

News From South Pacific Bible College



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Tauranga, New Zealand

January – March 2013

SPBC Into Gear For Another Year



Introducing...the South Pacific Bible College students of 2013. Students are from New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, Korea, Switzerland, Chile and the USA.

I am reminded of how richly blessed we are as I look at the new incoming students combined with those returning for their 2nd & 3rd years (see details inside). Apart from the variety of cultures we regularly enjoy, it has been obvious from the start that we have a group who want to serve and be active participants, not just in study (what they have come for) but to live it out practically as well.

I want to especially make mention of our 3rd year students enrolled in the Diploma in Christian Ministry. This year we have four students, slightly more than usual, who will be a great asset to church planting and

evangelism in their home countries. We look forward to their year of continued growth, development, and ministry training with us.

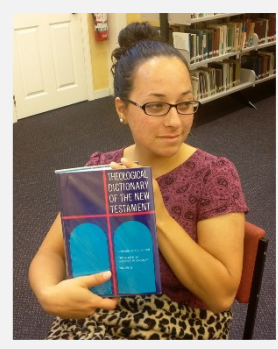
So things are in gear and we are ready to set off down the road into a new adventure. We look forward to seeing what God has waiting along the journey.

By:
Steve Raine,
Principal

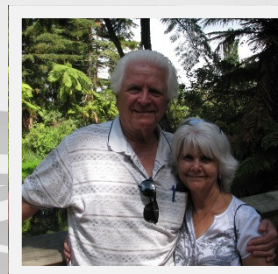




Dea and Raj out and about in Rotorua.

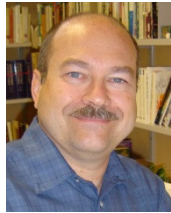


Brianna in deep thought.



Mr. and Mrs. Deason.

Academics: From Classroom to the Community



By:
David Nelson
Dean of
Academics

A couple from the Philippines, two from California and one from Auckland make up our new student body this year. They join six returning 2nd year students and four Diploma in Christian Ministry (a.k.a. 3rd year) students to make up a total student body of 15 students.

Teachers and Classes:

Herman Alexander (Dallas, TX): English & Writing, Greek 1, Survey of Biblical World 1 and Theology of Ministry.

Bobby Deason (Lady Lake, FL): Scheme of Redemption and Intro To Biblical Leadership.

Jay Jarboe (Missions Resource Network, Dallas, TX) and Charles Speer (Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX): Foundation of Missions.

Mike Austin (Tauranga, NZ) is teaching New Testament Church and Homiletics 3.

Steve Raine (Tauranga, NZ) is teaching Greek 2.

David Nelson (Tauranga, NZ) is teaching General Biblical Introduction and Hermeneutics.

From Classroom to Community:

The students have given themselves to their studies and are learning new ways they might apply it to life and ministry. They have invited people to church and participated in outreach community service activities. Some are actively involved in our young adult ministry. Others are preaching regularly in area congregations. We are pleased to see a strong desire in them to get involved in ministry and the lives of people even while they are studying hard in school.

Photo below: A "family tradition" for the Otumoetai Church of Christ: Praying for the SPBC students as they begin their school year.



Student Life: God is Amazing



By:
Roger Craig,
Dean of
Students

It's the beginning of the year and God is Amazing! All our new students received their visas with some even getting a 3 year

visa for a 2 year course, (work that one out???). God also opened the doors so that all the new students arrived in time for Orientation. Like I said, God is Amazing.

This year we have 15 full-time students. 1st year students are Raj and Andrea Buo (Philippines), Telah Loureiro and Samantha Lesure (USA), and Peter Roberts (Auckland, NZ).

2nd year students returning are Nathan, Andrew and James (Tauranga, NZ), Matraca and Brianna (USA), Lucas (Switzerland).

And 3rd year students, Cristy (Tauranga, NZ), O and Gip (Thailand), and Marcelo (Chile). So again another great, diverse bunch of students.

What I love about all this is how it doesn't matter how many miles apart all the students come from they all have the one heart for growing in the Lord.

Now that the 1st years have been in the classroom for a couple of months a strong reality has dawned on them on just how much it takes to be dedicated to 2 – 3 years of study. It's not that it's a 'scary, I want to

quit' kind of reality but more of a 'this is actually going to be a real life changing' reality. So please keep these students in your prayers as there is a hard slog in front of them. Like I told them in devotional the other day... 'for you to be a true follower of Jesus, your life has to be turned upside down... that's the only way God can mold us into how He wants us to be'.

2013 has started well ... and all the glory for that goes to the Lord.

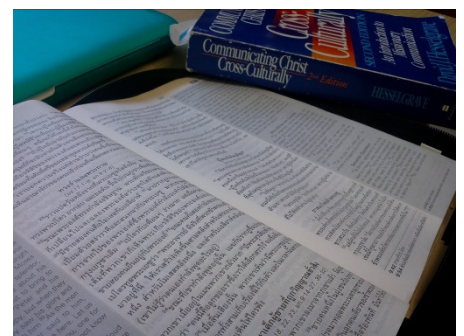
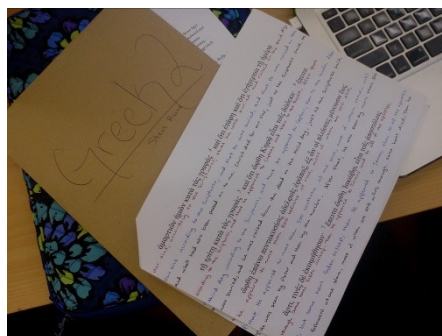


So, where to now? Well I know this sounds strange but 2014 is just around the corner so if you are thinking or have been praying about College please get in touch with me now so we can send you some information and be praying for the Lord's wisdom in your life. Till next time...Sir Rog

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rog Craig'.

Photo Above: David Steel and the second-year students enjoy a day learning about the early mission work done among the Maoris in the Bay of Plenty.

At right: Interesting items found on student desks.



Team Building: Orientation Camp

The SPBC Orientation camp was held just outside Tauranga at Ngatuhua Lodge. This camp is only accessible by a winding gravel road and there is no phone reception. Having Orientation at this location allows staff and students the opportunity to get to know each other while enjoying the natural beauty of New Zealand.

Roger, the Dean of Students, does a great job of leading everyone in team-building activities.

Roger says, "It was a great few days of getting to know each other and seeing who are the daring and competitive ones in the team building and fear factor games. It was a lot of fun with a bit of serious stuff in there as well.... gee we can't have too much fun or everyone would want to come to Bible College...lol."



The Mastermind (above).



Fear Factor makes Greek seem easy!

News
from the
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Bible College

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*"Behold, how
good and
pleasant it is
when
brothers
dwell in
unity!"*

Psalms 133:1

Equipping
Christians to
take the Gospel
to
New Zealand,
Australia,
the South Pacific
and Beyond.