10 that He would open the windows of Heaven for us to beyond our actual need and this is in relation to the 3rd Level.

3. Third level. The Lord told me three years ago that He would supply me with the SIL Regional Centre where the translators meet to agree their work. I believe the Centre is only 25% used and we would certainly flourish there. If you read my earlier email attachment covering the vision for LWM, you will see that we will seek to work with Rhema Family Church in Brisbane who have been happy to conduct Rhema Ministry Courses that have inspired many people coming in from the islands of our Province (including my wife in 2007). To repeat this gives us the best way to be able to bring in and by God's calling on their lives, send them again to their own communities as teachers and builders on the foundation of Jesus Christ in the lives of Papuan villagers.

Obviously the most imperative from our perspective is getting *La Meridian* which will restore and increase our ministry. The next two will require the Lord to open the way with favour from SIL and for finance. We already have favour with the landowners of the customary land adjacent to the SIL regional centre. Stay in prayer for us but in the Spirit because things will happen (Rom 8:14)

Your Brother in Christ on the far side of the world.

