



COLLEGE NEWS

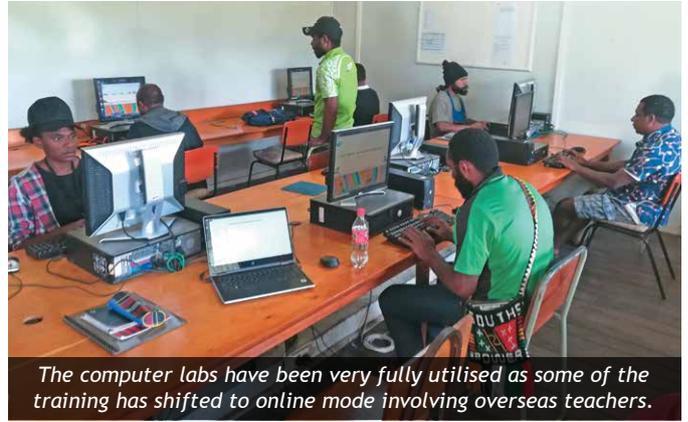


June 2020

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



Ladies sewing facemasks for College staff and students.



The computer labs have been very fully utilised as some of the training has shifted to online mode involving overseas teachers.

CLTC and COVID-19

A nationwide lockdown of schools and universities was implemented after the first few cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Miraculously the virus has not spread and relatively few people have tested positive over the following months. The country has remained in a State of Emergency with gradual opening of businesses and institutions, but with borders still closed.

CLTC was one of the first institutions to resume classes after the lockdown was lifted. A response team was established at the main Banz campus to ensure protection of the community. A key strategy has been to maintain social distance outside of family groups. Worship services were held outside or in smaller groups. Classes have been held in the auditorium and other big rooms. The creche, kindergarten and elementary school were closed because of the risk of transfer of infection. Support and Service Departments have kept operating, including the clinic, poultry, farm and technical services. These are crucial to the livelihood of the College.

Some difficulties remain because of the COVID-19 restrictions. The first is the inability of expatriates to visit to assist with the teaching program and technical services. Ten expatriates were to have visited but have had their travel cancelled. However, the online learning systems, which have been under development over the last two years, have been available at just the right time to allow overseas faculty to continue to be involved. We have received financial assistance to increase our internet bandwidth, so that from July some classes will include video conferencing with teachers in different locations.

A second difficulty has been the reduced opportunity for church ministry experience off-campus. A positive side to this has been a greater ministry focus within our own communities including the children

and farm and poultry workers. In the urban campuses, students have said that many congregation members have stayed away from church and fellowship groups even though restrictions have been partially lifted.

The third issue of the COVID-19 restrictions is the general impact on the economy and the difficulty for students to pay for school fees and living costs. Many churches and sponsors have not been able to support students to the same extent. In the urban campuses many students are paying double the normal price for bus fares. The College has provided relief for some students.

We praise God that so far PNG has not experienced the devastating impact from COVID-19 seen in other countries, and CLTC has been able to continue its ministry, training leaders for God's Kingdom work.



Social distancing in the faculty meeting.

INSIDE:

2 Collapsed water tanks

3 Student and staff news

4 Student testimony

5 From the Principal

Collapsed Water Tanks

Two of the College's largest water tanks collapsed in dramatic ways earlier in the year. These were metal Southern Cross tanks each containing around 50,000 litres of rainwater. One served about 14 student families, the other the chicken hatchery. These old tanks have withstood the test of time and have served countless numbers of people over the years. However, they have gradually worn out and collapsed. Leaks have been repaired frequently, but eventually the rivets and structure weakened causing them to rupture and collapse. Earthquakes could also have contributed to their weakening.

Student Representative Council President, Joe Piwi explained about the difficulties that students have faced since the collapse of their Southern Cross tank. "Often we do not have a shower due to lack of water and sometimes we have to go to the auditorium (some distance away) to fetch water for drinking and cooking".

The College depends on storage of rainwater for human use because of the poor quality of the river water. Already money has been donated to enable



Collapsed water tank which served one of the student villages.

five 9,000 litre tanks to be purchased and installed to provide water for the students. We appreciate the help of donors. Recently the College went through a dry month, but God answered our prayers and rain fell as many of the tanks became empty.

Bill Mondo, the Technical Services Manager, is investigating the needs of the community and the poultry for rainwater storage. Maintaining hygiene in the hatchery and other poultry sheds is important. The possibility of building large concrete tanks on site is being explored.



Replacement plastic water tanks are being installed to store rainwater for community use.



CLTC brand chicken meat selling in highland supermarkets.



Processing of broiler chickens in the CLTC abattoir.

CLTC Meat Bird Production

CLTC has successfully commenced broiler chicken production in the last few months. Over the years CLTC Poultry has been producing one-day-old-chicks and table eggs but this new meat bird project is a bonus. Ten months ago, the Poultry Department was facing difficulties when Tablebirds, the company managing CLTC Poultry, walked out of its contract due to its own financial problems.

Site manageress of CLTC Poultry Michaelyn Baduk described the new project as a milestone for CLTC following first deliveries of meat birds to local businesses within Jiwaka and Western Highlands in May. "Our customers are very excited about our new local product as we have produced quality meat birds at reasonable prices. The size of our broiler production is

not big, so we are doing our best to maintain the quality of our meat birds," she said. "We have a mini-processing plant at our abattoir where production and packing take place. The birds are killed and processed here in different sizes and packs to suit customers' needs," she said.

Reports from Signature Poultry, the company assisting CLTC in management and sales, show that there is a high demand for CLTC meat birds in the Highlands region. Sales Manager, Hans Onga, said the first deliveries to Tininga Supermarket in Mt. Hagen were sold out within a week. "Customers were thrilled to see a new product under the brand name of CLTC. Hopefully CLTC will increase production of broiler chickens in the future to meet customer demand within the Highlands region," he said.



Student Numbers on the Increase

The need for trained Christian leaders is as high as ever. Still, many churches in Melanesia have pastors with no theological training. False teaching continues to be a problem.

CLTC has been gradually increasing its student numbers in recent years. This year we will have the first students graduating with the Advanced Diploma of Ministry and the Advanced Diploma of Community Transformation. The move to three-year curricula a few years ago has now been fully implemented.

Current students at each campus:

	Certificate	Advanced Diploma	Bachelor	Masters	Total
Banz Campus	32	72	22	10	136
Lae Campus	—	30	22	—	52
Port Moresby	13	8	8	—	29
Total	46	112	51	10	217

The Bachelor of Theology was re-introduced to the Lae Campus last year as a part-time program with classes on Saturdays, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There has been a lot of interest and commitment to this program. Three-quarters of this class are active pastors. The remainder include a botanist, a defence force captain, a police sergeant, and a property manager. When these men were asked why they were doing the studies, they said that when they retired, more of the responsibility to preach and teach in the church



New classroom in Lae with advanced diploma students.

would fall on them and they wanted to be equipped for that.

In Lae, the three-year Advanced Diploma program created the need

At Banz one new classroom was completed in 2018 and another one was completed early this year. A new classroom has also been constructed for the wives training program, completely funded by the Subiaco Church in Perth, in partnership with



New wives classroom.



New classroom at Banz campus.

for additional classrooms. Last year, with the help of members of the Lae Campus Support Group, two additional rooms were constructed. The library has also been reconfigured to increase the size of the computer laboratory.

Overseas Council Australia (OCA). OCA are also providing computers for this room. At Banz, additional student family houses became available by moving the single men to a renovated workers dormitory.

A student accommodation block is planned for Port Moresby and additional student accommodation is needed at Banz to further increase the number of students who can be trained.

Our new Human Resource Manager – Titus Namunu

Our new Human Resource Manager comes from the atolls of Paneati in Misima Island in Milne Bay Province. Titus is married to Ainesa and they have five children. Previously Titus worked for Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Mt Hagen. He said: “Both MAF and CLTC are Christian mission organisations and it is a great privilege and honour to serve with them.”

Titus has plans to establish a Human Resource Management Information System to effectively manage

employees in terms of performance management, staff development, employment contract management, recruitment and selection. His long-term plans include, working with departmental heads and supervisors on effective working relationships to enable an encouraging and safe working environment for the institution. “If we can get the working environment right then this will greatly help address employee issues and lead to increase in productivity and performance levels,” he said.



Samson Hamiya

Student Testimony

A Soldier of Peace for Christ

In the 1950s, many children among my people were dying. To keep the evil spirits from eating the children, the people gave them names of inedible plants. Then they sacrificed pigs. In 1956, the first missionaries came to Dauli, in Hela, and told my grandfather that they had something very good. My people found out that the good thing is the “word”, and that if you believe in this word you will be blessed and live for eternity. They gave these pioneer missionaries land to build the fellowship house. The children stopped dying, and everyone believed in God’s word and became Christians.

Some years later, my father gave more land to the mission to build churches, schools, and hospitals, and he has told me not to ask for any compensation. My parents taught me many memory verses, and I took part in Sunday school and the youth program. As a boy, I really wanted to become a soldier.

After completing grade 10, I moved to Port Moresby. Struggling to survive, I came under the influence of alcoholism, stealing, and fighting. I was homeless. I lost hope of any further education. As I look back, I see that it was only God who protected my life.

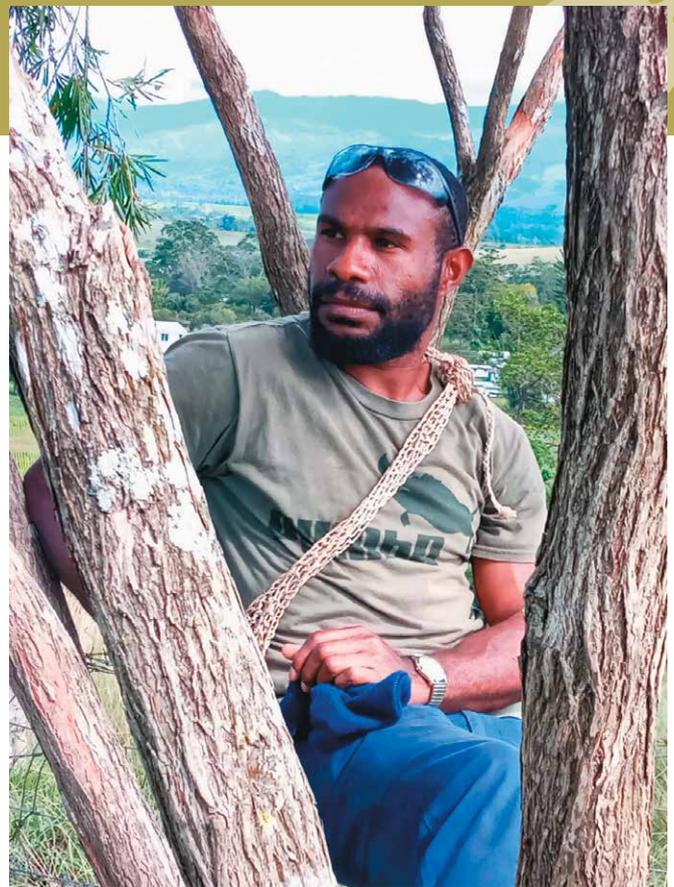
In 2015, I came home like the prodigal son. The memory verses had lingered in my heart. The Christmas speaker preached on God’s call to Abraham to “step out from your position”. As an addict, I realised my position was in drugs and other evils. I made up my mind to step out from that evil position. That night I surrendered my life back to Christ.

After attending a baptism class for one year, I made a feast and invited all my family members. During the feast, I announced that the next day would be the burial day of all my evil. I declared that I would not be part of any tribal fighting or support any other evil. Then my grandfather used my Huli name Yuluba to bless me: “Now the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the mighty Lord of heaven and earth, my father who is with me continuously, also lives with Yuluba.”

In 2017 I entered the Huli language Bible school. We faced widespread tribal fighting and the devastating 2019 earthquake. Some of my good friends fled to Moresby, but I managed to pray and stand my ground in the Lord.

A week before the final two-week ministry practical, I was selected as chaplain for the Besta Cup Highlands soccer tournament. I accepted this opportunity. I led in prayer before travelling, before eating meals, and before each game. In the evenings we had fellowship and I would give a brief sermon. However, when I returned to the school, I found out that I was not allowed to graduate.

Although I had already been accepted to study at CLTC, the church leaders decided they would not support me



Samson Hamiya, first year student in Community Transformation program.

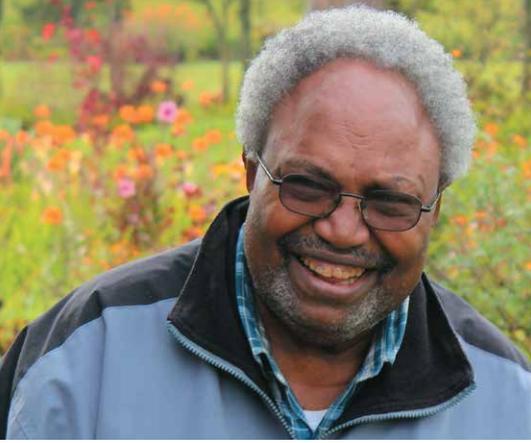
unless I repeated Bible School and re-applied to CLTC in 2022. Since I have a gift with video, I was asked to film the graduation. Tears fell uncontrolled as I did so. Afterwards I prayed,

‘God, if it is your plan for me to step back, then I will do as you wish. But if it is men’s blockage, I believe that you will open the door for me, because you have brought me from the paths leading to the grave and to hell. It was out of your grace, love, and mercy that you bought me back with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, so I believe that you will make my way forward to study and know more of you.’

I also prayed for peace with my teachers and the church leaders, that the love and grace of God would be with them. In January I received a phone call from Oil Search saying that the company was offering me full sponsorship. This had never been done before for a first-year student. Tears of joy fell uncontrolled. I believed that it was God’s call upon my life to study at CLTC.

When I left home to come to CLTC, my grandfather, who first received the missionaries in Hela, told me that he would see me in Heaven. A few weeks ago, I received the sad news that he had passed away.

I am the first ECPNG student in the Community Transformation program. After graduating from CLTC, I will be with my leaders and the people in my local church. We will join our hands together with the other denominations in Hela to bring peace to our people. At last I have realised that my childhood desire of becoming a soldier has been fulfilled: today I am a soldier of peace for Christ. Therefore, to God be the glory in everything I do.



From the Principal Rev Dr William Longgar

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

The Cultural Challenges in the Training of Christian Leaders in Melanesia

For the last 55 years, the Christian Leaders Training College of Papua New Guinea has done well to fulfil its commitment to training and equipping men and women who honour Christ as Lord and embrace Biblical values in their churches and communities; who are contributing to nation building; who embrace a holistic view of life and thus are catalysts for change through partnership with Churches, Government and social organisations, and who are empowering their people towards economic, social and spiritual development.

With three thousand plus graduates now serving their churches, communities and nations throughout Melanesia, it has been an ongoing achievement. One of the challenges is the cultural diversity of the student body. With a culturally diverse faculty and a well-developed curriculum, CLTC is meeting the challenge.

First, CLTC has done extremely well over the years to recognise the richness of our students' diverse cultural heritages. As an ongoing task, we are building upon those heritages through courses like Cultural Anthropology, Worldview and Ministry Contexts, Gospel and Culture, Christian Ethics in Melanesia, and Contextualisation. In these courses and in our theology and Bible courses, we consciously aim to develop our students' theological thinking around their values and cultural heritages. Our purpose or goal is to graduate men and women who hold to a strong view of culture and a strong view of Scripture, to be able to communicate

the Gospel message relevantly into the cultural contexts of their people.

Second, another cultural factor is the deep allegiance students still have to their cultures, clans, tribes and families, which strongly challenges allegiance to Christ and the Gospel. In fact, in most areas in Melanesia, allegiance to traditional groups and ways of life runs deeper than allegiance to Christ and his Church and the Gospel. CLTC over the years has seriously taken that challenge to heart, thus in its theological

“We consciously aim to develop our students’ theological thinking around their values and cultural heritages.”

curriculum, its extra-curricular activities, and in its worship and spiritual life, it has purposely sought to instil in the students the importance of allegiance to Christ, out of which comes transformed attitudes towards those cultural allegiances, thus making a new commitment to Christ and his Church. There have been instances over the years of students from enemy clans or tribes, convicted by the Word of God in the classroom, embracing and forgiving each other.

Third, for many students the fear of spirit powers, sorcery, magic, and witchcraft and clan enemies is still very real to them. Many of them come from areas where there are resurgences in the beliefs and practices of sorcery, magic

and witchcraft. The deep fear of these phenomena has forced many students to come with amulets for protection. But we have also witnessed concrete evidences of students being wonderfully delivered from these crippling fears as the Word of God penetrates deep into their hearts.

The Christian Leaders Training College strongly holds a clear biblical theology of power-encounter. This theology draws from Christ's examples in the Gospels of dealing with Satan's powers through exorcism and healing. The ongoing challenge for us as a College is for our curriculums to keep addressing existential realities not only around us but that are also parts of our students' experiences. The complete work of Christ on the Cross is also central to the theology of power-encounter. As a College, we are concerned that our theology must relate to the realities that our graduates will go back to face in their villages. While the transcendence of God is biblically, theologically and doctrinally correct and significant, it is meaningless if God is seen as isolated from the human realities in the Melanesian contexts.

Finally, the training of Christian Melanesians leaders has a big advantage. They are insiders, they know their culture well. They can be agents of cultural transformation when they are trained well. The College theme for this year “Faith to Transform and Reform” fits in well. Students are being “transformed” and “reformed” through the power of God's Word, and with God's help they too become agents of “transformation” and “reformation”.

CLTC – A Strategic Investment for PNG and the Pacific

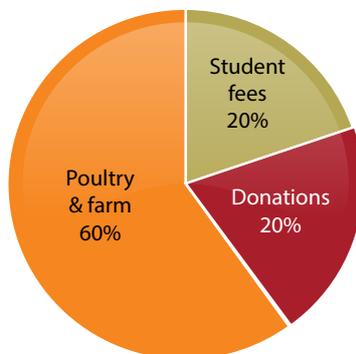


The expansion of CLTC's ministry has increased the financial stress on the College. Student fees only cover about 20 percent of the cost of training, and even that amount is hard for remote churches to fund.

The poultry and farm have historically provided 60 percent of the income for the College. CLTC is one of the few colleges anywhere in the world that is self-sufficient to this extent. Forward thinking and hard work from many supporters has established a viable business component for the College. 2019 was a difficult year when the company managing our poultry walked out. Productivity was seriously affected and will take some time to rebuild.

The remaining 20 percent comes from faithful supporters who see the investment in training Christian leaders who are zealous for the Gospel. CLTC has benefited greatly from partnership with Overseas Council Australia and LeaDev-Langham (NZ), but also from many long-term individual partners in Australia and New Zealand who believe in the work of CLTC.

College Income



The College has not yet received any funding from the Government

"One of the most vital resources of any nation is its leaders. The social fabric of any society is a reflection of its moral and spiritual values. The political, economic and spiritual life of a nation revolves around the behaviour and actions of the leaders at every level of society (elected as well as the non-elected)."

Founding Principal,
Gilbert McArthur

despite being fully accredited by them as an Institute of Higher Learning. The PNG church continues to provide the majority of the social services in the country.

In recent months the College has depended more heavily on donors and many of you have given generously. We are working hard to restore the profitability of the poultry and farm income. Stage 1 of the solar power project is now operational, and Stage 2 is in the planning stage. This will result in huge savings for the Banz campus.

Please pray that the College would be able to move out of a period of intense financial stress. Also pray for the appointment of a new manager in our finance office.

For more information about how to financially support the ministry of CLTC, contact the office in your country (see below).

Bank details: Aust: CLTC, Westpac, BSB 033107 Acc No. 23 1483

NZ: CLTC, Westpac, 030155 0272166 00

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



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



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