

## EDITORIAL

In the first article, James Ofasia digs into his own Solomon Islands' culture to compare traditional Toabaitan methods of forgiveness and reconciliation against scripture. He gives recommendations for the South Seas Evangelical church (SSEC) regarding compensation, the pastor's role, the value of tradition, and contextualisation. If one wants to understand the heartbeat of forgiveness and reconciliation among a Melanesian tribal group, then James' article is a must read.

Charles Horne articulates the purpose of law and grace. Charles answers such questions as "What place does the law have for the Christian?" and "What is liberty?" He stresses that to go back to a life controlled by laws is to deny what God has done for us in Christ. The article is a constant reminder to Christians around the world that we live under grace.

Ossie Fountain presents his second of four articles on contextualisation and globalisation in Bible training in Papua New Guinea. In this article, he looks at three key elements of theological education: curriculum development, theological orientation, and education method. Using these three elements, he analyses four Christian Brethren church (CBC) training programs, and the draft national Bible School Curriculum for CBC schools. The article is thoroughly researched, and presents keen insights.

Daniel Johnson takes us inside the Butonese culture of Indonesia. He suggests possibilities for a culturally-appropriate communication of the gospel to the Butonese people. Daniel discusses Butonese traditions, religion, and fishing, and concludes that God has planted seeds of the knowledge of His character within the Butonese people's culture. His prayer is that those seeds will bear fruit. The depth of the article should challenge each of us to truly understand the culture in which we are ministering.

We wrap up this journal with two items. First is a list of books and articles that are relevant to Melanesia. Second is information about the

ministry of Language Recording Institute (LRI) in Papua New Guinea. I encourage you to read through the LRI information for potential use in your ministry.

Not everyone will agree with the conclusions reached by the authors. However, we hope that as you wrestle through these issues the thoughts of the authors will help you to grow in your understanding of God's Word, and what it may say to your life and culture.

Doug Hanson.