

# News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

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## A Colourful Class



We have six students that have joined our SPBC family this year. The students represent seven countries and have already begun mixing really well together as a class. Their vivacious personalities already radiate a lot of joy and energy. They are a colourful class with great potential that we cannot wait to see lived out!



It's a huge decision for each student to stop their lives to spend two years at SPBC. God had to move mountains for some of these students to attend. As soon as SPBC approves an application, fundraising begins, and battles with

With grateful hearts,  
we would like to  
introduce our 2015  
Student Body to you!  
Look inside to read  
more about the new  
students!

immigration for visas starts. Next, an uneasiness of the unknown creeps in, but so does an opportunity to strengthen our faith and prayers. Because of God's provision and promises, these students are living answers to many prayers. Please take a good look at these students. There's a story of triumph behind each face.



*Thank you to Stuart Penhall who came from Australia to teach our 3rd Year students Theology of Ministry and Intro to Pastoral Care.*



*Kiwi, Mark Willis, taught Church History 3. He covered the Church's growth in the South Pacific and took the students on a field trip to a missionary house in Tauranga.*



*Bobby (USA) has faithfully taught the Scheme of Redemption class for several years. He also taught Intro to Biblical Leadership. 2008 graduate, Eddie Bunin, came to visit us!*

## Who's Running this Place? *By: Steve Raine, Principal*

Well, from our human eyes it may appear we are running SPBC, but from a spiritual perspective we are thankful that God is really the one in charge. He is constantly orchestrating, going before us and guiding us in our direction. We are thankful for His provision of each staff member at the school. We have four full-time staff members and five part-timers. Each person plays a pivotal role in the running of the college. We would like to welcome our newest staff member, Johnathon Atchley, (Perth, Australia). He is the new Compliance Officer, replacing our beloved Bradi Simpson, who has returned to the USA to work and be



*Left to right, Cheryl Pratt (Secretary), Mike Austin (CFO & Lecturer), David Nelson (Dean of Academics & Lecturer), Steve Raine (Principal & Lecturer), Gill Raine (Student Affairs), John Atchley (Compliance Officer), and Veronica Gearhart (Publications & Enrolment Administrator). Not pictured: Rebecca La Spina (Support Secretary) and Heather Schick (Library Assistant).*

with family. We are thankful for the fantastic year Bradi spent here. She also devoted her many talents to improving the campus' hallways and classroom.

We have new members on our Board of Trustees that we'd like to introduce. SPBC realised the need for a more



*Left to right, back, Samu, Sharon, Steve, and David. Front, Leilani, Helen, and Sandy.*

diverse group in order to have members that can relate to the needs of the many different cultures that attend the college. We welcome Samu Raki (Fiji), Leilani Salanguit (Philippines), and Sharon Maisey (NZ).

To our donors, thank you for the continued support, prayers, and visits. We enjoyed sharing a piece of our lives and ministry with those who were able to visit us over the past year including Don and Linda Crum from Creekside as well as Sandy Detherage and Claude Reynolds from High Pointe.

## Ofa's Baptism

If you know Chris Miller, then you know that he has a passion for saving lost souls. After a few weeks of learning at SPBC and a conversation over lunch with Chris, Ofa decided to be baptised. She grew up in the church in Tonga, and her cousin, Lovely, was able to witness this fantastic decision!



## Meet the 1st Year Students



**Jenifer Saavedra, Philippines**  
Jenifer wants SPBC to help build her confidence in sharing Christ's gospel to the lost, to children and to young Christians. Her hobbies include listening to music, singing, reading, and scrap booking.



**Bobby Whippy, Fiji**  
The SPBC Fijian graduates have made a huge impact in Bobby's life and given him a desire to study here. Bobby's wife and 2 year old daughter are in Fiji, where he was a youth leader. He likes rugby, volleyball, reading, and meeting new friends.



**Cecilia Wu, Shanghai, China**  
She is desperately hungry and thirsty for God's Word but could only receive limited Christian information and education in China. She is excited to learn and share God's sweet grace with others. She enjoys drama, swimming, and dancing.



**Lovely Longopoa, Tonga**  
A deep desire to grow spiritually is really important to Lovely. She wants to know God and His word, and anticipates teaching Sunday School for kids when she returns to Tonga. She enjoys reading and swimming.



**Ofa None, Tonga**  
Ofa is a 2nd generation SPBC student. She wants to help with the church in Tonga and share more about the Gospel of God. Ofa enjoys netball and volleyball.



**Chan Ho Jung, Korea**  
New Zealand citizen, Chan has been a Christian since he was 15 but has come to SPBC to learn more about the Bible. He enjoys web surfing.



*Top left, 1st year students celebrate receiving their visas! Top middle, 2nd year students, Mink, Joel, and Bonnie. Top right, Raj and Dea have been accepted into the 3rd year Diploma in Christian Ministry. Bottom left, Orientation Camp brought about a very entertaining skit from the Garden of Eden. Bottom middle, the students enjoyed a day in Rotorua and hosted a singing night. Bottom right, students are already getting active in ministry. They sang at the Bob Owens' rest home with Amy Alfreda.*

## Graduate News: Church Planting in Thailand



Hello, my name is O, and I am a 2013 SPBC graduate.

Five years ago God began prompting me to go to SPBC in New Zealand. My wife, Nid, and I followed God's call and after three years of learning and being equipped, our lives have changed.

Our journey really began in 2014 when we returned to Thailand to fulfil our dream of going home to tell people about God. We strongly desired to start a new church plant by 2019, but

sometimes what we plan is not what the Lord has planned for us. On 22 February, 2015 we held our very first service of our new church plant in Chiang Mai. We have been working for over five weeks now and need your prayers to help us trust in God's calling no matter what His will is! We are so excited and honoured to be God's vessels on this earth and in this country.



## Partnering with Otumoetai Church of Christ



Otumoetai Church hosts an annual Welcome Sunday for the SPBC students which is followed by a picnic at Kulim Park. Otumoetai is closely engaged with the students and offer excellent pastoral care and support. Many members reach out to individual students and adopt them as a part of

their family while they are in NZ. SPBC is extremely grateful for the church's help in making each student's experience a warm one.

*Written by: Veronica Gearhart,  
Publications Administrator*



*Left, Otumoetai Ladies' celebrate Mink before she gets married in April to Joel. Above, Melinda Miller hosting a Ladies' Welcome evening for the girls.*

## Our Mission

**To transform lives  
through the  
inspiration of  
God's Word  
to multiply  
CHRIST-  
FOLLOWERS  
in the world.  
2 Timothy 2:2**

