



CLTC Appoints Gordon Tobul as New Principal

The CLTC Council has appointed Ps Gordon Tobul as the next Principal of Christian Leaders' Training College.

Council President Rev Hengebe Himugu announced the appointment, thanking Gordon for his willingness to serve and acknowledging the support of his wife, Jenny. He encouraged Gordon with the words, *"God will continue to guide you and give you strength in this new role."*

The appointment follows Dr Maxon Mani's decision to step down as Principal so that he can pursue his passion for research and teaching in theology and public issues.

Ps Tobul brings a wealth of leadership, ministry and educational experience to the role. Since joining CLTC in 1999, he has served in a variety of positions, including Academic Dean and Acting Vice Principal, gaining the skills and insight needed to lead the College. He is also nearing completion of a Doctor of Ministry degree, further strengthening his academic and ministerial foundation.

Originally from New Hanover in New Ireland Province, Ps Tobul is married to Jenny and they have three adult children. He came to faith in Christ through the influence of his mother at the age of 21. A year later he commenced Bible training, beginning a lifelong journey of pastoral ministry. He has served for many years as a pastor and district church coordinator in the United Church and has also chaired a provincial health board and served on the boards of two schools.

Ps Tobul holds a Master of Theology from CLTC and a Postgraduate



Gordon Tobul, CLTC National Principal, son Nelson and wife Jenny.

"CLTC has a vital role in shaping leaders who will make a lasting impact in their churches and communities."

Diploma in Education from the University of Goroka. At CLTC he has taught pastoral theology, pastoral care and counselling, marriage and family life, and spiritual formation. His ministry and professional experience reflect a deep commitment to developing Christian leaders for effective service in both church and community. His Doctoral dissertation topic is: *Defining Effective Pastoral Ministry as a Basis for Ministerial Training Curricula.*

Speaking about his appointment, Ps Tobul emphasised the importance of servant leadership, noting that effective leadership is grounded in

humility, integrity and a genuine concern for people. He expressed his desire to strengthen CLTC's mission of equipping men and women for faithful ministry and leadership throughout Papua New Guinea and beyond.

"I believe leadership is about serving others and helping them grow into their God-given potential," he said. *"CLTC has a vital role in shaping leaders who will make a lasting impact in their churches and communities."*

The College also acknowledges the significant contribution of outgoing Principal Dr Maxon Mani and thanks him for his faithful leadership and dedicated service.

As CLTC enters this new chapter under Ps Tobul's leadership, the College community looks forward with confidence to continued growth, faithful ministry, and an even greater impact for God's kingdom.

A New Chapter for Dr Maxon and Esther Mani

The College recently expressed its appreciation for the faithful leadership and dedicated service of Maxon and Esther Mani. Over the past five years, Maxon has served as National Principal, while Esther has taught and provided pastoral care to the student wives at the Banz campus.

Maxon and Esther will continue to serve CLTC from the Port Moresby campus as they begin a new chapter of ministry.

Dr Mani will now focus on a long-held vision of establishing a Centre for Theology and Public Issues and developing a master's degree programme that provides biblically grounded perspectives on the key issues facing Papua New Guinea. Through this initiative, he hopes to strengthen engagement between the College, government leaders and other public institutions.

He believes that public theology should move beyond the boundaries of the church to engage thoughtfully with the social, cultural and political challenges facing the nation. Grounded in the compassionate values of the Christian faith, he envisions theology serving as both a moral compass and a practical resource, equipping Christian leaders to promote justice, peace, integrity and human flourishing throughout Papua New Guinea.



Dr Maxon and Esther Mani, moving to the Port Moresby campus.

On behalf of the College, Council President Rev Hengebe Himugu expressed sincere appreciation to Dr Maxon and Esther Mani for their tireless service and faithful leadership during the past five years – a period marked by significant challenges for the College. He thanked them for their commitment to CLTC and prayed God's blessing on their continuing ministry and future endeavours.

The Gift of People – by Maxon Mani (former Principal)

Someone once said, “The success of a story is the people in the story.” I cannot recall where I first read those words, but they capture an important truth.

As I reflect on my own life, I see how my story has been shaped by the gift of people – those who influenced my education, career, ministry, friendships and family. Their abilities, generosity, encouragement, wise counsel and sacrificial service have all helped write the story of my life.

As I reflect on CLTC's journey since its beginning in the early 1960s, I see the same truth. The College's story is, above all, a story of people. During my five and a half years of serving as Principal, I have come to appreciate even more deeply those whom God has brought alongside the College. CLTC has been richly blessed by Christian supporters who send students, raise funds, provide governance, volunteer their time, serve faithfully, teach, lead, pray, encourage and stand with us. Staff,



Student, Elisabeth Waifanasafi, hugs a stranger during ministry in Banz town.

students, families, churches, alumni and friends have all played an invaluable part in the College's story.

CLTC has faced unexpected challenges and turbulence in recent years. Yet, through it all, the remarkable gift of people has

sustained the College and ensured that its story continues. For that I am deeply grateful. I have cherished, admired, trusted and learned from the many people God has brought into this journey. They have truly been gifts from God.

Author Esther Tolu Adedibu expresses this beautifully:

“May I never see another with my eyes, but with the eyes of God. May I remember the person next to me is a gift... a gift to make me better and grow, or a gift for me to tend and nurture... and when those who appear to be thorns in my flesh are gifted to me, may I remember they are helping to shape my character and deepen my hope in God.”

What a fitting reminder of the blessing God gives through the people He places in our lives. As we continue the story of CLTC together, may we recognise, value and embrace the gift of people, for they are among God's greatest gifts to us.

CLTC Station School Achieves Primary School Status

The CLTC Station School has reached an important milestone with its successful upgrade from an elementary school to a fully recognised primary school, marking a new chapter in the College's commitment to Christian education.

The upgrade follows a rigorous approval process involving district and provincial education planning authorities, culminating in endorsement by the Provincial Education Board.

The College intends to rename the school CLTC Christian Academy, reflecting its expanded role and vision of providing high-quality Christian education to the growing population of children.

The new status will create greater educational opportunities for local families by enabling children to continue their learning in a familiar, supportive and Christ-centred environment.



Kindergarten children playing with teacher, Joyce Hitu.

Head of Schools Mrs Mathlyn Simon described the achievement as a proud moment for the school community and acknowledged the dedication of teachers, parents, school leaders and education authorities whose collaboration

made the transition possible.

"We aspire to become a leading primary school in the district and a centre of excellence where children are inspired to learn, grow and succeed," Mathlyn said.

CLTC Farm Fresh Featured in National Anniversary Story

Following Papua New Guinea's 50th Anniversary celebrations last year, efforts have continued to document stories that have made a lasting contribution to the nation's development. Among the initiatives selected is CLTC's Farm Fresh poultry project.

As part of this national media project, a production team from the Australian company Colony Group, commissioned by the Prime Minister's Department, visited the College to film the poultry operation. The team captured every stage of production, from the layer sheds where eggs are produced daily to the sorting, packaging and distribution of eggs to customers.

The documentary also highlights the wider impact of Farm Fresh. The project supplies fresh eggs to the College community, surrounding villages, and the towns of Mount Hagen and Kundiawa, making an important contribution to local



Farm Fresh manager, Charlotte Towo, explaining egg production to the media team.

food security while providing practical training and employment opportunities.

Like many businesses, Farm Fresh has faced significant challenges. During the COVID-19 pandemic, management difficulties led to a major loss of production and significant debts. Since then, the College and key partners have worked to rebuild the operation.

The inclusion of Farm Fresh in this national anniversary project recognises not only its achievements but also its resilience and ongoing contribution to Papua New Guinea. As the nation celebrates stories of innovation and community transformation, CLTC's Farm Fresh poultry project demonstrates how faith-based organisations can make a practical difference through enterprise, and collaborative investment.

Student Testimonies



Titus, Job, Faithlyn and Elizabeth Waifanasafi.

CLTC became the Reservoir of God's Living Word for My Life

Titus Waifanasafi, from the Solomon Islands and the South Sea Evangelical Church (SSEC), describes studying at CLTC as a privilege that enabled him "to know Him better" through God's Word.

Reflecting on his time at the College, he says CLTC is "*the Servant of the Churches of Melanesia*" and "*the reservoir of God's living Word*," equipping men and women for ministry across the Pacific.

For Titus, CLTC became "*a home away from home*". He remembers the support of staff and fellow students, the emphasis on academic excellence, and the quiet beauty of Vision Hill, where God strengthened his faith and clarified His calling.

Titus' journey is a remarkable testimony of God's grace. After leaving school in Grade 6, he completed his Diploma in Theology at CLTC (2004–2007), served with SSEC and Onepusu Bible College, then returned to complete his Bachelor of Theology (2014–2016). He later served as a lecturer and Dean of Students at Saura Bible College before becoming pastor of Honiara SSEC Central Church, shepherding a congregation of more than 3,000 people.

During his ministry, Titus planted five churches across the Solomon Islands and one among Indo-Fijians in Fiji, helping establish a total of eleven mission fields. He also conducted regular prison ministry and led devotional programmes for three successive Prime Ministers of the Solomon Islands.

Reflecting on these opportunities, Titus says, "*CLTC's theological programme motivated and inspired me to become a servant leader*." He believes the College equipped him not only for church ministry but also to represent Christ in the public sphere.

In 2025, Titus and his wife, Elizabeth, returned to CLTC for further study. This year, Titus graduates with a Master of Theology while Elizabeth completes her Bachelor of Theology. Together with their children, Job and Faithlyn, they express heartfelt gratitude to CLTC, supporting churches, sponsors, and friends whose partnership has made their training possible.



Colleen Grande preaching in the Banz market.

If We want Change, it Starts with Us

Colleen Gande, from Asaro in Eastern Highlands Province, is married to Siegfried Gande from Simbu Province, and together they have six grown children. A member of the Foursquare Church, she is currently studying for a Bachelor of Theology at CLTC.

Her journey to the College began after hearing a presentation by a CLTC Master's student. Encouraged by what she heard, she enrolled in the one-year Diploma of Christian Studies bridging programme in 2025 before progressing into degree-level studies.

Colleen says the courses have transformed the way she understands ministry. In particular, Advanced Bible Interpretation and Contextual Theology have helped her recognise two major challenges facing the church: sound interpretation of Scripture and the need to communicate God's truth in ways that are relevant to the Melanesian context.

She hopes to use what she has learned to help pastors in her denomination move beyond inherited Western models of ministry and embrace "*the whole gospel for both the physical and spiritual realm*."

The impact of CLTC has also been deeply personal. She says the College has strengthened her writing and presentation skills, taught her to value the contributions of others, and given her a greater appreciation of God's work in her own life. "*This institution has refined the way I think and present myself*," she reflects.

Looking ahead, Colleen is committed to serving Christ wherever He leads. Her testimony is summed up in a simple conviction: "*If we want change, it starts with us*."



Rev Ezekiel Opet speaking to students and guests during Missions Week.

Shaping Hearts for Mission

This year's Missions Week provided a conference type challenge to the College community and outside guests on the Great Commission task.

Held in June it focussed on the theme taken from Luke 5:1–11: *"From Melanesian shores to the nations: How local churches can participate in God's mission through prayer, generosity and witness."* Throughout the week, participants were encouraged and challenged by a range of guest speakers who shared from their experience in mission and ministry.

The speakers included Malcolm Watts, Director of SIM Australia; Tony Kotauga, Director of JAARS Pacific; Cheryl Floyd, Asia-Pacific Director for the Wesleyan Methodist Church; Rev Ezekiel Opet, Senior Pastor of CMFI PNG; and Stephen Hollenberg, Cross-cultural Missions Lecturer at CLTC.

Malcolm Watts opened the conference with a message titled *How Churches Can Send Well: Building Strong Partnerships for Mission*. He emphasised the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit in sending missionaries and entrusting those who are sent into God's care, drawing on Acts 13:1–5 and Acts 14:23–28.

Tony Kotauga spoke on *Every Role Matters in Mission: The Ministry of*

Financial Support, highlighting the vital role of giving in sustaining mission work. Cheryl Floyd addressed *Partnerships in Mission Across Nations and Cultures*, encouraging collaboration between churches globally. Rev Ezekiel Opet spoke on *Mobilising Ordinary Believers for Mission*, among other topics, while Stephen Hollenberg explored *Missions in Western Contexts*.

"When men and women are grounded in God's Word, they grow and become well equipped for the field. Their work becomes fruitful and multiplies."

The impact of the conference was clearly reflected in the responses of participating students.

First-year student Shedrach Joseph shared that the week encouraged and challenged him to remain committed to his relationship with God through prayer. He expressed a desire to one day take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to places where it has not yet been heard, acknowledging that such a calling cannot be fulfilled by human wisdom alone, but through dependence on God.

For Jenny Ware, a CBM student, the conference highlighted the importance of properly equipping men and women before sending them into mission. She emphasised the need for ongoing support through prayer and financial partnership, noting that such support strengthens missionaries to effectively carry the Gospel to unreached areas. *"When men and women are grounded in God's Word, they grow and become well equipped for the field. Their work becomes fruitful and multiplies,"* she said.

Similarly, student Jason Nigilasim expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend, describing it as an eye-opening experience. He reflected on the difference between pastoral ministry taught in the classroom and mission, which involves reaching those who have never heard the Gospel. Jason said the conference deepened his understanding of this calling and strengthened his resolve to step beyond familiar boundaries after graduating from CLTC.

Together, these reflections capture the lasting impact of Missions Week in shaping hearts, deepening understanding and inspiring a renewed commitment to sharing the Gospel.



Abefa Frank at the front desk of the Leonard Buck Library.

Abefa Frank

CLTC is delighted to welcome Abefa Frank to the College team as Librarian for the Leonard Buck Library in Banz.

For Abefa, serving at CLTC is more than just a job – it is an opportunity to give back to the College that has played a significant role in his life. A proud member of the 2024 graduating class, he completed a Bachelor of Theology before joining the library team.

Before coming to CLTC, Abefa served in ministry as an assistant pastor in Kainantu, Eastern Highlands Province, as well as in parts of Morobe and Simbu provinces. Through preaching and music ministry, he has shared the gospel with many communities and also pastored a congregation within one of his church districts.

"I felt I needed to give back to the College that has given me so much," Abefa says.

In his new role, he hopes to provide a library environment that is clean, well-organised and welcoming, encouraging students in their learning, research and spiritual growth.

Originally from Eastern Highlands Province, he was adopted into a family from Markham in Morobe Province, an experience that has helped shape both his identity and life journey. Outside of work, Abefa enjoys singing, cooking and developing his vocal skills. He also enjoys reading whenever he has the opportunity.

Emelda Anthony

CLTC is pleased to welcome Emelda Anthony to the dental team at Banz campus.

Emelda describes her appointment as both a privilege and a calling. *"I thank God for calling me here,"* she says, reflecting on the journey that has led her to serve at CLTC. For her, dental care is more than a profession – it is a ministry through which she can serve others and share God's love.

Her journey began in 2015 when, immediately after completing Grade 10, she joined Kudjip Health Ministry as a dental clerk. Emelda discovered a passion for dental care. Through extensive in-house training, she became a qualified dental assistant and faithfully served patients at the clinic for more than ten years.

Emelda is excited to care for the dental needs of the College and surrounding community and demonstrating Christ's love. She is also committed to her own professional development and is currently completing Grades 11 and 12 through FODE, with the goal of pursuing further studies in dentistry.



Emelda Anthony sorting dental instruments.

Originally from Kudjip in Jiwaka Province, Emelda is the mother of four children. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, preaching God's Word, participating in youth fellowship, and playing the guitar.



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