



## Remembering a Courageous Pioneer

Contributed by David Price and John Hitchen, also former principals of CLTC

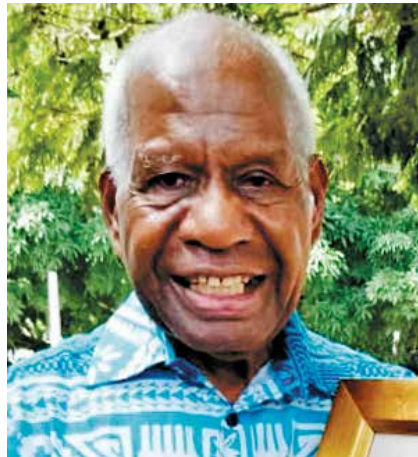
**Rev. Dr. Joshua Kurung Daimoi** - CLTC's first Melanesian faculty member, first Melanesian and longest serving principal, and only principal emeritus - was quietly called home to God's presence on 4th September. His service to CLTC over five decades will be remembered for the courage he demonstrated in pioneering leadership, milestone initiatives, and extensive contributions to the wider community. His personal character will be remembered for consistent, unswerving faith, and for wise counsel to so many leaders in and out of CLTC.

Born in 1942 in Sorsirih Village, Sentani, in what was then Dutch New Guinea, Joshua was the eldest of seven children. After he had completed secondary school in 1958, the Dutch Government sent him for medical studies in Port Moresby, where he came to faith in Christ through the ministry of Boroko Baptist Church.

One day, walking alone in the street, Joshua heard a voice from behind him say, "What about the others?" He accepted this experience as a call to change from medical studies to Christian ministry. He was given the opportunity to study at Baptist Theological College (now Morling College) in Sydney. While there, he met CLTC's founding principal, Gilbert McArthur. In 1968, unable to return home due to the Indonesian invasion of West Papua, Joshua accepted a call to become the first Melanesian faculty member of CLTC.

In 1970, Joshua married Mone Yapo of Baiyer River, Western Highlands Province. They were blessed with three children, Bradley, Mason and Evelyn. Tragically, Bradley drowned while on a high school retreat in Madang.

After three years' teaching at



*Rev. Dr. Joshua Kurung Daimoi*

CLTC, in 1970 Joshua was called to be the Pastor at Tokarara Baptist Church, Port Moresby, then Executive Secretary of the Bible Society from 1974 to 1979.

Joshua completed a Master of Theology in Missiology at Fuller School of World Mission in 1983, and a Ph.D. at Sydney University in 2004.

These education and leadership opportunities gave Joshua a wide ministry experience across Papua New Guinea and overseas, that he could bring to a succession of leadership roles in CLTC. In 1983 he returned to take up the role of Vice Principal of CLTC. He was appointed National Principal, serving from 1984 to 1991, and 1997 to 2005.

In his long career with the College, Joshua played a major role in developing the curriculum from its initial Certificate level, through the Diploma and Bachelor's levels, and finally to the Master's level. At each level Joshua not only shared in the design of the new programs, particularly ensuring their cultural relevance, but he was also the first Melanesian to teach at each new level.

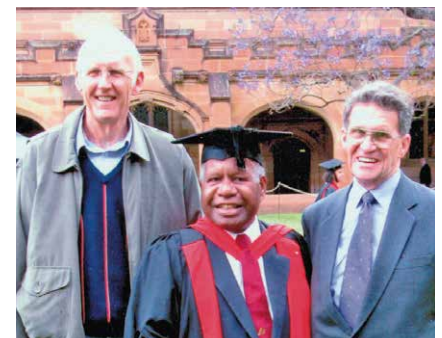
From 2012 to 2018, Joshua served as senior pastor of Boroko Baptist

Church, where he had accepted Christ so many years before. In 2015, Papua New Guinea conferred on Joshua the high award of Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu for his lifetime of achievement and service.

Beyond his central theological education contributions, Joshua gave outstanding leadership in helping the nation's churches and Christian organizations to understand each other and work together. Always at the cutting edge of trends and movements influencing the international Christian Church, Joshua showed mature skill and discernment in relating those global developments to the real needs and situation in the Papua New Guinea context.

Joshua's exemplary scholarship, penetrating teaching, self-effacing leadership, and consistent personal integrity have made him an outstanding model for successive generations of students at CLTC. He has modelled for us God's words to a previous Joshua (Jos. 1:8-9) in that he was careful to obey God's word and courageous to lead and show God's presence.

As we celebrate Joshua's life, we also pray for comfort and hope for Mone and the family and for their many friends.



*Joshua accompanied by David Price (left) and John Hitchen when he graduated with his doctoral degree.*





## Farming God's Way - Organic, Feasible, Biblical

**Valeria Elel, our Community Transformation coordinator, has developed the farming curriculum to include a Biblical understanding of our relationship with Creation.**

This training in agriculture is designed to improve upon current village-level practice, while remaining thoroughly organic and feasible for the average rural farmer. It features 'Farming God's Way', a system of regenerative agronomy developed in Africa, and the FAITH Gardens system, also called 'Food Always In The Home', designed by the Baptist Church Centre in Mindanao, Philippines.

Valeria is currently the only permanent, full-time faculty member in our Advanced Diploma of Community Transformation (ADipCT) program. She coordinates a team of part-time and adjunct teachers, and she personally teaches the Farming Practice courses throughout the three years of the ADipCT curriculum. Her husband Simon is a rice production trainer and serves as crops supervisor on the College farm.

Originally from Wairiki in the Toma area of East New Britain, Valeria joined the College in 2012 as a garden and nursery supervisor. She and Simon trained at the Rabaul 'eco-tech' training centre of the Japanese Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, learning organic techniques. At the invitation of OISCA, they also completed a one-year attachment at the organization's Chubu Nippon training centre in Japan.

Valeria explains that "the vision of developing the agriculture course into a holistic perspective is to help students look back to how God created the universe, looking at how God commanded humans to look after the earth - to look after but also to help, to create for themselves, to create the eco-system into a peaceful environment, not to harm." Her aim is to show them "not just how to use agriculture as a means of generating income, or sustaining livelihood, but looking after the environment and creation: not only the environment but the eco-system as a whole."

In line with the original holistic vision of CLTC to offer agricultural and technical training alongside Biblical and theological instruction, the ADCT program shares half its courses with the Advanced Diploma of Ministry, particularly the Bible courses, and prepares students to work with the church to facilitate spiritual, social, and physical development in the wider community. With a big intake of students into the program this year, and with the possibility of developing a degree level program in Community Transformation, the College is seeking to recruit more full-time faculty for this.



Valeria Elel

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

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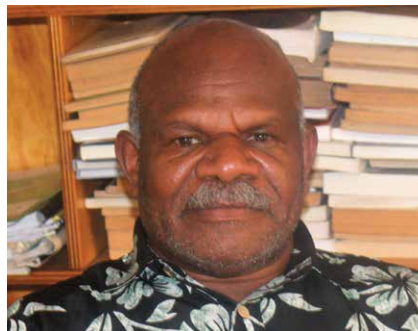
## Navigating Difficult Times

I visited the Bin Village on the Sepik River for a youth rally in 2007.

Bamboo poles were fixed deep into the river alongside each section of the village. It was amazing to watch the women from the village dive deep into the muddy river following those bamboo poles and emerge minutes later with baskets full of kina shells. The secret to their ability to find them so quickly was the bamboo poles. The bamboo poles acted as a guide and a lifeline for the divers because they could not see in the water.

Watching these Sepik River women inspired me to think about leadership, specifically how to lead when everything around you is murky. In the last three years, our experiences with COVID-19, the collapse of our support programs, and the loss of two finance managers, have felt like swimming through mud and mire.

What are the bamboo poles that God has provided to guide us through



**Principal Dr Maxon Mani**

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

***“In the midst of these difficult times the training programs have flourished.”***

this time? First is our clear mission to train leaders for the Church in the South Pacific. Second is the commitment shown by most of our staff, by working faithfully despite

the lack of full salary. Third is the considerable financial support from Australia and New Zealand to cover essential expenses and to restart the poultry business. Fourth is some key people who have dug deep to assist us and guide us through the difficult times. They have been God’s bamboo poles in the mud and mire.

What about the kina shells? They represent the quality students graduating from the College. In the midst of these difficult times the training programs have flourished. This year we have had the biggest single intake of students at Banz campus. And we could have more than 60 graduating in early December.

Psalm 40 paints a vivid picture of a leader’s trust in God: God heard his cry (v. 1), lifted him out of the mud and mire (v. 2a), set his feet on a solid rock (v. 2b), and gave him a new song of praise (v. 3). Like the Sepik River women who trusted their bamboo poles, we can trust in the Lord, the one who called us, to be our guide and lifeline.

## The ‘Big Man’ Model of Leadership

Visiting lecturer Dr. Philip Townsend led our seven first-year Master of Theology students in discussions around Melanesian models of leadership, such as the “Big Man” pattern of leading in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. They looked at these models in the light of Christian principles of leadership.

The students enjoyed rich conversations as they explored assumptions, values and beliefs from traditional worldviews. They looked at ideas in contemporary literature about leadership and tried to find insights that applied to Melanesian contexts. The group studied various biblical models and considered the significance of living as people gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Phil came to this course, ‘Christian Leadership in Melanesia’, from over



*Phil Townsend with the first year MTh students.*

two decades of experience working with the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea, mainly in Western Province. His wife Lesli, a qualified

spiritual director who teaches in a spiritual directors’ formation program in Adelaide, joined Phil for the second half of the term.

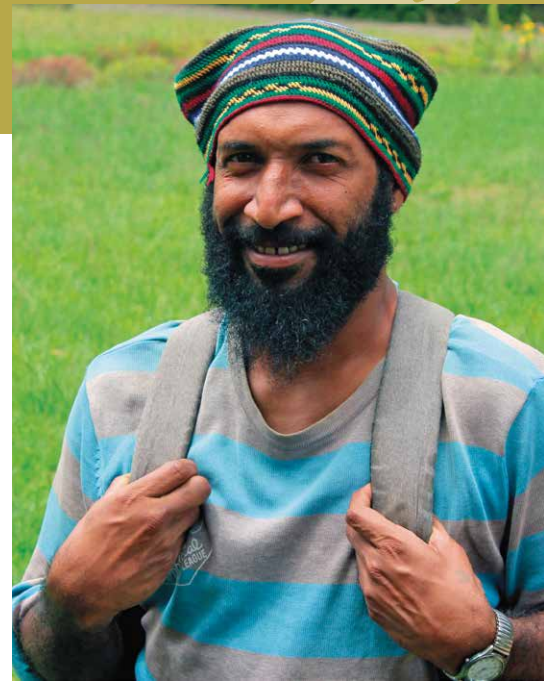
## Prepared to Teach in a Holistic Manner

I grew up in a rough community in Lae as the last of five children in a Christian family. Despite the challenges and bad influences that threatened my childhood and teenage upbringing, I always knew that God had a special plan for me in the future.

Since I missed out on a university placement, I moved to Port Moresby to find a job. Living with relatives, I moved from job to job. Seeing my discouragement, a pastor advised me to return to God. I listened and started attending church services and programs. Later I joined the youth ministry, and was engaged in teaching and evangelism. After a few years I realised that I was called to

ministry. In 2014, I resigned from my job and took up full-time ministry.

I had a strong desire for theological study, but did not see any opportunities to fulfill this desire. Then, after three years of full-time ministry, my bishop informed me that I was selected to study at CLTC. The whole education program here has transformed my life dramatically. What I have learned here is so much that I cannot fathom it all. I feel now that I am well prepared to teach God's Word and ways in a holistic manner. God's thoughts and plans for us are not to harm us but to prosper us, so that we fulfill his plan and our life's purpose (Jer 11:29).



*Contributed by Albert Siriga, who completed the Advanced Diploma of Community Transformation in 2021, and will complete the Bachelor of Theology this year. He is also the Banz campus student president.*

## Learning Together for God's Plan

I was raised by my grandparents, and it is through them that I learned about God. Because my parents had divorced, it was difficult for me in school, so I dropped out. At home, my aunt would give me application forms to fill in, but I would just throw them into the fire.

Several years later, I met the Principal of Talua Theological Training Institute and he said to me, "Before your grandfather died, he requested me to enrol you." I did not have anything to say, since it was my grandfather's request. Three years later I graduated with a Diploma and served as a youth pastor. A year later I returned for the Bachelor of Theology program.

That year I met Luisa on her home island, and we were married in 2021. She came with me to Talua. She did not have any theological training and would say to me, "I want to go back home. I do not understand anything in the class. I do not know the Bible and I find it difficult." I would encourage her by saying, "God is with us. He will help you in your studies."

One day, Pastor John Maite (a CLTC



*William and Luisa, in front of their student house.*

postgraduate alumnus) asked me, "Do you want to go to study at CLTC?" I laughed at him and said, "I don't think I am capable of going to CLTC." That night, I said to Luisa, "What do you think if we go to study at CLTC?" She looked at me confused and said, "But what do you think?" I laughed and said, "If it is God's will, he will take us there." The next time Pastor John saw me he asked me, "Have you made up your mind?" Then I said to him, "I will give it a try." So I filled in the application form and sat

the entrance test. A few weeks later, I was informed that I had passed the test and was accepted.

Early last year we travelled as far as Port Vila, but Covid-19 prevented us from continuing on to Papua New Guinea. Every day I would wake up early and pray, "God you are always faithful; you will make it possible for us to go to CLTC." After a short delay, we were able to travel to CLTC.

I am so grateful to God for allowing my wife and me to study at CLTC. I am thankful to God for what I have learned through the lectures in the MTh Program and also for the certificate program that Luisa has attended. She has a lot to say to me every day after class. She tells me about her classes and even discusses Bible passages with me. I have seen God transforming my wife in the year we have spent at CLTC.

God has brought us here to prepare us for his plan. We know that there will be challenges in the field, but God will never leave us.

*Contributed by William Popoina, who will finish the Master of Theology this year, while his wife Luisa will finish a Certificate program.*



## New Opportunities with Online Classes

In 2018 the College began to use the Moodle online learning platform to complement face-to-face teaching.

By God's grace, this was just enough of a foundation to introduce teaching through Zoom and Moodle when Covid struck in 2020. Our overseas teachers, unable to travel for face-to-face classes, picked up their teaching again using these two services. Last year we took another step and trialled a few courses taught simultaneously to classes on more than one campus.

This year we set up a "smart classroom" on the Banz campus, where lecturers teach both students with them in the classroom as well as students on the other two campuses. Overseas lecturers teach to all three locations from wherever they are located.

We have adopted this method now for most of the Bachelor of Theology and many of the upper-level Advanced Diploma courses. A survey of the urban campus students identified that they have enjoyed interacting with students across the campuses.



*Tandy Lubett teaching in the online classroom. The teacher can see the other classes on the desk monitor. Students have microphones and can communicate with the teacher as well as the other classes.*

Internet bandwidth and unreliable power still cause technical issues, so we have recently upgraded our internet bandwidth at Banz and are installing battery backups in all three campuses. This has been funded by Local Leaders International.

The online classes are opening opportunities for the College to

expand its ministry reach. There is interest from people in Goroka to establish an open campus with a smart classroom. There is a possibility of providing online teaching to some other colleges we partner with in PNG. And we are exploring how TEE can utilise new online technologies.

## Remembering 'Aunty Retta'

**After years of struggling with incapacitating illnesses, Retta Renich left this earthly body to be with her Lord.**

She is remembered fondly for her love and hospitality to staff and students, who preferred to call her 'Aunty Retta' or even 'Mother'. While her husband Bruce served in teaching and admin roles, Retta served the campus community from her welcoming home and also using her music and administrative skills. Once a year she and Bruce co-taught the Christian Marriage and Family course to the married students. While we and Retta's family mourn our loss, we celebrate her life with us and rejoice that she had such a certain hope of heaven.

Retta grew up in Australia around missionary grandparents, an aunt

who founded the organization that later became known as 'Know Your Bible', and a father trained for ministry by Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. While in the USA, Retta's father met her mother. Later Retta followed her father's footsteps back to Moody and met Bruce. They married and finished their training there in 1968.

Retta and Bruce began their life in Papua New Guinea in 1971, serving with South Sea Evangelical Mission in the Sepik. They engaged in a youth ministry program, first in Yagrumbok and then in Walahuta. Four years later they came to CLTC and taught for half a year, before returning to SSEM in the Sepik and later serving with the same mission in Australia. They accepted a call to join the CLTC faculty in 1983.



Their children - Nathan, Joshua and Michelle - spent some of their childhood in PNG. The family moved to the USA for Bruce's postgraduate study and the children's education. In 2011, Retta and Bruce returned to CLTC until Retta's medical care required them to return to the USA in 2019.



## CLTC Poultry is Back!

After a year of reinvestment, the College's poultry business is on the verge of being profitable again.

The sale of eggs, day-old chicks, and dressed poultry is now sufficient to feed the birds, grow new flocks, and pay the wages of the workers.

We project that next year the poultry business will again start supporting the education of Melanesian pastors, evangelists, and community workers.

To revive the poultry business, the College partnered with Gordon Mock, a long-term supporter of the College, and David Drummond, an international poultry consultant, and Garth Morgan, the College's founding registrar. With their advice and hard work, the College has established a new company, Farm Fresh Ltd, fully owned by CLTC.

A large outlay of capital donated from Australia and New Zealand made it possible to import young chicks from

New Zealand and to purchase feed to raise these chicks to become parent birds for new flocks. Farm Fresh has re-employed some of CLTC's previous poultry staff, and the company has taken responsibility to complete the solar power project.

David reported to the Council in September that Farm Fresh now has 28,000 laying birds producing table eggs for sale, as well as breeder hens producing 15,000 day-old chicks per week. The chicks are sold to buyers who raise them for meat. However, Farm Fresh is also experiencing severe competition from companies in Lae producing day-old chicks.

Our three partners have been travelling to Banz regularly and sharing their time generously to get the company up and running, and to get it fully established again as a profitable and sustainable business. We are grateful to these men, and to everyone who has contributed financially and in other practical ways.

## Large Early Childhood Education Certificate Class

There is a lot of interest in the Early Childhood Education Certificate with 47 in the current class.

The program was in recess during COVID. Last year we offered one course, which allowed some who started in 2018 to finish and graduate. This year we have an almost entirely new group of students.

Pearl Thorp came from New Zealand in July to teach the first course. Students then attended weekly seminars run by Mathlyn Simon and did practical work in the kindergarten supervised by Joyce Hitu. In September Marion Sanders



*Students in the Early Childhood Education Certificate program.*

from Bethlehem Tertiary Institute in New Zealand came to teach a second course. She will return in November to teach a third.

About half of the students are from the CLTC community, but there is much interest from people who are starting local kindergarten programs.

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