

Goal

In 1969 the Melanesian Institute was established in Goroka, PNG, by the Catholic Church to help with the cross-cultural understanding necessary for missionary and human development work. A few years later it became an ecumenical institute, joined by the Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran and United Churches.

Our aim is to study Melanesian cultures in order to assist people to appreciate their cultural ways and values as enshrined in their National Constitution, together with the Christian Gospel. Representatives from each of the above churches form the basic team of the senior staff.

The Melanesian Institute's primary goal is to help communities in the process of making the Gospel of Christ meaningful in Melanesian cultures.

This is expressed in the symbol of the Institute: a snake climbing a cross. In many Melanesian traditions, the snake represents everlasting life. The cross stands for God's gift of new life in Christ. By combining these two symbols, the Institute attempts to portray its primary aim: that the people of Melanesia may have abundant life in Christ, and give witness to that life within their own cultural context.



For more information on

- Seminars
- Courses
- Workshops
- Research
- Publications

contact:

The Melanesian Institute
PO Box 571
GOROKA 441, EHP
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone: (+675) 732 1777

Fax: (+675) 732 1214

E-mails:

emmai@online.net.pg (main)

mi_books@online.net.pg (publication)

visit us online:

<http://www.mi.org.pg>

The Melanesian Institute



Goroka



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Activities of the Melanesian Institute



CULTURAL ORIENTATION COURSE

This service, to introduce new expatriates to Melanesian cultures, was the primary service of the Institute. Since then, the Melanesian Institute has opened these courses as they are needed to others. These courses help towards a better understanding of one's own culture, other peoples' cultures and a better integration of new experiences which result from cross-cultural endeavours.

WORKSHOPS

The MI Faculty offers information about Melanesian cultures, changes and developments through workshops and seminars on a regular basis and on request.



NATIONAL CHURCH WORKERS' WORKSHOP

Conducted once a year. Workers from four member churches come together to discuss and develop ideas on selected topics of concern. A recent topic has been: •Inculturation of Liturgy

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Conducted on relevant topics like:

- Land and Churches in Melanesia
- Sorcery and Witchcraft in PNG
- Attitudes towards Disabilities

FIELD RESEARCH

Conducted on significant Melanesian themes and issues which impact on the life of Papua New Guineans. We want to promote social sciences and use them to support integral Christian human development.



The Melanesian Institute Library contains over 14,000 books, periodicals, maps, audio visual materials and reports relevant to Melanesia. The Library houses a unique collection of Melanesian research concerning Papua New Guinea.



PUBLICATIONS

Items published by the Institute cover Melanesian life and culture from the fields of theology, anthropology, sociology, economics, politics, education and the arts.

Point Series (book format) is published annually. It is devoted to special themes relevant to the developing countries in Melanesia. Recently published titles:

- Sanguma in Paradise: Sorcery, Witchcraft and Christianity in Papua New Guinea.
- Kaugu Gunan Ma Kaugu Pia: My Village and My Land
- Melanesia and its Churches: Past and Present

Catalyst (journal) is published twice a year. It contains a variety of articles, reports and discussions on contemporary Melanesians life.

