



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Invited to join a spiritual battle

Rob and Win Thomson, New Zealanders, previously worked in Papua New Guinea with Global Interaction. Late in 2007 they re-visited the country.

For the past two decades the people of this area have been greatly troubled by tribal fighting. Hundreds of deaths have occurred and hundreds more have sustained serious injuries. Resulting from the fighting many schools have been closed and some destroyed as have medical facilities, hundreds of houses burned and cash crops destroyed. Education for many has ceased, medical help for others has become inaccessible and economic progress has suffered badly.

Police and politicians have shown very little inclination to get involved in resolving issues, often leaving the Church and local community leaders the only ones trying to bring peace.

Local conflicts eventually cease and reconciliations are arrived at, but no sooner is one conflict resolved than another begins so that over the past two decades the whole area has been at peace for only short periods of time. The conclusion drawn by the church leadership is that there is a deep underlying spiritual issue that constantly incites the people to fight and kill. The issue involves strong and powerful demon spirits who have become established in the area from ancient times

Because we have been involved in spiritual warfare ministry for some years, the church leaders of this region where Baptist Churches are established asked us to come and help them understand the spiritual issues driving the fighting and to help them devise strategies that would evict the demonic forces and allow them to establish peace and prosperity once more.





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Warfare – physical and spiritual

Rob and Win Thomson, New Zealanders, previously worked in Papua New Guinea with Global Interaction. Late in 2007 they re-visited the country.

In the Lumusa, Kompiam, Kumbareta and Kwinkya areas, tribal warfare has caused much pain and many killings. In each of the centres, Rob and Win Thomson and a team of pastoral leaders followed the same program. At each place from 300 to 150 leaders attended.

The first two days of the seminar was taken up teaching the principles of spiritual warfare. Included was teaching about Satan, Jesus and demons. Time was also spent in worship, honouring God for his victory over Satan.

On the third day, participants prepared themselves for spiritual action, spending time in public confession. The Holy Spirit moved amongst the group as with tears and deep humility broken relationships with God and each other were restored.

The participants also identified where the “blood sites” were in the region. These were places where people had been murdered, places where there were clusters of killings and surrounding which people frequently experienced crop failure, relationship breakdown and failure in business enterprises.

The fourth day was action day. One team remained at the base, where the members fasted and prayed for the teams which had gone to the selected locations. Those teams went to the “blood sites” and there read scriptures, prayed, anointed the ground and challenged the demon spirits, so “redeeming” the land which had been cursed. When the last team reported in, the whole group had a great time of praise and thanksgiving. While recognising that the spiritual challenge to evil needs to continue, the teams recognised that great progress was made. National leaders will continue to claim the victory in Jesus.





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Needed: Bibles

Rob and Win Thomson, New Zealanders, previously worked in Papua New Guinea with Global Interaction. Late in 2007 they re-visited the country.

Rob and Win wrote,

It was very encouraging to see the extent to which the Enga Bible is being used. Everywhere we went people were using the Enga Bible. Many of the Bibles are in a very sad state from constant use and in need of repair and replacing. However, from the inquiries I made, new Bibles are now unavailable and there are no plans for reprinting. I believe this needs urgent attention. On several occasions people spoke to us about this and their deep desire to have the Enga Old Testament completed. In my opinion it would be a good time to do a revision of the completed Bible. It is over thirty years since the New Testament was released – the language has moved on and a few young men who are fluent in English say there are some parts of the present Bible that do not accurately convey the true meaning of the text.

The first two years of primary school in Papua New Guinea is in the vernacular. In the third year, a transition is made into English. In these three years of elementary school there is a huge need for vernacular text. A vernacular Bible could well fill this gap.





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The Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea (BUPNG)

Rob and Win Thomson, New Zealanders, previously worked in Papua New Guinea with Global Interaction. Late in 2007 they re-visited the country.

We were astonished at the growth of the BUPNG. They now employ in excess of twenty full time staff as well as many more part time and volunteer staff. They have established a reputation of integrity, innovation and vision and because of this they are attracting large amounts of aid money from a number of countries and are using it wisely to advance the communities in which they work.

Programs they run now include:

Church Ministries	evangelism, leadership training, Bible training, women's ministry, youth ministry, children's ministry, missions.
Education	30 plus elementary and primary schools, one high school (plans for three more)
Community Development	agriculture and trade business
Medical	three hospitals, numerous medical centres and aid posts, nursing school
HIV/AIDS	AIDS awareness programs
Water and Sanitation	rural clean water schemes
Administration	management

The BUPNG headquarters complex in Mt. Hagen is abuzz with activity all the time. They have a great team of many capable people led by John Kaewa, a great man of outstanding ability. We were so grateful to be under John's leadership and to be so ably assisted by his staff and given the use of their facilities.

