

# News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

October – December 2013



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## Congratulations Graduates!



*This year's theme was clay in the potter's hands based on Isaiah 64:8, "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."*



**God bless you graduates!**







*SPBC and the Otumoetai Church will miss the faces of these beautiful graduates.*



*Roger Craig gave the "Charge to the Graduates" speech. He spoke about living fearlessly in love.*



*O with Nid and Suli, who received recognition of achievement awards for completing several credit courses.*

## From the Principal's Desk: When God Calls

By:  
**Steve Raine,**  
Principal

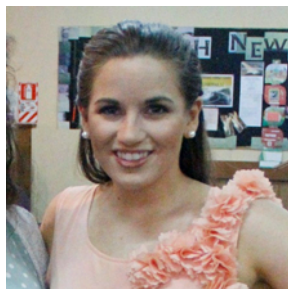


2013 classes have just finished and the very last one was Revelation. I vividly recall as a student finishing that class in 1984 and saying, "That will be the last book I ever teach or preach!" Four weeks later I arrived in Napier to work fulltime with the church and of necessity had to replace the current teacher, who was half way through, you guessed

it, Revelation! This was the beginning of many times when I could see that God has different plans than what I sometimes think.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December saw the 30<sup>th</sup> SPBC Graduation ceremony. We were thrilled to see 9 students graduate and are excited as we consider where they will go to serve in God's Kingdom. Also, we have learned from experience to look forward in anticipation to how God will use them beyond what they have ever imagined!

### David Nelson recognizes three students who have grown in different ways over their time at SPBC.



**Matraca's** consistently high academic performance is worthy of praise. This has been complemented by her servant heart and Christian character. It is no surprise that her fellow students voted her as Student of the Year.



**O** began his Christian life in Chiang Mai, Thailand with no desire to spend much time in intense study. Now he is completing his Diploma in Christian Ministry and is going back home to Chiang Mai as a good student of the word and with a developed skill and gift in preaching.



**Brianna** is an intelligent young Christian woman whose eagerness to learn the Scripture pushed her to get involved in the lives of several people at the church, especially some of the teenage girls. Brianna is a faithful example of a Christian who intentionally puts into practice what she is learning from the Scripture.

## Academics: A Great Fourth Quarter



**By:**  
**David Nelson**  
**Dean of**  
**Academics**

We were blessed to have visiting teachers this fourth quarter from many places

around our globe. First time teacher, Elijah Peters, Auckland, taught *Romans*. David Payne, Melbourne, Australia, back for the fourth time, taught *Daniel*. Russ Holden, Grandville, Michigan, back for the eighth time, taught *World Faiths*. In addition to our visiting teachers, Mike Austin taught *Johannine Literature*, Steve Raine taught *Revelation* and David Nelson taught *Evangelism 3: The Missional Vocation of the Church*. Thank you for your commitment and service to our students and to God!



## The Image of a Widow



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

When I look at these images of Graduates I also see the image of a widow from

Elijah's day. I see her jar of flour and jug of oil that never ran dry while God's purposes were being worked out. God has been at work to provide for his people and this place as we have participated in His purposes....God is Jehovah Jireh, our Provider! To God be the Glory.

**Top to bottom, left to right:** Over 150 people attended the ceremony. James Lee and his family sat together. Some of the students praying after the student covenant was read. Thanks to our greeters, Sam Graham, Peter Roberts, and Sam Lescure! Andrew Gearhart, Marcelo, and Nathan celebrate after the ceremony.

O, Gip, and Marcelo are our third year graduates.



Andrew compared his journey at SPBC to washing laundry.



Lucas receives his diploma from Steve during the ceremony. Left: Thank you to all of the SPBC staff and students for a great and memorable year!





## Student Affairs: Light Into the Darkness

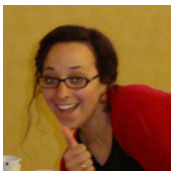


**By:**  
**Gill Raine,**  
**Student**  
**Affairs**

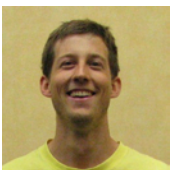
The past four months of working at SPBC have flown by and the students have been such a pleasure to work with. It is encouraging to see them start their own ministry interests in the congregation, which includes a weekly young marrieds group and a singing group that visits rest homes on a

regular basis. To those of you who have supported students in any way this year, thank you so much. We could not do this work without you, but the main thanks goes to God, whose passionate love for us allows us to be used by Him for His glory. Graduation this year was both a happy celebration and sad farewell as we have had an outstanding group of graduates that are returning home to work in the Kingdom. Yes! Light into the dark again!

## Where Are They Headed? By: Gill Raine



**Brianna Sharp** is returning to complete the Diploma in Christian Ministry next year. She shows great potential for the future as she grows and serves the Lord's people, with youth and women as her particular interests.



**Lucas Rothlisberger** will return to Switzerland, and his passionate love for God alongside his intelligent articulate way of speaking promises great things for God in his own country.



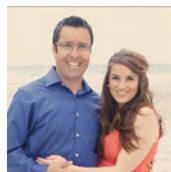
**James Lee** is looking to continue his study in some way and has a number of options open to him. He is a tenacious student who says of himself that God has humbled and taught him over the last 2 years. That's what we love to hear.



**Nathan Miller** is continuing study towards a theological degree, and as a very gifted speaker, he will be able to put this to good use for the Lord.



**O and Nid Suriyavong** return to Chiang Mai, Thailand to serve with their home congregation. Their servant hearts and deep love for God will be a living blessing to the Chung Doi congregation. Fishing for men will be their task now.



**Marcelo and Matraca Toro** will return to Chile via America. They are following God's call on their lives to plant a church in La Serena, which is Marcelo's home town. They are a vibrant and loving couple who are well placed to shine light into the darkness.



**Gip Woothitha** will return to Thailand and wants to find secular work and then help her local church family to bring souls to God in a society that is predominantly Buddhist. Her gentle and friendly nature will serve her well.



**Andrew Redmayne** is returning to complete the Diploma in Christian Ministry in 2014. He is particularly interested in youth ministry.

**News**  
**from the**  
**South Pacific**  
**Bible College**

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## Mission Statement

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

