



# COLLEGE NEWS



News of the Christian Leaders' Training College of Papua New Guinea Inc.

August 2022



## A New Beginning at CLTC

by Nathaniel Pulayasi

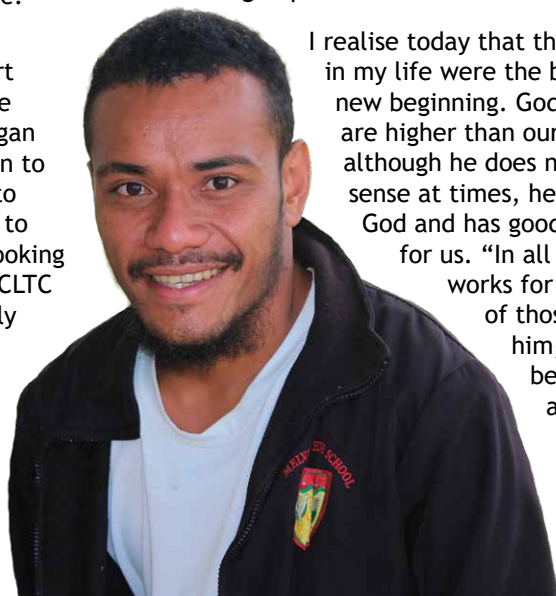
As a child growing up in a Christian environment, I was encouraged to dream high to pursue a bright future. However, my dreams faded as doors of opportunity were shut in my face. I received a scholarship to study in China, but my agent died a few months before I was meant to travel, and the inability to obtain the documents he was working on meant I could not go. That day I got on my knees and with tears asked God, "What have I done wrong? Why is the current always against me?"

I left home and went to live with a relative in Port Moresby. The couple were faithful believers and began to influence me. A passion to know God's word began to form in my heart. I went to the Christian bookshop looking for books. A graduate of CLTC recommended that I apply to study at CLTC.

Coming to CLTC was not what I dreamed in my childhood but the hand of God closing

other doors and opening this one was evident. "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21).

My three years in the Advanced Diploma of Community Transformation program has been a great adventure for me. I have been exposed to extraordinary knowledge that has the potential of bringing transformation to the lives of people and communities. I have seen glimpses of where God is taking me to.



I realise today that the shut doors in my life were the birth of a new beginning. God's ways are higher than our ways, and although he does not make sense at times, he remains God and has good purposes for us. "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28).

## Post-Graduate Women

CLTC is excited to have six women in the MTh program this year, making up almost half of the class.

CLTC has for a long time had a concern to train women for Christian ministry. The College requires that students come with their families and that the wife, whether illiterate or well educated, should study at least part-time to the level she is capable of.

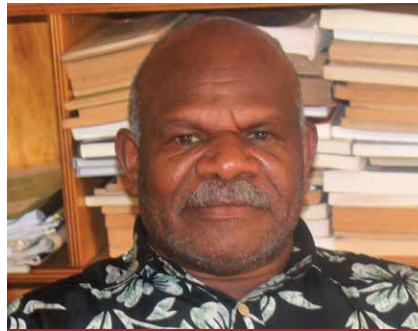
CLTC has a separate certificate program for the less educated wives, but more of the wives are now able to study at diploma and degree levels. It is not uncommon to see husband and wife sitting together in class.

# CLTC – kept by God’s grace alone

Despite the effects of Covid-19, the collapse of our agribusiness, and the resulting financial difficulties, we have completed first semester well. Students continue to be equipped to serve God and fulfil his purposes for them. This is a telling factor that defines who we are.

Many of our staff have chosen to become unsalaried volunteers for the last six months and have remained committed to the ministry of the College. I hope and believe that these financial difficulties have helped and shaped us to be who we are and who we will be in the future. This will also shape us to find the right words to bless and encourage those around us who are caught up in similar situations.

The second semester is approaching, and it is natural for some of us to be anxious, especially when we have unmet expectations, unreached goals and unfulfilled dreams. I would like to remind us of the important things, like the gift of life, the gift of being surrounded by our lovely



**From the Principal  
Dr Maxon Mani**

*Greetings to all our generous supporters in the ministry of Jesus Christ at CLTC.*

friends and families, the gift of love and so on. Please think about these immeasurable gifts we have and be thankful at all times. If not for grace, where would we be? There have been so many problems during the course of this semester – financial needs, suspension of payroll, collapse of our agribusiness, and many other disappointments – but here we are untouched, kept by

God’s grace alone. Let our hearts be glad, let us rejoice, for our God reigns and he is able to keep us in the coming semester. We have a blessed assurance that having been kept this far, we will be kept till the year ends and the coming year will meet us in peace.

*“Let our hearts be glad, let us rejoice, for our God reigns and he is able to keep us in the coming semester.”*

To our many friends and supporters, please continue to pray for us to bounce back financially and finish the school year well. We look forward to celebrating and giving thanks to God for his continued provision, covering and kindness. Friends like you made this semester worthwhile. Your ongoing partnership in the ministry of CLTC to the Pacific Islands is invaluable and we are grateful to you all.

## Is the Covid Vaccination the “Mark of the Beast”?

**A key reason for the low uptake of Covid vaccination in Papua New Guinea is the thinking that the vaccination is the Mark of the Beast (Rev 13:11-18). CLTC is helping to counter this thinking in partnership with Oil Search Foundation.**

Oil Search Foundation is the humanitarian arm of the Oil Search company and provides health and other services in three provinces of PNG. They sought to provide Covid vaccinations, but the people were resistant. They brought in medical experts to convince the people, but they were not convinced because the pastors were teaching that it was the

“Mark of the Beast”. The people are deeply religious and believe a pastor more than a medical person. So, they then asked CLTC, as theological consultants, to give a Biblical perspective on the issue.

From April to July, the Principal and three other senior faculty have made different trips to educate people about biblical teaching as it relates to the Covid vaccination. More than a thousand pastors and church leaders were instructed in how to interpret passages, and thus how to understand vaccination from a more biblical perspective.

What surprised the faculty was the

level of biblical illiteracy. Dr Maxon said: “A failure to understand the original context of the Bible verses is the reason most church leaders ran to social media to learn from half-baked and misinformed conspiracies. **Much of the preaching has come from what they learn on social media.** In-depth scriptural teaching is not there.”

Faculty have taught how the book of Revelation was written when Christians were being persecuted for giving exclusive allegiance to Christ. The Mark of the Beast had the function of preventing Christian worship. Therefore, because the Covid vaccination does not interfere with the expression of our Christian faith it cannot be the Mark of the Beast.

Many of the pastors have repented of their views about vaccination. The need to train church leaders to “handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15) continues to be an urgent task. Dr Maxon also thinks that the current opportunity will lead to CLTC having a wider role in addressing issues affecting the people of PNG.



Health workers in Gulf Province who received instruction on the biblical perspective on vaccinations as well as medicine generally.



## Restructuring for Viability

When the CLTC's poultry business collapsed last year, the College lost half of its income. Plus, a large debt was incurred in an effort to try to maintain production. But bankruptcy is not an option because of the College's essential ministry of training Christian leaders.

Earlier in the year the Provincial government designated a substantial amount of money to the College which would have enabled the poultry program to continue, but unfortunately that was not released before the election season began, and now may have disappeared.

Since April, there have been no salaries paid to staff and workers. But the majority of staff have committed to continue to work as volunteers for as long as it takes to remedy the financial situation. Donors have generously given money for a food allowance for staff who have remained.

The education programs have continued to effectively train pastors, community development workers and Christians in the workplace. Morale among the student body remains high.

Steps are being taken to restructure the College for long term viability. These include:



The CLTC hatchery is currently not operating.



CLTC has raised 3,000 new birds which are now producing table eggs for sale.

1. Greater separation of the education and business arms of the College.
2. Reactivating the poultry business with the help of two investors.
3. Maximising income from property rentals, farm sales, and other operations.
4. The sale of some assets to pay debts.
5. Utilising online learning to a greater extent to build student numbers and reduce staff costs in the urban campuses.
6. Moving to a cloud-based accounting software that will allow for up-to-date reporting.

The Australian Advisory Council and the New Zealand Support Group

have been active to raise finances and assist with restructuring plans. A group comprising Garth Morgan, Gordon Mock, and David Drummond are helping to restart the poultry business. Another group comprising Graham Burt, Maxon Mani, Ewan Stilwell and Garth Morgan are helping with the finance issues. Phil Tait and Russell Thorp are involved in developing proposals for governance and businesses. Jason Masters, a business manager, is visiting Banz to give practical help.

**Please pray for the College as it goes through this difficult time.** Pray that it would be able to clear its debt and develop a viable financial structure for the future. Pray for wisdom for the Principal, Maxon and others involved, but ultimately for God's supply for his ministry. Thank God for many who have given generously already to keep the College going.

***If you would like to give towards restoring the College business, or sponsor students through their training, or contribute to other projects, contact one of the offices listed at the end of the newsletter.***



Jersey Kesa (Water and Energy Project Officer) is installing solar panels on top of the library.

## Solar Project Stage 3

For the last two years the College has benefited from the electrical supply from 480 solar panels. The panels and inverters for Stage Three arrived at CLTC in March. This involves another 560 panels. Of these, 120 panels have been installed on the library roof. Work is currently underway to install panels on top of the TEE office building.

The College should be able to run fully on solar during daylight hours once stage three panels are installed. The final stage is to acquire batteries for supply during the night. Money is being raised for this. This will allow the College to run completely off grid and without much use of generators. Not only will it save a huge amount of money, but will also protect College equipment by providing a continuous and stable supply.

# Charlie Mumu

Student Testimony



## Finding home and true purpose at CLTC

As the only son, I was favoured by my parents and did well in school. I had a promising future but could not settle in a particular job.

After marrying Julie and having our first child, I was challenged to search for the true purpose of my life in Christ. The Baptist Union sent me for training as a water artisan and I travelled to different communities to serve them by bringing clean water to their villages.

I began to depend more on God as part of a holistic ministry to targeted communities. I also became the youth leader in my church and assisted the pastor in leading the musical team in our church. But over those years, I still felt there was a vacuum in me that had not been filled.

God had now blessed us with five



Charlie and Julie Mumu, from the Baiyer River (WHP), with their five children at CLTC.

children, and I became a part-time public vehicle driver to put bread and butter on the table.

A student from CLTC was doing his internship in my area. He asked me: "Bro, how are you going on with your life?" My answer was, "Brother, I need to run away from this world. Can you help me?" He arranged

all necessary documents for me to apply to CLTC.

Now that I am here at CLTC I feel that I am really home. CLTC is a blessing to me and my family and we owe it all to the Lord. I have a dream, that one day, I will be a blessing to my people as he fulfils the true purpose of my life.



IT team, comprising Kuo Sevenifa (Manager), Daniel Mango and Caleb Bosuk.

## The IT Team

The College has depended to a greater extent on its IT team with the need to utilise remote teachers during the Covid years, and with online components being introduced to supplement the classroom teaching.

As well as some video conferencing, students access learning resources online, do quizzes, and upload reports to the learning management system.

Caleb Bosuk has joined the team this year. He grew up at CLTC. His father was the CLTC chaplain for many years and remains on campus as the Executive Secretary for the Evangelical Association of PNG. Caleb brings to the team a lot of expertise in maintaining and fixing our IT equipment. Because our computers are mostly old, this is a continuous need.

Please consider supporting CLTC. For more information contact the CLTC office in your country (see page 4).

Bank details: **Aust:** CLTC, Westpac, BSB 033107 Acc No. 23 1483 — **NZ:** CLTC, Westpac, 03 0155 0347818 003

*Send an email to Aust/NZ office to advise of your donation.*

Would you like to RECEIVE College News or Prayer Notes BY EMAIL?

If so, please send an email to the CLTC contact in your country (addresses below).



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