



# COLLEGE NEWS



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

December 2021



The chief nursing officer, Wanure Susuke, has been giving COVID vaccinations at the College clinic.



Wearing masks on campus is required but they are not always worn properly.

## The Challenges of the Pandemic

Papua New Guinea is facing another surge of COVID-19 and this is having a major impact on CLTC. Sadly, CLTC lost one of its senior staff to the virus. Bill Mondo, manager of the building and engineering departments, died in October. His passing leaves a big gap in the College.

There are no accurate figures for COVID deaths in Papua New Guinea but many of the hospitals are full to overflowing with positive cases. In Port Moresby recently, authorities were forced to use a mass grave.

Vaccination rates are only about 2 percent of the population. The rollout of vaccines has been hindered by an inadequate health system and a fear of the vaccination itself. Social media has aggravated this fear among people who don't fully understand the nature of vaccines.

Some of the College staff have been vaccinated, but others are reticent. Some were vaccinated earlier in the year at Kudjip Hospital. More recently our clinic has been authorised to provide the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. So far only 42 from the College community have received it from the clinic and none from the surrounding community.

Staff and students are required to wear masks on campus, and some social distancing is being maintained. The traditional handshake greeting is no longer practised.

***“A positive side to the pandemic has been the development of online training.”***

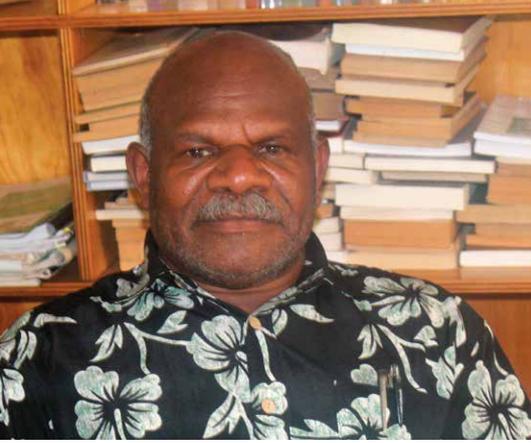
CLTC has continued to run classes despite the pandemic. Recently Port Moresby campus shut for a week because a teacher had a positive diagnosis for COVID. The graduation will go ahead at Banz, but with a limited number of visitors. The graduation service is held outside, which makes it a safer event. In Lae, they have chosen to graduate each student individually in their own churches. This will allow for the student's accomplishment to be recognised by each congregation and also give opportunity to promote the work of the College in these churches.

A positive side to the pandemic has been the development of online

training. Expatriate teachers who have been unable to visit PNG since March last year, have been teaching using video conferencing. This term, BTh students from Banz and Port Moresby have combined in a course taught by Phil Tait from New Zealand. Next year it is hoped that all three campuses may be able to do some courses together.

The College business has suffered because of COVID. In recent months we have not been permitted to sell our chicks and eggs in Goroka, which is a big market for our produce, and have not been able to import sufficient new stocks of breeder hens from New Zealand to keep up our normal production. Our Guest House, which usually hosts a lot of outside groups, has hardly been used and has not generated any income for the College.

Despite the struggles, the College is grateful that more lives have not been lost and that CLTC has kept afloat despite the financial pressures. Please continue to pray that God would protect the College and enable it to continue to proclaim His name throughout Melanesia.



# From the Principal Dr Maxon Mani

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

## CLTC – kept by God’s grace alone

What a privilege it is to be able to complete the school year 2021.

Despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the college – the restrictions, the lockdowns, the scares, interruption of classes, and the disruption to our support programs – we are making it toward the end of the year.

Many of us have had a difficult year with illness, loss of loved ones, and isolation due to COVID-19. I hope and believe that these happenings have helped and shaped us to be who we are and who we will be in the year to come. These will also shape us to find the right words to bless and encourage those around us who are caught up in similar situations.

The final quarter of the year is exciting as we have witnessed our BTh and MTh students successfully completing their research projects. The final five weeks are also marked

by our graduating student retreats, and we are looking forward to all the special events in the remainder of the school year leading up to our 54th graduation.

*“Please continue to pray  
for us to finish the school  
year well.”*

December 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 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? So many problems during the course of this year, so many deaths because of

COVID-19, so many 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 years. We have a blessed assurance that having been kept this far, God will be with us till the year ends and in the coming year will keep us in peace.

To our many friends and supporters – OCA, ARDFA, AAC, NZ Support Group, USA, LeaDev-Langham, churches in Australia and NZ, and individuals – please continue to pray for us to finish the school year well, and in all the special events that we are looking forward to celebrating, may give thanks to God for His continued provision, covering and kindness. Friends like you have made this year worthwhile. Your ongoing partnership in the ministry of CLTC to the Pacific Islands is invaluable and we are grateful to you all.

**Please consider supporting a student at CLTC.** For more information contact the CLTC office in your country (see bottom of 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.*

## Please Pray for CLTC

- **Pray for CLTC finances.** The College poultry business is struggling because of the COVID situation. There is also need for reinvestment in the poultry infrastructure, particularly layer sheds.
- **Pray for the College to be re-accredited by the PNG government.** Our accreditation expires in March next year and our application papers and supporting documents (about 1,000 pages) need to be submitted by the end of the year.
- **Pray that new faculty would be able to travel to the College from overseas** – John and Julie from Vanuatu and Frederick and Riffat from Pakistan. Also pray that students from the Solomon Islands would be able to come next year and that others would be able to travel to PNG to help with teaching and technical services.
- **Pray for the thousands of CLTC graduates throughout the South Pacific,** that they would be zealous for the Gospel and be light and salt to the world.
- **Praise God for 56 years of His enabling and providence in the work of CLTC.**



*Men at Banz campus ready to graduate this year.*



*Lae students during the graduating students' retreat.*

## Graduating Students' Retreats

A CLTC tradition is for graduating students to have a weekend retreat in November as a time of fellowship, celebration and challenge. Around 70 students have completed their programs and will graduate in December. The programs range from Certificate of Bible and Ministry to Master of Theology. In addition, many hundreds have completed Theological Education by Extension courses through the year.

In Lae the eight students finishing the Advanced Diploma of Ministry program had a retreat at the PNG World Mission Training base. This ministry is led by Tema Manko a former CLTC staff member. Simon Minigamba, the speaker, encouraged them to listen to and obey the Word of God in life and ministry.

At the main Banz campus, 32 graduating men received encouragement from the Principal, Dr Maxon Mani, and the Dean of Post-Graduate Studies, Dr George Mombi. They were urged to look to the example of Jesus. As they prepare to graduate and walk up on stage in public view in their gown and colourful hood, they were encouraged to follow Jesus in their ministry by 'removing their outer garment and symbols of status', and to take a bowl and towel and 'walk down into people's broken lives' in humility.

There were 22 students at the graduating women's retreat. Damaris Misha (Dean of Student Wives) and Jenny Tobul spoke to the women. The theme was divine appointments. Sometimes disappointments can be



*Simon Minigamba conducting a foot-washing ceremony with Lae graduating students.*



*Graduating students in discussion together as part of their retreat.*

divine appointments. Both groups at Banz finished their retreat by celebrating the Lord's supper together.

Please pray for these students as they leave the College and return to their churches and home places. In some cases, the churches have a ministry assignment for them. Others will be seeking God's direction for their lives. Pray that they would faithfully serve God with the knowledge and skills they have acquired at CLTC.



*Graduating women gather on Vision Hill as part of their retreat.*

# Oswald and Meia

Student Testimony

## Longing to study God's Word

Oswald and Meia are both trained teachers who felt God's call to study at CLTC. They met at the University of Goroka and in 2017 they married and graduated together, with a Bachelor of Education. At CLTC they are again studying together. They are currently doing a one-year Graduate Diploma of Theology and have been accepted to join the Master of Theology program next year.

They taught for three years at a remote school in the East Sepik. They enjoyed the teaching and being paid but neither of them was satisfied. They both had questions about who they were and what God's purpose was for their lives. Oswald says: "I was longing to study and know God's word. I needed to study and know God's word to find answers to my questions. One of my colleagues introduced CLTC to me, and from that moment I felt that my prayer was answered. Without any second thought we left everything and came to CLTC, eager to learn about God and ourselves."

Meia says: "I always thank God that I am here, learning things. It is like a new discovery. In our first week of orientation, we attended the morning service. The songs, the feeling made me break into tears. I could not stop my tears. And at that moment I knew what was missing in me. God is faithful and we have seen His goodness, love and care every day here in CLTC."

Oswald is from East Sepik and Meia is from Manus Island. Previously Oswald had a background with the AOG church and Meia with the Catholic Church, but as a family they fellowshiped with the South Seas Evangelical Church. The church has recommended them, but they are self-sponsoring with financial assistance coming mostly from parents.

Meia's prayer and desire had been to find a Christian husband, because she did not want to fall into the trap of family violence that she had experienced in her upbringing. She didn't want her children to experience an unstable home.



Oswald, Meia and Jasunard Wanga, students at Banz campus.

Meia and Oswald have a three-year old son, Jasunard. Currently he is in the creche during class times and will join the kindergarten next year. He enjoys having many other kids on campus to play with.

Oswald says: "We have a strong conviction and passion to work with people in our own societies to help them know Christ. This is what our future ministry will be. Being here in CLTC is to know our calling so that we can make the best decisions to achieve God's purpose in our lives."



Staff from the CLTC Port Moresby campus meeting with leaders of the Young Missionary Alliance.

## Partnerships in Port Moresby

The Port Moresby campus is strategically located in the capital city and has opportunity to partner with a number of organisations to help equip Christian leaders.

The staff of the Port Moresby campus recently had a one-day retreat with the leaders of Young Missionary Alliance. This organisation seeks to recruit university students for integral mission and exposure to long-term rural outreaches.

The younger retreat participants were inspired by stories of CLTC's past successes, including a stronger connection to nearby University of PNG. The older participants were encouraged by the passion of the present generation to carry the mission into the future.

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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