

“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,” Acts 3:19



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. ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!” Ezekiel 18:30, 32



LEADER'S PRAYER

Oh LORD our God, the Most High God who made heaven and earth, Today we come as the leaders of the nation of Papua New Guinea. We acknowledge that it has been your invisible hand that has guided us, that it has been you who has protected us from threats from without and within, because you have been gracious to the people of Papua New Guinea we continue as a sovereign nation. So today we come to humble ourselves before you and to confess our sins and the sins of the people of Papua New Guinea. There is nothing hidden from you, all of our sins are laid bare before you. Please hear our cry today and be merciful to us Oh LORD.

We confess that even though we call this a Christian Nation, we have continued to follow other gods, the gods of our ancestors, or even the gods that foreigners have brought to our nation. In doing so, our sins of idolatry are great before you. In Exodus 20:2 you commanded "You must not have any god before me". Today please forgive us and cleanse us by blood of your son Jesus. Today we reconfirm our covenant with you as the Only God Of this Nation.

We confess that it is you that has placed us in positions of leadership, but often we have abused our power and not led the people by a Godly example according to your Word. Often we have been prideful and selfish and not lived a life of sacrifice for the good of our people, which is at the heart of true leadership. We have put our own agenda ahead of the nation's agenda. Your word in Matthew 23:11 tells us that "the greatest among you will be your servant." Please forgive us for our pride, and cleanse us by the blood of your son Jesus. Please O Lord help us to remember that we are you servants and that we serve the people of Papua New Guinea and help us to live lives of humility.

We confess that over the last 39 years we have not often consulted you as the supreme authority of this nation for your wisdom and we have not really understood your purposes for this nation. We have employed experts from around the world to advise us, who are not led by your Holy Spirit and so we have failed in many of our undertakings. You tell us in your word in Jeremiah 33:3 to "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Because we do not seek you, many of our decisions are not based upon on your

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.

Even while the Prime Minister was signing, in many places around the country, people were involved in idolatry, witchcraft and every form of wickedness and so we broke the 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 former 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.

How do we keep this covenant?

- 1) **We need to educate the people about the covenant.**
- 2) **There is no other way to keep this covenant than to call Papua New Guinea to repentance.** 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.
- 3) **Renewing or Remember the Covenant Yearly.** Just like the children of Israel needed to be reminded of their covenant, so on August 26 each year is our day to remember our covenant with the Lord our God.

Why Is National Repentance So Important?

- 1) **God's Purposes.** 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 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.
- 3) **God's Promises.** 2 Chronicles 7:14 holds a great promise for the nation of Papua New Guinea. 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.
- 4) **God's Pattern.** God's pattern for national healing and even revival is laid down in Joel 2. Firstly, the nation is called to repentance, Secondly, as a result of repentance, God has pity on the people and the land is restored to maximum fruitfulness. Lastly, comes an outpouring of God's spirit on the people of the nation.
- 5) **God's Deliverance.** 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. (Zechariah 12:10-13:2.)
- 6) **Our Covenant With The God Of Israel.** Sir Michael Somare signed a covenant with the God of Israel, making Him also the God of Papua New Guinea. Because we have not kept this covenant, and have continued to serve other gods as well as break his commands, we as a nation are required to repent and make ourselves right with our God.

THE COVENANT

On August 26, 2007, our Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare signed a covenant with the Most High God, the God of Israel.

What is a covenant? A covenant is a contract or a legally binding agreement which has spiritual as well as physical consequences; if it is honored it brings blessing, but if broken it brings ruin.

What does this covenant mean to Papua New Guinea?

Papua New Guinea's covenant with God is just like the covenant that God made with Abraham. In Genesis 17:7 God said to Abraham ***"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 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."*** In Genesis 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 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. 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,"***

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.

What are the consequences of breaking this covenant?

The consequences of breaking the covenant are very clear. 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.*** See also Deuteronomy 28:15-69, Deuteronomy 29:14-27

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

word and are not made with your wisdom. We have even gone as far as to consult mediums and sorcerers on national affairs. Please forgive us. Proverbs 9:10 declares that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" but we have gone our own way and we are sorry, please forgive us, and cleanse us by the blood of your son Jesus. Please O Lord help us to continually keep your Word before us and please help us to persistently seek wisdom from you.

Today we confess our sins of bribery, collusion, fraud, misappropriation and every kind of corruption. Corruption has eaten away at the very fabric of our society until it has affected everyone in the nation at one level or another. At times we have been tempted to fill our pockets by unrighteous means, and yet your word says in Ecclesiastes 7:7 "Extortion turns a wise man into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart". Please forgive us for our corrupt ways and cleanse us by the blood of Jesus. Please O Lord, help us to say no to any kind of corruption and help us to conduct our affairs with utmost integrity.

We confess that we have not been faithful to our wife or husband and have been involved in immoral relationships, in doing so we have been unfaithful to you. Please forgive us for our lust and sexual immorality and cleanse us by the blood of Jesus. Please help us O Lord to say no to temptations of any kind and remain faithful to our spouse.

We confess that on occasion we have deliberately deceived one another, that we have not told the truth to our constituents and the people of this nation. We confess that we have made promises to the people which we have not kept. Please forgive us for lying and cleanse us by the blood of Jesus. Father please help us to speak the truth at all times because you hate lying lips, but you delight in men who are truthful (Proverbs 12:22).

O Lord our sins are too great for us to count at this time. Please continue to convict us of our wrong doing and expose our sin. "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 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." (Daniel 9:18,19)

O Lord please forgive the sins of us the leaders of Papua New Guinea and please forgive the sins of the people of Papua New Guinea. Please cleanse us by the blood of your son Jesus and turn your face again toward us and show your favour to the nation of Papua New Guinea.

Amen!!

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

In both the ministries of John the Baptist as well as Jesus Himself, the very first words in public were *“Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.”* (Matthew 3:2, 4:17)

There are three words that may help us understand what and what repentance is not.

Regret – regret is what you feel that you have done against yourself. These are things that you wish you wouldn’t have done or wrong decisions that you wish that you wouldn’t have made. In fact if you could do it all over again, you would do things differently. This is not repentance.

Remorse – remorse is what you feel that you have done to others. These are either words or actions that you have said or done to someone and now you are so sorry and apologetic to the person you did them to. This is not repentance.

Repentance – True Repentance is what you know that you have done to God. True repentance happens when we begin to understand that what we have done and said has hurt God who is our Father.

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

2 Corinthians 7:10

Repentance deals with three main areas of our lives.

1) Our Minds.

The Greek word for “Repent” actually means *to have second thoughts or to change your mind*. When we come to repentance, we find that God is much better than we thought, and we also find that we are much worse than we thought. Some people know that they are sinners and are quite content to remain so, but when they have a clear understanding of who they are and who God is, then they begin to change their mind about wanting to continue in their sinful lifestyle.

2) Our Mouths

1John 1:9 *‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.’* It is very necessary to confess our sins to God in repentance in order for forgiveness to be received.

Our responsibility

We are taking responsibility for our sins when we confess them. It is time for us as individuals to begin to take responsibility for our own actions; When we come before God, their is no more finger pointing, but rather we admit that it is our fault.

3) Our Actions

In Luke 3:10 John the Baptist makes a powerful statement. He says *‘produce fruit in keeping with repentance.’* In other words, if you have repented, it is not just enough that there have been tears or that the person is sorry for what you have done; there must be actions or deeds in your life that clearly show that you have repented. John the Baptist goes on to tell the crowd *“If you have too many clothes, then give some away. If you have been cheating in your finances, stop it. If you are abusing your power and are intimidating people, stop it. Stop grumbling and be content with your wages.”* (my paraphrase) There must be an outward change if there truly is inward repentance



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, KSt.J.