

# News From South Pacific Bible College



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Tauranga, New Zealand

April – May 2014

## Outreach Week *continued on page 2*

Well done **good** and **faithful** students for blessing  
the *community* and *church* in Tauranga!





*Telah and Scott compile the Brookfield surveys to help the Otumoetai Church of Christ be aware of the needs in the local neighbourhood.*



*Raj letterboxing in Merivale. The flyer is an invitation to a weekly community Bible study.*



*After all their hard work, the students enjoy hot pizza on their last day and share highlights from the week.*

## From the Principal's Desk: "Working" at SPBC

**By:**  
**Steve Raine,**  
**Principal**



I "work" in the most beautiful country in the world, with the most fantastic staff to be found, and continue to serve in a ministry that God is using to transform people's lives as they are brought daily into a fuller understanding of the grace

and knowledge that comes to us through Jesus.

The joy I have being the Principal of SPBC is found in those moments as well as ones that are witnessed in graduates who serve in ministries in their home towns. I find it humbling, exciting, and fulfilling when God works through us, mere human vessels, to help in His Kingdom growth. I thank God for being allowed the joy and fulfilment that comes with serving Him at SPBC.

## Outreach Week *continued from page 1*



**By:**  
**Mike Austin,**  
**SPCEF**

SPBC students spent this year's Outreach Week blessing the Tauranga community and the Otumoetai Church of Christ. Students volunteered at SPBC's IMPACT Day, Salvation Army, and the Merivale Community Centre. They sang at a nursing home, did visitation, surveyed the Brookfield community on GO Sunday, and did a \$15 Challenge where they spontaneously blessed a stranger.

There was a great spirit of, "Let's get out there and meet people." Thank you team leaders for taking your organisational and leadership roles seriously. The feedback from



**Top,** students getting instructions at the Salvation Army. **Bottom,** the students prayed before going out into the community for the \$15 Challenge.

the people you met and helped was all excellent. "An amazing thing happened to me at Fraser Cove today," was one comment from the \$15 Challenge. Good on all of you for walking out the door into the worst weather this year and for using it to your advantage to meet people and to bless them.



## Academics: Student Feedback



**By:  
David Nelson  
Dean of  
Academics**

The students successfully completed the 1st Quarter and gained much from their

studies. Here are some of their comments related to some of the subjects they studied: *“Learning how to interpret the Scriptures brought the word of God and the world of the Bible into new light. I love it!”*

*“It is practical and things learned are very useful in ministry. Not only have we benefited from the theoretical aspect of this subject but also from the actual experience of our lecturer.”*

*“I thought that learning about people who made a difference in the Pacific Islands was very cool and gave me a better idea of how the gospel spread!”*

It is these kinds of responses that energise us and remind us of the importance of the ministry of the South Pacific Bible College.

The 2nd Quarter holds new subjects and new teachers. Mike Austin is teaching a favourite, Genesis. David Nelson is teaching Survey of the Biblical World 2, Evangelism 1, and is co-teaching with Dr. John Willis (ACU, Texas) Wisdom Literature & Psalms. Steve Raine is teaching Personal Development 1, Ministry Skills & Practicum 1, and is co-teaching Christian Spiritual Formation with Paul Partlow (Auckland). Thank you good students and teachers!

## IMPACT Day

By: Veronica Gearhart



We prepared for the day by displaying our history in the building, getting t-shirts made, and inviting Kiwis in the North Island. On 12 April SPBC hosted its very first IMPACT Day which aimed to preserve SPBC's heritage and to recruit within NZ. Mike Austin told the story of SPBC's history, and Chris Miller (1984 graduate) beautifully described the IMPACT God has made through SPBC. Guests were led on a history and campus tour, Mike and Andrew Gearhart (local, visiting lecturer) taught two mock classes to give a taste

of what SPBC offers, and various students spoke about being an SPBC student. We appreciate those who were able to attend, including two board members, Helen Smith and Joan Craig. The positive feedback meant a lot, especially comments like, “Excellent day. It was great to see how the college has moved forward while not losing sight of its origins.” A special thank you to staff members and students for hosting a well executed event. Most importantly, we acknowledge God and offer Him the glory!

## Student Affairs: Touching Lives



**By:**  
**Gill Raine,**  
**Student**  
**Affairs**

Phew! Term one is over, and everyone survived! It is always so good to watch our students develop their own ministries while they are here. Raj, Dea, Peter and Suli have all become involved in singing to some of the older ones in our local community rest home. It is so good to see our students serve others in their areas of gifting and to realize that SPBC is about far more than just academics. At a morning devo the

students were asked to describe in one word what the first term has meant to them. One of the first years replied without any hesitation, “transforming,” and that is why we love working here. To both hear and see the lives of people



being transformed before our eyes is a blessing beyond compare.

We do wish to acknowledge the loss of Brianna’s Grandma this term. We are glad that she was able to travel home to be with her family during this time.

## Cambodia & Thailand By: Gill Raine



Andrew and I were blessed to serve street kids in Cambodia for a week. We fed, played with, cried over, washed the nit filled hair of, and brushed the teeth of 40 or so wonderful street kids at Ankor of Faith. Andrew was able to

give his testimony to the 86 participants from 7 different countries. He did a great job of telling us how God moved in his life and has continued to do so in many ways. *(Bottom right: Some Thai graduates who are all actively involved in Thai ministries.)*

**News**  
**from the**  
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*“It is so good  
to see our  
students  
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areas of  
gifting and  
to realize  
that SPBC is  
about far  
more than  
just  
academics.”  
-Gill Raine*

### Mission Statement

South Pacific Bible College exists to transform lives  
through the inspiration of God’s Word to multiply  
Christ Followers in the world.

