

JOURNEYS

June 2013

Issue No. One

mm.torotoro@hotmail.com

"IT'S NOT [ONLY] THE
DESTINATION, IT'S THE
JOURNEY."
-David Nelson

Every day starts by taking a first step.

HAVE YOU EVER WITNESSED THAT PRECIOUS
MOMENT WHEN...

a baby takes their first steps? Your breath is taken away and a giant burst of excitement floods through your veins and pumps to your heart. How joyful, how special! Imagine then how God feels when we take our first steps of faith and life toward Him.

Because I grew up going to church in the small town of Childress, Texas, it may appear that I grew up learning to walk with God. I did learn much about God, but it wasn't until I finished my teenage years that I decided it was time to take my first steps. God had been preparing me, forming me, knitting me together, feeding me, and about four months before I started Bible College, at age 20, I was baptized.

I started my journey by taking my first step of dedication and commitment toward God. I originally came to New Zealand with the *Adventures in Missions* Program to work with the Otumoetai Church of Christ in Tauranga. The South Pacific Bible College offered the opportunity to walk toward God in a deeper, loving relationship through studying the Bible. Most of the teachers and students had already made an enormous impact on my life by their examples of faith. Their loving walk with God inspired me to follow their path and study at SPBC.



Prayer and Welcoming for Bible College Students.



Singing with Staff and Students.



My Husband, Marcelo, and I

"If the Lord delights in
a man's way, He makes
his steps firm."
Psalm 37:23



Teaching a children's class - Daniel and the Lion's Den.



Teaching Youth Girls.

FOOTPRINTS

Imagine a young child walking behind his dad through the snow. The father is a few steps ahead and his son makes every effort to step in his father's footprints instead of making his own. God calls us to follow Jesus' footsteps in the same way.

*"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should **follow in His steps.**"*

-1 Peter 2:21

Paul urges the Corinthians to follow his example as he follows the example of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). I want to follow in Jesus' steps. One way I have done that is by following in the steps of those who follow in Jesus' steps.

Mary Nelson was one of my supervisor's when I worked with the church before. She also worked at the Bible College for 13 years. She is one of the women who has impacted me in such a way that I have followed in her steps as a child does with their parent, as Mary does with Jesus.

She loves Jesus and has great passion to teach children about God. Her enthusiasm and fire inspires me to teach children in the same way. The children's ministry has been a big part of my experience here in New Zealand. During my time in Bible College I have been able to reach out to children and young women as well. I plan on continuing to work in these areas of ministry for the rest of my life.

Mary is only one of the many wonderful people who have impacted me here at the College. The College has challenged me to search and know God's Word and live it out. I am grateful for my experience at the Bible College and the impact it is making on me as I start each day taking another step toward God.

This December my husband and I will graduate from SPBC. We plan on going to Marcelo's home country of Chile and starting a church there. Our experience at Bible College has influenced us to share God's Word with others and be follower's of Jesus who make more followers.

*"Join with others in **following** my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."*
Philippians 3:17

*"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and **follow Me.**"*
Matthew 16:24