

The National Day Of Repentance

Solemn Assembly Program

August 26, 2017



¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD..." ¹⁸ Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. Joel 2:15-18

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Dear praying friends,

Thankfully, many of you were actively involved in praying for this year's National Election. Whether or not you were disappointed or delighted by the outcome of the election process, clearly, much that took place was destructive, if not downright evil and harmful to the process of nation building. Not only were the very laws that were put into place to ensure a free and fair election, openly disregarded, but we also violated the laws and principles that God Himself laid down to govern His Kingdom.

Were the elections a success? At what cost, in terms of human lives, property and people's democratic rights and dignity, did these elections take place. Because of the heavy prayer focus, many instances of vote rigging and corruption were stopped and the culprits are now behind bars. But we will always fail to fulfill God's highest purpose for our nation, as long as we do not submit fully to His will.

In Daniel 2:21, we find that it is God who sets up kings and removes them. God, then has already chosen those who will be in the place of authority in each district or province. The problem arises, when HIS OWN PEOPLE (who are His ambassadors on the earth); either do not agree with His choice, or they fail to seek Him as to whom they should vote for because they are more concerned with their own candidate, their cultural obligations, or their political party, than His will. For whatever reason we did not vote for His choice, it is outright rebellion against the will of God.

Why did witchcraft play such a large part in the 2017 national elections? Firstly, because the root of witchcraft is rebellion according to 1 Samuel 15:23 **"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft/ divination, and stubbornness is as the iniquity of idolatry..."** God's own people, without even knowing it, opened the door to witchcraft through their rebellion against HIS AUTHORITY. Secondly, rebellion gives birth to lawlessness. That is why, so much election related fighting and violence is seen during this time. We desperately need to repent for our rebellion against the LORD and submit fully to His will.

On August 26, our National Day of Repentance, we are given an opportunity to repent for everything that went on during the election period that was offensive to the LORD.

We invite you to get involved in either helping with the Solemn Assembly in your community or if there isn't one, take ownership and organise it yourself. This simple guide is made available for your use, but please let the Holy Spirit lead you. The Solemn Assembly program begins on page 14.

Your friends with the National Community Transformation Network.

"O LORD, we acknowledge our wickedness and the guilt of our fathers; we have indeed sinned against you." Jeremiah 14:20

Since 2010, Papua New Guinea has observed the National Day Of Repentance. In 2011, the government of the day, gazetted August 26 as a National Public Holiday. But there is still controversy even by churches surrounding this most important day.

WHY IS NATIONAL REPENTANCE SO IMPORTANT?

Most of us recognise the fact that repentance is an important part of an individual entering the kingdom of God, but few recognise the importance of community wide and even nation wide repentance. There are definitely sins that we as individuals need to repent for; but in the same way, there are also community sins and national sins that need to be repented for.

The book of Jonah holds great hope for the cities and nations of the world. Though the prophet Jonah, is often remembered for his disobedience, the message that he preached was so effective, that it brought about a reformation of the heathen city of Nineveh. When Jonah brought the warning of judgment, the whole population of the city, humbled themselves with fasting, put on sackcloth as a sign of mourning, and repented. The king made this decree, ⁷ *Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.* ⁸ *But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.* ⁹ *Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish. The Bible then records these words.* ¹⁰ *When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.”* Jonah 3:7-10 In other words, their repentance changed the course of history, and their city and nation were spared.

If the course of a heathen nation, who didn't know right from wrong, can be changed through humility and repentance, how much easier should it be for a nation with such a large Christian population like Papua New Guinea? Which is why we need to repent as a nation more than ever. If we were a nation with a founded on any other religion, we would not be as guilty. But, even the preamble to our constitution clearly declares that we are a Christian nation. However, out of all the nations in the pacific, we have the biggest problem with law and order, the highest number of HIV and AIDS cases, the worst corruption index, and the most violent crimes, etc. We the people of Papua New Guinea have clearly blasphemed the name we bear and need to repent.

Here are seven main reasons for national repentance:

1. GOD'S PURPOSES.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” Jeremiah 29:11 The Most High has a dream for Papua New Guinea; a master plan. And when we fulfill His plan, it will lead us into our destiny as a nation. In order for the Nation of Papua New Guinea to fully move into God's destiny in this generation, repentance is necessary to remove everything that holds us back from fulfilling His hearts desire. Dealing with our past holds the key to moving into our future.

2. GOD'S PRESENCE.

Sin is the only thing that stands in the way of the Presence of the Lord from descending on our nation and the Glory of the Lord covering the nation as the waters cover the sea. Repentance is required to remove all that is offensive in His sight so that we will make Him welcome in our midst. Acts 3:19 *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

3. GOD'S PROMISES.

‘If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.’ 2 Chronicles 7:14 holds a great promise for the nation of Papua New Guinea. This promise is both of national forgiveness and of national healing. The requirements for this promise to be fulfilled, are that we must first, humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. The healing of land that has been promised will be seen in both the healing of the physical land but also the healing of our society as a whole. For example our political system, economy, social structure and spiritual life will go through the healing process.

4. GOD'S PATTERN.

God's pattern for national healing and even revival is laid down in Joel 2:12-32. Firstly, the nation is called to repentance, from the leaders to the children, from the newly married to those who minister before the Lord. Secondly, as a result of repentance, God has pity on the people, the nation's enemies are dealt with and the land is restored to maximum fruitfulness. Every last thing that their enemies have taken from them is restored, even the time that has been lost. Lastly, comes an outpouring of God's spirit on the people of the nation and He restores communication with His people through prophecy, dreams and visions.

5. GOD'S DELIVERANCE.

Zechariah 12:10 *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child...”* As a result of the spirit of grace and supplication being poured out, and because of the revelation of Jesus the one whom we have pierced; repentance will follow, each clan by itself. Because it is our sin that gives the powers of darkness legal ground in our lives, our families, our communities and our nation; national repentance will begin the process of national deliverance. According to Zechariah 13:1-2, on the day of repentance, a fountain will be opened up and will cleanse the land from all her impurities. Furthermore, the Lord himself will remove the idols principalities/ruling spirits from the land, and they will be remembered no more. (Zechariah 12:10-13:2.)

6. GOD'S STANDARD.

God gave His law as the standard to which all of society must live up to, in order to be a righteous nation. *“And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”* Deuteronomy 6:25 The very standard by which He will judge the people of the world, is His own Law. Transgression is the word that the Bible uses to describe the breaking of God's law. ³⁰*“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin and so shall they not be a stumbling block to you.* ³²*For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”* Ezekiel 18:30, 32 In the New Testament, the Apostle John writes *“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is law breaking/lawlessness.”* *But you know that He (Jesus) appeared so that He might take away our sin/lawbreaking. And in Him is no sin/lawbreaking.* 1John 3:4, 5 Haven't we, the people of Papua New Guinea broken God's law? Then we need to repent.

7. OUR COVENANT WITH THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

Our former Prime Minister signed a covenant with the God of Israel, making Him also the God of Papua New Guinea. Because we have not kept this covenant with it's terms and conditions, and

have continued to serve other gods as well as break his commands with every kind of sin, we as a nation are required to repent and make ourselves right with our God.

So you see national repentance causes change to begin. It sets in motion God's forgiveness, His cleansing, His favour, His healing, an outpouring of His Spirit and eventually will lead us to accomplish His purposes, which in turn leads us into our full destiny.

Solemn Assembly

What is a Solemn Assembly?

A solemn assembly according to Joel 1: 14 and Joel 2:15, is where all the people in the land are called together, from the church leaders all the way to the children nursing at the breast, from ministers of the Lord all the way to the newly married bride and bridegroom. According to Joel 2:1 and Numbers 10:9-10, a trumpet is to be sounded to call out an alarm to waken the community and to gather them together for a Solemn Assembly.

It is a gathering for the purpose of repentance and crying out to God. In each passage it talks about either putting on sackcloth and ashes or the ripping of garments, which are both signs of mourning and grieving. The first step in returning to the Lord (Joel 2:13) is to recognize how bankrupt we are (Revelation 3:17-18) and repent for rejecting the God who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and who still holds out his hand to us (Nehemiah 9: 1-3).

It is a time of repenting for offerings and tithes that have been withheld and for bringing offerings to the Lord (Joel 1:13, Joel 2:14, Leviticus 23:27) In the scriptures, when a Solemn Assembly was observed, as in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 29, a freewill offering was given to the Lord. On the National Day of Repentance, we will again be taking up a national offering to give to the Jewish people who are making Aliyah. Aliyah is the return of the Jews to Israel from whatever nations around the world, where they have been scattered, as the prophets foretold.

Through the Aliyah Offering last year, people around PNG gave almost K70,000. The Lord finally connected us to the Jewish Agency For Israel, which is the official agency used by the Israeli Governments for Aliyah. All the funds were sent to them, for which they sent a letter of thanks to the people of Papua New Guinea for assisting Jews returning home to Israel. (The Aliyah Offering can be put into PNG NCTN Project acc#1005812357 BSP Kundiawa)

A Solemn Assembly is also a time for repenting from the sin of making promise and not keeping them (Nahum 1:15, Ecclesiastes 5:4).

During a Solemn Assembly and all the days of preparation, the Book of the Law is to be read out loud in hearing of all the people (Nehemiah 8:18). It is a time of recommitment to The Word of God as the final authority.

It is a day where no work is done (Leviticus 23:28, Numbers 29:35) obedience and undivided attention as we seek His face together.

A Solemn Assembly according to Leviticus 23:27 is a day for denying yourself (food) in other words, fasting. Fasting throughout scripture was a sign of humility before the Lord (Psalm 35: 13). We, the people of PNG are a proud people. We need to all humble ourselves with fasting.

What Do We Need To Repent From?

There are four words in the Bible with which the act of repentance is related to.

1) Sin – Definition - To fall short/ to miss the mark

There are over 120 sins mentioned in the Bible.

Sins are both *Doing what you shouldn't* and *Not Doing what you should*.

We usually think of sin as things that we shouldn't do, but do anyway. But James 4:17 says "*Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*"

Sins of Action/Sins of Attitude

Many sins we know of are outward actions and can easily be seen, such as murder, sexual immorality, lying etc. But there are other sins which are in the heart and cannot be seen, such as lust, greed, or unforgiveness. Jesus said in Matthew 5:27, 28 "*You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" If those sins in the heart are not dealt with, they will eventually lead to some sinful action. Whether they are sins of action or attitude, they need to be confessed and repented of.

2) Transgression – Definition - To break God's law/ to rebel against God's law. *Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated (transgressed) the LORD's command and your instructions.*

1Samuel 15:24a

Joshua 7:11 *Israel has sinned; they have transgressed (violated) my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions."*

Joshua 24:19 *Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your transgression or your sins,*

3) Iniquity – Definition - Iniquities are punishment, consequences and a bent or twisted part of character (usually inherited from a previous generation) that drives/compels/influences people to sin (the same sin as previous generations).

Iniquities pass from one generations to another. Only you can know what has been passed on to you from your parents and only you can stop the flow of those iniquities on to your children and their children. David said in Psalm 51:5 "*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*"

Most people have probably experienced committing a particular sin over and over and even though they try their best to stand against it, it always seems to get the better of them. One of the main reasons for this is because that particular sin was also committed by one or more of their parents or grandparents and now is now influencing that person to do the same thing. David prays in Psalm 119:133 "*Order my steps in Your word; and do not let any iniquity rule over me.*"

We must understand that you and I are 100% responsible for our own actions and we cannot blame our sin on the previous generation. Although iniquities do influence us or drive us, we still are responsible for our own choices.

In dealing with iniquities, we confess the iniquities from both our father and mother's family line.

Confession is admitting to yourself and exposing the iniquity before God. Psalm 38:18 *I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.* Psalm 32:5 *I confessed my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgression to the LORD; and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah* We repent for the iniquities we have committed that also will pass on to our children. Confession is merely admitting to the wrong, while repentance is agreeing with God that it is offensive to Him and then turning away from it. Psalm 51:2 *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

4) Trespass - Definition -to slip backwards (backslide) - Unfaithfulness - to depart from the truth, or when we wrong one another.

“If anyone sins and is unfaithful (commit a trespass) to the LORD by deceiving his neighbour about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him,³ or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do--⁴ when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, Leviticus 6:2-4

We would be sadly mistaken to think that we have dealt with our sins against the Father without reconciling with our brother whom we have offended. Relationships are the main ingredient in the Kingdom of God. When relationships are broken, His anger will be felt until reconciliation takes place. This can be on a personal level where there are differences between individuals but also goes on to families that have hurt each other and then to clans within the community at large. Jesus said in Matthew 6:14,15 *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

When we have either wronged someone or have not forgiven someone for the wrong they have done to us, we need to not only repent before God, but also go to that person and reconcile with them.

10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE

There are ten days between Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Years) and Yom Kipur (The Day of Atonement). For the Jewish people these are ten days of repentance leading up to Day of Atonement which serves as their national day of repentance. Our 10 days of repentance begin on August 16. This is a guide for individual and community repentance.

AUGUST 16

Day #1 – Exodus 20:3 *“You shall have no other gods before me”*

Idolatry is the sin that God hates the most. In this verse, the preposition that is used in the Hebrew language for the word **“before”**, could also be translated as “beside or along side, above or beyond”.

- 1) Firstly, We are not to put any other god ahead of the One True God in our lives. In other words, we must not spend more time and energy and affection on any other thing than Him.
- 2) Not only that, but we must not hold on to any other gods while worshipping Him. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said we can not serve two masters. We can not serve both God and Mammon (Money), or God and ancestral spirits, or God and power or fame or any other thing. Our relationship with God is exclusive, like marriage between one man and one woman.
- 3) Thirdly, we must not put any other god in a more important position or place of authority than

God himself. In other words, God must be consulted about every decision, His will must be our deepest desire and our submission to His kingdom rule must be complete. His word must take the highest priority in our lives as it is not only instruction for life, but it contains His very heartbeat.

Read the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any idolatry in your own life, your family or your community and repent. Jonah 2:8 *“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.* 2Kings 17:37 *You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods.* 2Kings 17:41 *Even while these people were worshipping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.* Matthew 4:10 *Jesus said to him “Away from me satan! For it is written, worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”* 1John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourself from idols. Amen.* Joshua 24:14,15 *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”* ¹⁵ *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Declare your dependence on God alone and that you will serve Him alone. Ask the Lord to help you put your trust in Him alone.*

AUGUST 17

Day #2 *“You shall not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything in heaven above, or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them” Exodus 20:4, 5a*

When God created man, he placed within him, His own creative ability, which is seen today in architecture, art forms and all kinds of technology. This creative ability was not given to us, so that we could make objects of worship with our own hands. The only One who is worthy of our worship, is the original Creator, who spoke all things into being. Even the things we design with our minds, speak with our mouths or make with our hands, must glorify the Most High. Many times in Papua New Guinea our traditional art forms (for instance, carvings, dances and songs) are connected with the spirit world. It is time for us to evaluate whether or not these things honour the Most High.

The dictionary defines an idol as an icon, representation of a god, image, effigy, statue, figure, figurine, fetish, totem; graven image, false god, or golden calf.

You may think that it is only those who carve an image out of stone or wood that are guilty of idolatry. Throughout our life’s experience, we must also be careful not to set up images in our mind of God who is much less than the God of the Bible. For instance, if in our minds we set up an image of god, that is only loving and merciful, who is not Just, Righteous or Holy, the image we have made is not really the God of the Bible at all, and we have made an idol. Consider the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any idol you may have set up and repent. He may also require you to burn anything in your possession that does not honour Him.

Isaiah 42:8 *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.* Deut. 27:15 *“Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman’s hands and sets it up in secret.”* 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. Jeremiah 25:6, 7 Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not provoke me to anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.⁷ "But you did not listen to me," declares the LORD, "and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves."

AUGUST 18

Day #3 "You shall not misuse (bear) the name of the LORD your God. For the LORD your God will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name." Exodus 20:7

We tend to think that taking God's name in vain, just has to do with using his name as a swear word, but that is only a part of what it means. We are not to blaspheme His name or use His name lightly, profanely or for our own profit. But it also means that when we bear His name, such as the name Christian, our attitudes, speech and behaviour must honour, exalt or reflect the One whose name we bear. To bear/take His name in vain is when our actions or behaviour don't match up with the words we speak. God is not impressed by our outward appearance, in fact he hates a double standard. In Isaiah 29:13 The Lord says; "These people come near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

Jesus had nothing good to say about hypocrites (a pretender or play actor). Matthew 23:27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In other words someone who is not living the truth but is pretending to be someone they are not. If you are in the church but don't really know Jesus, then you are merely acting. If people think you are righteous because of the things you say and do, but you are involved in sin, you are a hypocrite. If you live a double standard, you are breaking the 3rd commandment. Meditate on the following verses and ask the Holy Spirit to show you in what areas you living a double standard and are blaspheming His Holy name.

Luke 6:42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Romans 2:23, 24 You who brag about the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? As it is written; "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Isaiah 52:5 And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock, "declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that I who foretold it. Yes, it is I." Ezekiel 36:22,23 Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations to which you went. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name and separate it for its holy purpose from all that defiles it--My name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them--and the nations will know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service], when I shall be set apart by you and My holiness vindicated in you before their eyes and yours. 1John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

The third commandment has huge implications for the nation of Papua New Guinea. The pre-amble to constitution declares that we are a Christian nation. When we look at the statistics, however, it gives a very different picture. Out of all the nations in the pacific, we have the biggest

problem with law and order, the highest number of HIV and AIDS cases, the worst corruption index, and the most violent crimes, etc. We say we are a Christian nation and yet we still hold onto many gods. We need to repent for bearing Christ's name in vain.

AUGUST 19

Day #4 "Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy" Exodus 20:8 "And God blessed (spoke good of) the seventh day, set it apart as His own, and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had created and done." Genesis 2:3 (Amplified) "Sabbath" in Hebrew means to "cease, desist, or rest but it also means to celebrate". There is no indication that God was tired and needed a rest, but after seeing all that He made was good, He ceased from His work and He celebrated. After celebrating creation, He set the day apart for Himself. He also wanted His people to honour Him by honouring the day that He set apart. Unfortunately, many of us violate the day by using the day for work or sports or for buying and selling or any other activity. In other words, we have set the day apart for our own use, like any other day and not in honour of the LORD our God. Meditate on the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if and how you have violated the Sabbath.

Lev.23:3 "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD. Isaiah 56:2,6,7 "blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, an keeps his hand from doing any evil. ⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 58:13 "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if your honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken. Mark 2:27 "Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

AUGUST 20

Day #5 "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land that the LORD your God has given you." Exodus 20:12

Obedience is always the condition of blessing. In other words, if you want to live long in the land the LORD your God has given you, you must honour your father and mother. Ephesians tells us, that this is the first commandment with a promise.

One of the biggest reason for the lives of this young generation being cut short through drugs, alcohol, suicide, cult movements, and ethnic clashes can be traced to the breaking of this commandment. Parents have been given the authority over their children by God, to do what is best for them, to provide and protect, to nurture and train them up in the way they should go. When children rebel against, speak against, dishonour or disrespect their parents, they are rebelling against God himself.

Your parents are not perfect and are not always loving and encouraging. But remember that

they were brought up by imperfect parents themselves. You can either blame them for all their mistakes, or you can choose to forgive them and improve upon the opportunities they have given you. To honour means to hold in great respect for, have high regard for, look up to, think highly of, to value or cherish. It is God's desire for children to honour, respect and value their parents. This command is not just for children still in the home, but also for adult children who have left home and need to appreciate and value their elderly parents. Consider the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you need to repent for dishonouring your parents.

Exodus 21:15,17 *Anyone who attacks his father or his mother, must be put to death. "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death. Lev 19:3 "Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God. Proverbs 1:8, 9 "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. Proverbs 15:5 A fool spurns (refuses) his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence (wisdom) " Proverbs 20:20 "If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness." Proverbs 23:22 "Listen to your father, who gave you life and do not despise your mother when she is old." Malachi 4:5, 6 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." As a parent you may need to apologize to your children. As children, you may need to reconcile with your parents ask the Father to help you always honour your parents.*

AUGUST 21

Day #6 "You shall not murder" Exodus 20:13

In the New Testament, Jesus told the people that murder begins in the heart. "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again anyone who says to his brother "Raca" (empty headed man) is answerable to the Sanhedrin But anyone who says you cursed fool! will be in danger of the fire of hell." Jesus took the sixth commandment further by saying, in times past, judgment was reserved only for the one who murdered; but now God is not only punished the outward act of murder but searches the hearts, minds and speech of men to judge them. If you have taken the life of another, repent before God and be ready to do whatever He requires. Maybe you haven't actually been involved in murder, but your words and actions toward someone needs to be dealt with before God, so repent. Our words are powerful and can wound and even kill. Consider the words of 1John 3:15 "Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him." Please also be aware of the murder of unborn babies (abortion) taking place in your community and repent.

Exodus 21:14 "But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death." Genesis 9:5,6 "And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man too. I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. ⁶ "whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. Romans 13:9,10 'The commandments, " Do not commit adultery "Do not murder." "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself."¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.' 1John 4:20 If anyone says "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his

brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

AUGUST 22

Day #7 "You shall not commit adultery" Exodus 20:14 (fornication/adultery)

1Thess. 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

For some people, sexual immorality has to do with lust, pornography or sexual fantasies and is in the area of the mind. For others, sexual immorality is either a part of their past for which they may still carry some guilt, or they are presently in a sexual relationship that is out of God's will. If your situation is any one of these, you must know that God wants to forgive you, cleanse and give you victory over this sin. Leviticus 18: 24, 25 says "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants." Sexual immorality defiles the land and so much of our land needs to be cleansed. Meditate on the following scriptures and repent if you need to. 1Corinthians 6:18 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Romans 13:13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Matthew 5:28 "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*

Thank God for His forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Pray through the following scripture for your family, and your community. Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Ask the Father to purify your heart and expose even the wrong thoughts that lead to sexual immorality.*

AUGUST 23

Day #8 "You shall not steal" Exodus 20:15

Leviticus 19:11 "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you? No matter how small it might have been it is considered stealing. Whether it is money, another's ideas, maybe somebody's trust or even God's glory; it still stealing. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if you are guilty in past or present of taking what does not belong to you; if so repent, make it right, then thank God for His forgiveness. Zechariah 5:3,4 And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. The LORD Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.'" Romans 2:21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

Pray through the following scriptures for yourself, your family and your community. Ephesians 4:28 *He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. John 10:1*

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2Samuel 15:6 Absalom behaved in this way towards all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. Ask God to allow you to see every form of stealing as He does.

AUGUST 24

Day #9 – "You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbour" Exodus 20:16

We all know that lying is wrong. But when we intentionally try to injure our neighbour, by spreading rumours, false reports, slander against his character and make it sound as though it is true, when it is not, to destroy his good name or his property, we have broken this commandment. This may also occur when others are accusing our neighbour of something he didn't do, and even though we know he is innocent, we remain silent. The term neighbour in this commandment is understood to be human being, whether he is considered a friend or enemy. Exodus 23:1 says *"Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness."* Not only should you not bear false testimony against anyone, neither should you help anyone who does. Meditate on the following scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you have broken the 9th commandment and repent.

Proverbs 14:5 *"A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies."* Proverbs 19:5, 9 *"A false witness will not go unpunished and he who pours out lies will not go free." "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish."* Proverbs 21:28 *"A false witness will perish and whoever listens to him will be destroyed forever"* Proverbs 25:18 *"Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbour."* Malachi 3:5 *"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers (false witnesses), against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice but do not fear me." Says the LORD Almighty.'*

AUGUST 25

Day #10 – "You shall not covet..."Exodus 20:17

Have you ever wanted something that someone else had; maybe a house, car, someone else's husband or wife, another's looks, talents or gifting? I'm not talking about one just like it, but the very thing that someone else has. Well, that is coveting and the breaking of the last of the ten commandments. Exodus 20:17 *"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."* This sin of coveting, often leads to the breaking one of the other commandments; like stealing, committing adultery or even murder. Meditate on the following verse and ask the Lord to reveal any covetousness in your heart, and then repent.

Deuteronomy 7:25 *The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. James 4:2,3 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* Pray through the following scriptures for yourself, your family and your community. Psalm 119:36 *Turn my heart towards your statutes (word) and not towards selfish gain.* Proverbs 21:26 *All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.* Proverbs 28:16 *A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.* Make a commitment before the Lord to turn from coveting others' possessions. Ask Him to help you.

Solemn Assembly Program -August 26, 2017 (10:00 am)

Blow the trumpet - (Ring a bell, blow a horn or shell) Call the people together.

Declaration of Purpose - (Repeat after Me)

Father today, we your people gather together,

We humble ourselves before you.

We submit to your authority today.

And we come to meet the conditions

That you set down in your word in 2 Chronicles 7: 14

If my people/ who are called by my name/ will humble themselves and pray/ Seek my face,/ And turn from their wicked ways./ Then will I hear from heaven!/ will forgive their sin! And heal their land.

We ask you Holy Spirit to lead us now. In Jesus name! Amen.

Consecrate the Assembly - (Joel 2: 16) (Sample Prayer -Repeat after me)

Father, we come to you in Jesus name

We acknowledge that Jesus is our Passover lamb,

And by His death, we can have life.

We ask you to cleanse us right now from all unrighteousness

With the blood of Jesus your son.

We set ourselves apart for You today

Because we are a blood bought people. Amen!

Nehemiah 9:3 *'And they stood up in their place and read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; for another fourth of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.'*

Read passages like Deuteronomy 27: 11-26, Deuteronomy 28, Deuteronomy 4: 1-14, Deuteronomy 6:1-19, Deuteronomy 11,2 Samuel 22, 1 Chronicles 16:8-36, Matthew 5 and 6, 1Corinthians 13, Revelation 2 and 3. You will not have time to read them all.

Declaration of Leaders. The leaders come forward and weep, they make a public confession of their failure and repent. Joel 2: 17 - We also confess the sins of our forefathers Exodus 20:5... for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, Daniel and Ezra prayed these prayers even though they were godly men. Although we are no longer responsible for our fathers sins, the consequences of the sin is passed on to us and we tend to follow in their sins.

Reader 1 Daniel 9:4-19 ⁴"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our (prime ministers), our (leaders) and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. ⁷"Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of (name of province) and people of (name of place) and all (Papua New Guinea), both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸O LORD, we and our (prime ministers), our (other leaders) and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even

though we have rebelled against him; ¹⁰ we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All (Papua New Guinea) has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. ¹² You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to (Papua New Guinea). ¹³ Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favour of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. ¹⁴ The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him. ¹⁵ Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶ O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from (Papua New Guinea, your nation). Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made (Papua New Guinea) and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. ¹⁷ Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸ Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Reader 2 Nehemiah 9:5-34 (various verses) "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. ⁶ You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.... ¹⁶ But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands.... ²⁹ ...They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. ³⁰ For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. ³¹ But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. ³² Now therefore, O our God, the great, mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes-the hardship that has come upon us, upon our (prime ministers) and leaders, upon our priests! (ministers) and prophets, upon our fathers and all your people...." "In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. ³⁴ Our (prime ministers), our leaders, our priests (ministers) and our fathers did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the warnings you gave them. ³⁵ Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways.

Reader 3 Ezra 9:6-10 "O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. ⁷ From the days of our forefathers until now, our guilt has been great. ... ⁸ But now, for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage. ⁹ Though we are slaves, our God has not deserted us in our bondage. ... He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in (Province) and (town). ¹⁰ But now, O our God, what can we say after this? For we have disregarded the commands.

REPENTANCE FOR OUR SINS DURING THE 2017 ELECTIONS - *Someone lead out in (Repeat after me)*

LORD God King of the Universe/ We acknowledge that You are KING of Kings,/ LORD of Lords and GOD of all gods,/and that you are the God of Papua New Guinea./ We humble ourselves before your throne of grace and seek your forgiveness for our sin during this election period./ Your Word tells us that You are the one/ who sets up kings and removes them./ We repent for trying to take over/ your job during this 2017 national elections./ Firstly, Please forgive us for our rebellion against your authority./ During this election period,/ we have not behaved as your children should./ We have failed to seek you/ about your choice of candidate for each electorate./ We confess,/ that we have been more concerned/ with our own agenda,/ our own candidate,/ our own political party/ and our own cultural obligations/ rather than your kingdom and your will./ Please forgive us/ for opening the door to witchcraft/ and lawlessness through our rebellion./ Please forgive us/ for our willful rebellion against you/ and cleanse us by the blood of your Son.

Please Oh LORD, forgive us,/ the people of Papua New Guinea/ for resorting to witchcraft/ to ensure our candidate wins/ and please forgive us candidates/ who payed others to use witchcraft/ in order for us to win./ Please also forgive us,/ for calling on our ancestral spirits/ and other principalities/ to help us win/ and in the process/ open the door to all kinds of wickedness./ Please forgive us/ and cleanse us by the blood of the Lamb./

Please, also forgive us leaders/ of your church,/ for compromising your word/ and your righteous standard/ during the elections/ by openly campaigning/ instead of promoting your will/ and for blessing candidates for a bribe./ Please forgive us/ for the bad example/ we have displayed before your people/ and those who do not know you./ Please cleanse us by the blood of your son Jesus./

Please Oh LORD forgive us/ the people of Papua New Guinea/ for our corruption during this 2017 National Elections./ Please forgive us for giving bribes during our campaign/ as well as taking bribes/ to vote for certain candidates./ Please forgive us for vote rigging,/ stealing ballot papers and boxes,/ for encouraging under-aged voting,/ for voting more than once,/ and for denying others their right to vote./ Please forgive us/ for bribing electoral officials/ and security personnel/ to carry out unrighteous acts./ Please forgive us/ all the electoral staff/ who were involved in corruption/ to alter the outcome of the elections./ Please also forgive us/ the security personnel/ for any involvement/ in corruption during this election period./ Please forgive us/ for our corruption/ and cleanse us by the blood of Jesus./

Please Oh LORD,/ forgive us the people of Papua New Guinea/ for breaking not only the laws of our nation,/ but most importantly your law./ Please forgive us/ for giving in to lawlessness/ for our own gain/ and cleanse us by the blood of the Lamb./

Please forgive us Oh LORD,/ for our use of threats/ and intimidation/ to alter the outcome of the elections./ Please also forgive us/ for our use of violence/ and even killing in our anger/ during this election period./

Lastly, Please Oh God of mercy,/ forgive us for bearing your name/ as a Christian nation/ while at the same time/ displaying such corrupt and wicked actions/ before the nations of the world/ and bringing shame to your name. Please forgive us and cleanse us by the blood of your Jesus.

Give time for all the people to repent from their own sins. (However long it takes)

THE PUBLIC READING OF PNG'S COVENANT WITH THE GOD OF ISRAEL



A NEW COVENANT

Between the God of Israel, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit and the People of Papua New Guinea. The Lord Declares:

I will put the laws in their minds
And write them on their hearts
I will be their God
And they will be my people

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
For I will forgive them their wickedness
And will remember their sins no more

I, Michael Thomas Somare, Prime Minister do hereby concur with the Terms and Conditions of this Covenant and do entreat the Lord on behalf of the people of Papua New Guinea, that God would fulfill the stated intent of this Covenant to become applicable to my nation and peoples who today join me in declaring that the God of Israel is also their God.

I do make this declaration at the Reverend Sione Kami Memorial Church, Boroko Papua New Guinea, this Sunday 26th August 2007.

Grand Chief Rt. Hon Sir Michael T Somare, GCL, GCMG, CF, KStJ.

Prayer of Repentance for the Church - Give time for the assembly to make reconciliation. Whoever has ill feelings towards another, should reconcile. Anyone from one local fellowship having ill feelings against those from another, should reconcile either privately or publicly from the front.

Public Prayer of Repentance. Someone representing the church lead out in prayer repenting on behalf all God's people.

Public Prayer of Repentance - Someone representing the government lead in prayer, repenting on behalf of the government. . '

Public Crying out to God to spare our nation! (Joel 2:17) One person lead out. (Repeat after me)

Father, we your people

Come and cry to you

Please spare your people

Please forgive the nation of Papua New Guinea

π cleanse us by the blood of Jesus.

In Jesus name. Amen!

Have people pray in small groups, one praying at a time and the others agreeing

Pray for our government

Public Offering - (Joel 1: 13, Joel 2: 14) We will be taking up a national offering to give to the Jewish people who are returning to Israel from the nations where they have been scattered. Giving this offering is important, firstly, to bless the Jewish people, but secondly, as we give sacrificially as an act of worship to our God, we will begin to destroy the grip that the poverty spirit has on our nation.

Now take up the free will offering.

Public Offering of ourselves. Romans 12:1,2 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Bung prayer)

Praise. Have worship leaders, lead out in worship

Public Declarations:

We the people of God! Solemnly declare/ That the word of God is our final authority We submit today/ And forever/To God's word.

We the people of God! Solemnly declare/ That the unity in the Body of Christ is good./ We will do everything we can/ To work together to build the House of the Lord. (Haggai 1, 2)

We the people of God! Solemnly commit! /To pray according to God's will /Which is for a God fearing government! /To be established in our nation.

Praise, Worship and Thanksgiving.

Have a leader close the Solemn Assembly in a prayer, committing God's people under the blood of Jesus and to His care.



A ministry of the PNG National Community Transformation Network
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