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Vision for Living Water Mission

Situation and Background

From an international perspective, missionaries today face a different culture of Christian activity to that experienced by earlier generations. There has been a marked decline in provision for missions, from support giving and 'going' on overseas missions of previous generations, towards self-funding gap year breaks (usually via Christian parents preparatory to 'real world' careers) with big safe & secure ministries like YWAM or OM. All this is very reflective of the Laodicean age (Rev 3:14-22) in which we live. The previous age was the true mission time and is worth studying Rev 3:7-13. At this time there is also a growing awareness among Christians of the imminent return of the Lord. (1 Thess 4:16-17). Many young people in the West are increasingly concerned about God and what the Bible says about the end.

Western nations cannot comprehend the chaotic results of Islamic activities in the Western world. With most governments are trying to preserve socialistic values, while being unable to cope with the mass immigration of Muslims and their aims. Persecution of Jews and Christians is rampant worldwide; the indifference of the media to genuine disasters everywhere; their magnifying glasses almost exclusively bearing down on the Israel and Gaza. Churchgoers, are being challenged on what they really believe, while genuine believers ask God if they are really doing what He wants them to do rather than simply following some assumed denominational trend or their security in being part of some large organisation, asking too, if they are being obedient to God's personal leading in pursuit of His plan for their lives, including the risks that go with it, rather than their own ideas (Eph 2:10). There is a great dividing of the sheep from the goats.

Going back over 150 years; faith in God and His sacrifice for us on the Cross was generally believed; with the ministries of John Wesley to Dwight Moody still being fresh. Biblical Christianity was in general the belief in Great Britain and this was reflected in the culture of the times. In 1859 Charles Darwin published his book *"On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life"*. This had a massive impact firstly on academics and philosophers insisting this was 'science' it took another hundred years before the masses embraced Evolution and accepted it as 'science'. This belief prodded men to invent new political philosophies leading mankind to cross the line of conscience in favour of The State. Westerners shifted towards Marxism or Fascism resulting in a loss of life exceeding anything in history at 163million souls. Evolutionary belief birthed atheism in Western countries arising over the timelines of creation, so much so that by the 1990's, only about 1% of the British believed in the Bible and the Resurrection. Today Christians are actually experiencing hostility in nations previously founded on Judeo Christian values; mostly by Left leaning activists and Left wing government policy agendas as well as often violent hostility of Muslims. All the warnings that the Lord gave us in Matthew 24&25 are undeniably here and we should not fail to see this. Clearly, there is very limited time to complete the tasks given to us by the Lord, at least for those who are anticipating His return, to fulfil our call as missionaries.

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To make disciples of all nations means that if we are serious, we need to focus on this very thing and not simply peripheral humanitarian ministries no matter how good and helpful they are; *if* we are called to make disciples then that is what we must do while not leaving the other undone. Our *raison d'être* is the great commission our Lord gave us in Matthew 28:18-20 and this must *override* everything we do. The practical side like education, health, trade training must all be secondary to the main thrust of winning souls *coupled* with teaching them the milk of the Word.

The spiritual condition of Papua New Guinea is dire. 'Big Ministry' statistics declare that 96% of PNGs are Christians but this is not born out by the fruit that the Lord told us we must bare. (Gal 5:22-25) The least we can do is to work to ensure that the maximum number of people are truly saved and live for God in the little time remaining. Christians that still believe the Calvinist deception that 'once saved is always saved' and in Cessationalism*, need to study their Bibles,

Thess 1:5-12. and Heb 12:14. The work of sanctification is something each of us must work out actively right up to the end of our time on Earth, (Phil 2:12 & 2 Pet 1:10 & Heb 10:39). Ask yourself the question 'when did I last lead someone to Jesus or even verbally witness my faith in God?' you will get an understanding of what the Lord means when He tells us to be witnesses throughout the Earth. Too many view this as being 'extreme'.

The effects of Christian missionary work up to Independence in PNG in 1975 could still plainly be seen in 1977 which was when I first came to the Milne Bay Province but so much has changed Since then - *negatively*, while technology has in a way served to divert attention to this as computers, mobile phones and media statistics have made us indifferent and ignorant. Here in PNG we are rated as the one of the most corrupt nations in the world. So for us who are called to this ministry, the time has never been more urgent. So whatever you are called to do by the Lord, get on and do it. Soon we will be at the Bema seat of Jesus to have our ministries and fruit assessed. If you are called to teach or preach, get to it; if you are called to be guardians of God's resources then give it without holding back. If you are called to pray and intercede; then do it, you have immense power in the Holy Ghost. If you hold land for the Lord, prioritise its use fully for His ministry to facilitate His work. If you are called to provide transport by air or by sea, and additionally in helping Jews make Aliyah to Israel, do it. Do it with the same passion that Elisha *demanded* from King Jehoash in 1 Kings 13:17,18 &19!

For those who are being called to work with us at LWM, we have this plan and purpose of God to bring the foundational Word to the villages and communities of Milne Bay, you are welcome to join us and assist in this final harvest of souls by making disciples of these precious people.

Ministry Vision of LWM

At LWM we have been teaching our Basic Concepts Course in KB church and other places because it leads Christians to live a life consecrated to God and thus be a positive contribution to a godly generation willing to obey God and follow Jesus. After arriving in 2019 from our voyage from England, we began this process at first in Misima through translating BCC into Misiman language. The printing was done by SIL at Ukarumpa and flown down to the Alotau Regional Centre. We can see that to train teachers from specific areas among island and mainland communities to teach the course in their local vernacular and being native speakers will be better able to teach in a more nuanced way and draw out specifically local expression in order to best convey relevant foundational truths of the Scripture.

Applying teaching is only possible when the teacher has been born into that particular district and is therefore more aware of these local lingual variations. In this way the people are better and

fully served with a more nuanced understanding of the Bible and what God expects from them, rather than simply leaving their vernacular Bibles on a shelf somewhere. The subjects of the BCC are:

Salvation1 – Teaching the essence of the Gospel message and how to make it personal.
Salvation2 – What God expects from the new believer – the work of sanctification. Water baptism.
Holy Spirit – Who He is, His work and ministry. How to receive Him.
Holy Spirit – How to work with Him sensitively and also understanding His Gifts 1 Cor 12:8-11.
Faith – What faith is and how to live by it in a pleasing manner to God to access His promises.
Prayer – Different types of prayer, praying to get answers, hearing God, intercession.
Healing – Discovering God's provision for healing, hinderances to being healed.
Basic Doctrines – Basic Biblical Doctrines of the Body of Christ,
Local Church – How the Bible defines the local Christian congregations, and how it operated in the beginning.
Lifestyle of Praise and Worship – Incorporating praising, thanking God and worship in living.

HANDOUTS

How to Study the Word of God
It is the Word of God
Christian "Statement of Faith"
Baptism in the Holy Spirit
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Agape - The God-kind of Love
Prayer
Believers & Water Baptism
Lifestyle of Praise and Worship
Fulfilling God's Call in the Ministry

The next step is how we can achieve this. To begin with, there is genuine hunger for teaching and to really know God in Milne Bay and an acknowledgement that they are not getting this locally.

Teachers

Finding teachers is done by putting the word out and backed up by intercession. We will be offering ministry teaching at a central location of Alotau. There has been remarkable success by the Rhema Brisbane ministry offering precisely this, in their RBTC four monthly courses. At the end of this training, students are normally inspired to want to be involved and committed to play an active part in God's plan and I feel sure that many of them may well be led by God to become teachers of LWM BCC beginning in their own native districts. We would train them in how to minister and teach the Basic Concepts Course within but not exclusively to, the local churches. The aim here is to increase the number of true Christian believers and their knowledge of God's Word, how to both pray to and hear God for themselves and build an expectation in them to be guided by Him and to fulfil their God-given purpose.

Other candidates called to be teachers would be mature Christians who would desire to apply their faith to come to Alotau and attend the course using their faith and usually with the support of their local congregations. This is always the way that Biblical ministry has operated and should do so in the future. These teachers would, by virtue of their study, understand that for the rest of their lives they will need to live by faith and not govt. handouts. We would strive to keep the costs to a minimum but discourage people from looking to get everything for free (which is all too common in PNG)

Location

Alotau is central and ideally located to serve all the areas and islands via marine transport. The most ideal site for us to carry out our ministry would definitely be the rather under-used SIL Regional Centre and especially because the language translation skills are present there with existing or retired Bible translators who may well be led by God to participate, as they did with our Misima BCC translation. These translators readily acknowledge that translation of New Testament in itself is not sufficient as Biblical values have not penetrated village culture because they are simply not taught, youth development and teaching is urgently needed. Village churches simply do not teach the foundational truths sufficiently to bring about changes in their members or hearers and to this end we would hope that they would welcome teachers sent by us into their communities to serve.

Accommodation would be provided for the ministry training candidates in the form of bush material dormitories constructed on the customary land just South of the SIL Regional Centre which the landowners are happy to give us. The lecturers themselves, we hope, would be accommodated in the existing buildings in the Centre itself, assuming of course that a co-operative arrangement could be agreed with SIL. Lectures would then be undertaken in the Auditorium and studies in the library building. The operation would not be allowed to impede existing Bible translation work and we would seek to fellowship with them at the same time and provide marine transport as well.

Financing

In the past our ministry has been financed through the operation of *Kwadima II*, which included paying our staff and covering our own family expenses. Missionary work today does not readily attract consistent support from Western churches as it used to. However, God still raises up the money from other sources too, including love offerings from individuals, some churches or groups. We are seeking finance for a replacement boat as well which being operated commercially will provide money as well. Finance may come from any source that God initiates and might include governmental sources too. God rightly requires us to be genuinely dependant on Him to meet our every need. Please pray with us.

Boats are essential for our ministry as we work among many islands and we will continue to support Bible translators where possible as we did previously with *Kwadima II*. We will return to service the North Coast of Misima because the villages from Bagilina to Ebora (4) have no road, so transport for them is difficult. Lastly the boat ministry also carries youth groups from time-to-time and this would also be covered by our commercial operations and this factors in, our 19ft banana boat as well.

Eventually a second boat will be sought too and we'll look forward to 'planting out' the now trained and anointed teachers to their communities and congregations where they will start their ministries. We will look to local communities, possibly via their churches, to provide housing and food for the teachers as they carry out their ministries.

The Future

As mentioned above the possibility that the land Southwards from the border of the SIL Regional Centre will likely be made available through Mrs. Setima Manuega, the principal landowner of the area including the lease-held Regional Centre and next door Napatana Lodge. This being the case, then we could expand to begin the trainee boatbuilding as well, utilising the tools and equipment we brought from England in 2018. We initially began this aspect of our ministry in 2009 at Bwasa on Normanby Island's North Coast and built a 17ft clinker sailing cutter which presently lay in the Nako yard with termite damage to her planking. Timber milling could take place there too, using our two Woodmizers and chainsaws, although this would be in conjunction with KBD. It would also be possible to dig out an area inshore to form a small harbour and possibly a slipway to give not only access to the sea but a place to begin youth ministry sail training with our 16ft Wayfarer dinghy as well. This harbour would have a wall to protect it from heavy weather during the *Yalasi* season and the erosion that would result. There is also the possibility that a small-scale marine training establishment could be built to teach commercial small craft skills for vessel crews up to 24m, but all this is secondary and follows the main teaching work.

Schooner *Living Water*

This vessel is 70ft long and has huge potential in developing a responsible culture among young men. We sailed this vessel with 5 Papuans, two young South Africans and myself from England across the Atlantic and via the Pacific back to PNG a journey of 18,600 nautical

Miles (33,300 kms). Using adventure training and sailing together with the BCC course and followed up with a program of village visitation and assisting short-handed villagers in completing and cleaning their gardens as well as bush material house building. The aim being to bring an end to the 'smallboy' gang culture and help each man to cultivate a personal sense of purpose and individual responsibility from their relationship with the Lord, and inspiring initiative which is singularly absent at this time among PNG youth. A suitable sailing captain and engineer would need to be found for this to take place and a ministry teacher also be appointed to lead the ministry side of this work and to be part of the crew.

Sailing Adventure, BCC and Village Work Course

Marine students would graduate from here and pursue other aspects of work/ministry as the Lord leads them. Christian congregations would be invited to send candidates for this course. Some may become teachers and others entering the ministry with other churches too, but all would need that anointing or call on their life to go forward. Others would return to their previous places of residence or work but keen to follow the Lord's leading whatever they do. All of those finishing the course would receive a Certificate of Completion and assessment of their time with us.


Student Accommodation and Rules

We would be looking to accommodate the students on site but we will put in place a firm code of conduct in place governing behaviour to exclude betel nuts, smoking, alcohol and drugs, (with monitoring): timekeeping, 'swanning off' and 'romantic' relations. Candidates who are married with both attending would need special consideration. While it is expected that all candidates exercise self control in obedience to scripture at LWM we are aware of the dangers so we will put these boundaries in place.

Conclusion

Hopefully it is clear that we have a purpose from God, at this time we need to be mindful of the Lord in His prayer to the Father in John 17 that denominational differences will not be allowable at the Bema seat where the Lord will weigh our attitudes and character in relation to the call He gave us and belonging to a large denomination or organisations will make no difference to God. He will be looking to how faithful we were in life and if we were attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit by listening to Him. We are living in Biblically prophesied times, with so many prophecies coming to light daily we are living in the times that Jesus told us were "...the beginning of sorrows". Clearly, too many Christians are spiritually asleep as they are more pre-occupied with their focus on day-to-day living and secure in their own plans when they, and we, need to be, very obediently about God's business.

His return is *imminent*, just study the scriptures and make yourselves ready to ensure you and yours are doing what you are instructed of the Lord. We will not be able to justify ourselves by the religious work we do, even for God, but only by Jesus' Blood and our faithful application and obedience to His revealed Word.

Capt. 
Principal Living Water Mission

12th August 2025

- *Cessationalism* Was first put forth by the Reformer John Calvin who asserted that the Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Cor 12:1-11 were 'done away' after the first Apostles died. Yet according to Irenaeus writing in 180AD stated that many people utilised them and were an indispensable part of church life. John MacArthur is a classic modern day Cessationalist.