

their ancestors made with the powers of darkness, or bowing before foreign gods; they have breached the agreement our nation made with the Most High. The reason repentance is so important is that it is the only way that our sin and offences before the Father can be removed so that His fierce anger will be turned away from our nation for breaking the covenant that we made with Him.

- a) we need to call individuals whom we know to repentance. Those who are living contrary to the terms and conditions of the covenant need to be told.
- b) Whole communities need to be called to repentance for lifestyles that offend the Most High God. As whole communities come to repentance and make a covenant themselves, it will strengthen our national covenant.
- c) We call upon the whole nation to a Solemn Assembly (National Day of Repentance). A Solemn Assembly was a day in the Old Testament when the whole nation came to a stand still (no work could be done) and fasted to humble themselves. They would confess their sins and the sins of their forefathers before their God.

3) **Renewing or Remember the Covenant Yearly.**

Just as the Children of Israel were told to observe five different feasts to remind them of God's faithfulness in keeping His part of the covenant to them it was also to remember and renew the covenant that they made with their God. Just like the children of Israel needed to be reminded of their covenant, so the nation of Papua New Guinea needs to be reminded of our covenant with the Lord our God. We propose that August 26 be set aside every year as a day to remember and renew our covenant.

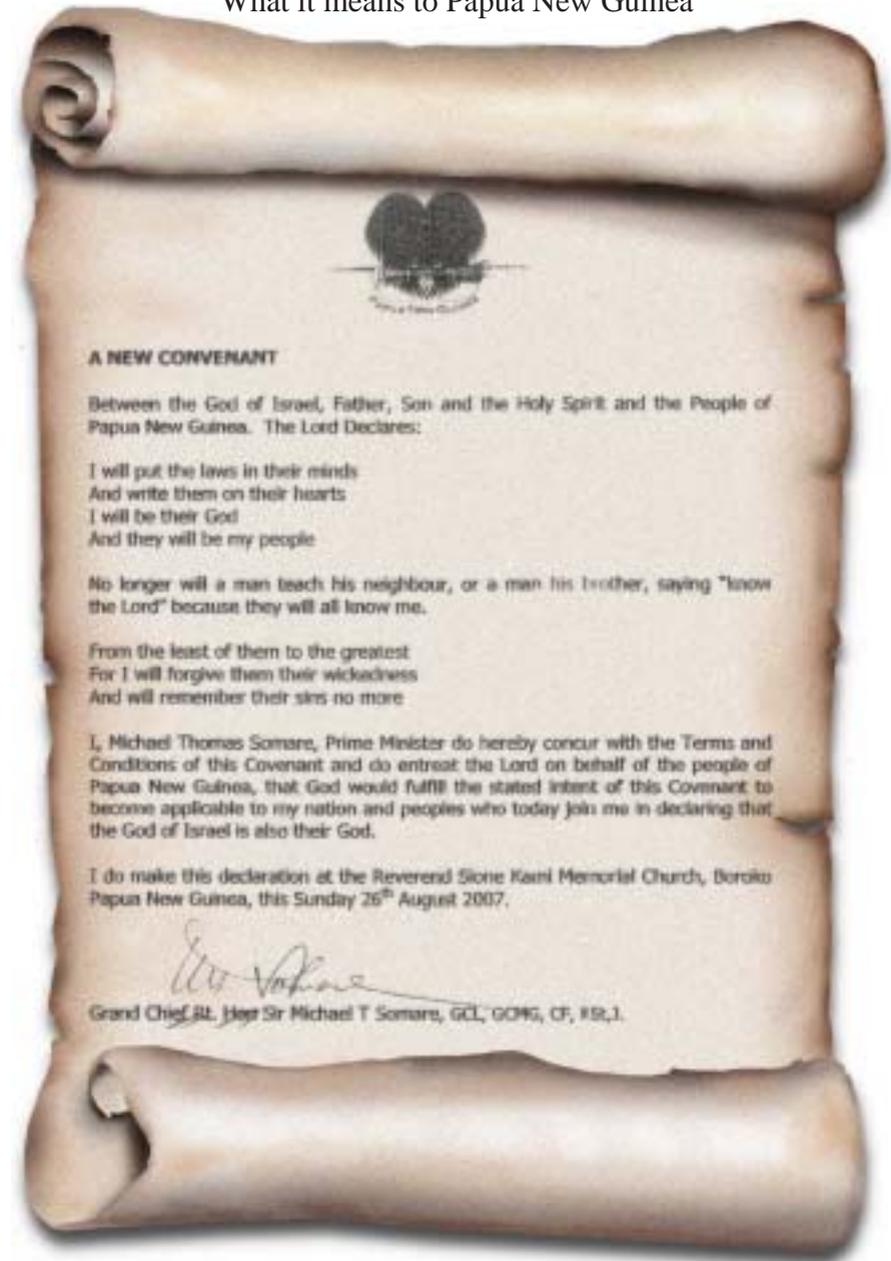
We hope and pray that you will come to see the importance of what took place on August 26, 2007 and see the urgency of what is ahead of us. We invite you to take up your place to speak out to those in your sphere of influence about the covenant and to call them to repentance.

The Board of the National Community Transformation Network



THE COVENANT

What it means to Papua New Guinea



This paper was written to help bring awareness and understanding concerning the covenant that was signed by Prime Minister Sir Michael Thomas Somare on August 26, 2007. This covenant was made by the nation of Papua New Guinea with the Most High God and occurred at the opening of the All Pacific Prayer Assembly in Port Moresby. It was reported that Papua New Guinea is the first nation to ever sign this covenant with the God of Israel. The covenant that was signed is found in Jeremiah 31: 33-34 *“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*

The nature of a covenant (a brief Biblical Study)

A covenant is an alliance, pledge, treaty, ordinance or agreement between men or between God and man. A covenant can be made for many different reasons; on one hand it can be just for friendship or it can be a business agreement, peace treaty or even a marriage commitment. There are two kinds of covenants talked about in the Old Testament. The first is the unilateral covenant (one sided) and this occurs when God makes a covenant regardless of men’s obedience or disobedience, i.e. the covenant made in Noah’s time. The second is a bilateral covenant (two sided) which requires the agreement between two parties which they both must keep, i.e. a marriage covenant, or the covenant that God made with Israel.

Unilateral Covenants:

The first covenant that is recorded in scripture is made with all creation in Genesis 9:9-17 and is a unilateral covenant that has no conditions. It was God’s promise to creation for all generations that He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. A covenant usually requires a sign or mark which reminds the parties of the existing agreement. In the case of the covenant God made with Noah, the sign is a rainbow and continues to remind mankind to this day of the covenant that was made so long ago.

Another example of a unilateral covenant is the account in Genesis 15:5-21 where God makes a covenant with Abram concerning his descendants being as many as the stars in the heavens and the sand on the sea shore. Abram questions God about how he will know that he will possess it. So God meets him according to the customs of the day concerning covenants. God told him to take a young female cow that has not borne a calf, a goat and a ram as well as a dove and pigeon. The animals he cut in two and the birds remained

For us in Papua New Guinea, this has enormous implications. If we keep this covenant, our economy will flourish, our social structure will be restored, our nation will be free from the increasing occurrence of natural disasters, our national security will be impenetrable and our land would only know the abundance of blessing. However, if we do not keep this covenant and obey the Lord our God, our economy will fail, our social structure will self destruct, every natural disaster known to man will pound our shores, our borders will be open to any foreign invading army, and we will only know poverty, shame and destruction.

Though there was no consultation with the spiritual leaders of Papua New Guinea nor was the general population prepared or educated as to the terms and conditions of the covenant, the fact is that it was signed and remains legally binding as far as heaven is concerned. Therefore, WE MUST KEEP THIS COVENANT. You may feel that it shouldn’t effect you because you didn’t know about it nor did you have anything to do with the signing of the covenant. The fact is that the Prime Minister signed it on your behalf and it includes every man, woman and child in this nation. Therefore, WE MUST KEEP THIS COVENANT with the LORD OUR GOD.

The saddest part about the signing of this covenant that it was broken at the same time it was made. Even while the Prime Minister was signing, in many places around the country, people were involved in idolatry, witchcraft and every form of wickedness.

How Do We Keep This Covenant?

- 1) **We need to educate the people about the covenant.** It is as though we have signed a marriage covenant with the Most High and yet most of the population don’t even know that they are married. As long as we continue to be involved in witchcraft, idolatry and adhere to the customs that keep us obligated to powers of darkness; we are committing adultery. Every man, woman and child needs to know;
 - a) that the covenant was already signed on August 26, 2007.
 - b) what the terms and conditions are.
 - c) what the consequences are for breaking it.

- 2) **There is no other way to keep this covenant than to call Papua New Guinea to repentance.** This needs to be done on three levels. The people of Papua New Guinea not only need to be called to repentance, but they also need to be educated on what to repent for and how to repent. As long as our people are involved in entertaining ancestral spirits, renewing the covenants

do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: He then goes on to lay out the consequences of disobedience. It is among the most shocking and terrifying passages concerning hunger, disease, captivity, destruction, and death in all of the scriptures. The curse for disobedience of His commands and disregarding the covenant leads to extreme moral corruption to the point where people eat their own children to stay alive.

There is no better way to describe the consequences of breaking a covenant with the Most High God than in Deuteronomy 29:14 *I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you¹⁵ who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today.¹⁶ You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here.¹⁷ You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold.¹⁸ Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.¹⁹ When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way.” This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.²⁰ The LORD will never be willing to forgive him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.²¹ The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.²² Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it.²³ The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulphur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger.²⁴ All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”²⁵ And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt.²⁶ They went off and worshipped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them.²⁷ Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book.*

Papua New Guinea Has made such a covenant.

whole. The custom was to pass or walk between the two halves of the animals as a sign that the one who broke the covenant deserved to be cut in two just like the animals. When the sun had set and darkness fell, God himself walked between the two halves of the animals. Abram was never required to pass between the halves of the animals. It was God’s way of establishing His covenant with Abram and reassuring him of the promise he made.

Most often the sign of a covenant is made in blood. Blood was shed in the covenant that God made with Abram in the slaughtering of the animals, blood was also shed in sign of the covenant that God made with Israel through circumcision, the keeping of that covenant was the atonement for sin by the shedding of the blood of animals, blood is also shed in a marriage covenant between two virgins, but most of all, the Son of God made a new covenant through the shedding of His own blood.

Some have argued that the covenant that was signed by Prime Minister Michael Somare is a unilateral covenant, is unconditional in it’s nature and has no negative consequences. They look entirely at the part of the covenant that is found in Jeremiah 31:33-34 for this argument. However, at a closer glance, we find that this particular covenant in Jeremiah was fulfilled in Christ and in fact Christ is now the mediator of this new covenant. This is in fact the covenant that Jesus referred to in the last meal with His disciples as *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood”* Luke 22:20. Hebrews 8-10 goes on to explain that this is the “New” covenant which has taken the place of the old one because it was faulty. So, there is a question of the relevance of this passage to the covenant signed on August 26, 2007. Even if it were a major part of this covenant, it would not be unconditional in its nature, rather it still requires each individual to make their own choice to believe for it to be applicable. This covenant could not make the whole nation righteous just by the signing of it.

We believe however, that Papua New Guinea’s covenant is closer to the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis and has many implications. This lies in the two statements joining us to the God of Israel. If we have made a similar covenant to Abraham’s with the God of Abraham, then would it not be correct to think that the same terms and conditions apply to us?

Bilateral Covenants:

There are many covenants or treaties made in the Old Testament such as the peace treaty made in Genesis 21:27 between Abimelech and Abraham and the treaty made by Abimelech and Isaac in Genesis 26:28. The Covenant between Laban and Jacob concerning his marriage to Laban’s daughter is

recorded in Genesis 31:16.

The most relevant passage to our study is when God makes a covenant with Abram (means - exalted father) in Genesis 17 and changes his name to Abraham (Father of a multitude). Genesis 17:7 *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.* Now God's covenant is no longer just a promise to never flood the whole world or to bless, multiply and give land as an inheritance; but to be Abraham's God and Abraham's descendant's God. This covenant, like a marriage covenant is totally exclusive which means that Israel can have no other god. That is why the very first commandment given in Exodus 20:3 is "You shall have no other gods before me." Now God is dealing with the free will of man and man's decision making capacity to choose Him as God or to choose another. That is why in Chapter 17:9 *"Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come."* Now the covenant must be kept which also means followed, obeyed, adhered to, acted upon, implemented, fulfilled and respected. In the very next verse God plainly states again ¹⁰ *"This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised."* This is the very covenant that has bound the people of Israel for many generations and centuries. Their potential for blessing and prosperity or curse, famine and captivity is directly related to their keeping of this covenant made with Abraham and his descendants. Every following reference made about Israel's covenant with God, finds its origin in this covenant. Exodus 19:5 *"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,"*

The success (prosperity, development,"maturity and high moral standing) of any nation or people wholly depends on the favour of the Most High. In order for His favour to rest on any nation or people, depends entirely on whether or not those people submit themselves to Him as their God.

What does it mean for the Most High to be OUR God? It is somehow not just enough to acknowledge that He is God, but rather the central point is that He is OUR God. If the Most High is our God, then WE must obey Him, follow Him, worship Him, WE must give Him the highest honour and respect in society, His desire is our command, and His purposes must be our reason for living. The spoken words alone mean little, rather it is the keeping of His covenant through his commands that truly makes Him OUR God. To simply

state that He is our God and then for us to bow before other gods, or even just to do our own thing is a contradiction and brings the fierce anger of God.

The terms and conditions of the Covenant

The terms and conditions when making covenant to make the Lord your God always are to keep His covenant and obey His commands. Exodus 34:10 *Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you."¹¹ Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. In Leviticus, God very clearly states what will happen if Israel violates the covenant made with Him. Leviticus 26:14 *"But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands,¹⁵ and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant,¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror; wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it.¹⁷ I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no-one is pursuing you.* Throughout the scriptures, the condition for blessing is always obedience. Deuteronomy 4:23 *Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden."* It seems that in the scriptures, there was one sin that broke the heart of God more than anything other, and that is idolatry. That is because it directly violates the covenant that He made with His people to be their only God.*

The Consequences of the Covenant

Because this covenant is between God and Israel, He makes it clear what He will do to bless them if they obey Him. Deuteronomy 28:1 *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.² All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:* The next 12 verses are a promise of the most wonderful things that God will do for them. It is a passage about abundance and prosperity in agriculture, in the economy, in the military; in short He promises that He will bless everything that they set their hands to do and they will be the head and not the tail.

The following 54 verses are a stark contrast to the first 14 verses. Deuteronomy 28:15 *However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and*