

EDITORIAL

In the first article, Simil Hondolwa brings us an insider perspective on a specific church and land dispute in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. Simil addresses the complexities of land issues from cultural, economic, and ministry perspectives, offering realistic suggestions for moving forward. Working through issues of “ownership” of customary land continues to be a challenge in Papua New Guinea, a discussion from which the church is not excluded.

For the second article, we once again have a discerning article written by our brother in Tonga, Ma‘afu Palu. As always, Ma‘afu seeks in his writing to be true to scripture, but relevant to the South Pacific context. This time he offers insight for understanding the Old Testament, stressing that “testimony to the cross” should be the interpretive focal point for Pacificians to apply God’s Word today.

Abel Haon addresses a concern in the third article that is not often discussed within the context of the church in Melanesia. The issue is normally discoursed within the realms of Melanesian politics, whether national or local, but it does rear its head within church leadership. That issue is power abuse – a problem the church in Melanesia must address if it truly wants to bring glory to God.

Not everyone will agree with the conclusions reached by the authors. However, we hope that, as you grapple with the issues, the thoughts of the authors will help you grow in your understanding of what God’s Word says to your life and culture.

As a reminder, we have moved to an online version of the Journal, which is available, free of charge, on the Christian Leaders’ Training College website – www.cltc.ac.pg – and click on the “Melanesian Journal of Theology” panel. All previous issues of the Journal are on the website.

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Editor