

# News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

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## The Ethos of SPBC

By:  
**Steve Raine,**  
Principal



It's hard to put into words the heartbeat of what we do. The ethos of SPBC is encapsulated in our recently revised mission statement, "*SPBC exists to **transform** lives through the **inspiration** of God's Word to **multiply** Christ-Followers in the world.*" This mission statement is grounded in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

"TO TRANSFORM LIVES" is a critical element of our purpose. Although it was 30 years ago, I still dwell upon the utter and essential change that Gill and I went through as students. SPBC has helped shape our lives. Now I get to witness that shaping each and every year as new students come in and discipleship transformation begins. This is one of the main reasons why I am here in my role. I believe in this so much.

"THE INSPIRATION OF GOD'S WORD" has, and always will be, a key hallmark. One of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, Lucas, was asked why he came all the way from Switzerland to New Zealand, and why he chose SPBC. Lucas came because of the emphasis we put on studying the scriptures themselves. We cover 90% of the books of the Bible over the course of our 2 year diploma. He could not find this anywhere else. God's Word is crucial to inspiring our students to live transformed lives.

"TO MULTIPLY CHRIST-FOLLOWERS" is a natural outpouring of being transformed into the likeness of Christ and being filled with knowledge of His word. We like to re-evaluate and improve our curriculum in order to better enable our students to share the gospel and to live  
*Article continued on page 4...*



Raj, Marcelo, and Andrew go to a restaurant at Mount Maunganui to have a Bible study.



Third year student, O, preaching at Otumoetai on the incarnation of Jesus Christ. His preaching has developed into a beautiful craft.



First year student, Samantha, enjoying New Zealand's scenery in Welcome Bay.



Brianna and Cristy are involved with Otumoetai's Young Adult's group. They are eating at a potluck dinner with Nick and Rebecca LaSpina.

## Academics: An Ethos that Promotes Growth



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

We had three visiting teachers with us during the second quarter. Dr. James Hinkle (Tennessee) taught Minor Prophets and Counselling Principles & Practices. Dr. Jon Lowrance (Lipscomb University, TN) taught Christian Evidences. Dr. Randy Harris (Abilene Christian University, TX) taught Christian Worship. We are thankful for our visiting teachers taking time to travel to New Zealand

and to share their knowledge and lives with us. In addition, Mike Austin taught Homiletics 4, Steve Raine taught Ministry Skills & Practicum 2 and David Nelson taught Luke-Acts and Christian Education.

Being a small school has its disadvantages but it also has some very important advantages. One of these is the opportunity for much closer student-teacher interaction and sharing in and out of the classroom. Recently one of the students made the following comment about one of our visiting teachers: "I loved having Jon as

*a teacher! His is personable, fun, intelligent and caring. He was very encouraging and easy to be around. Jon also taught things that had depth spiritually. His care for us as students was evident and boosted up the learning."* This is not just an isolated

comment from a student concerning a visiting teacher. Students often comment about the interaction with teachers in and



SPBC students with Jon Lowrance.

out of the classroom. We believe that part of a student's education and growth is through the development of healthy relationships between the teacher and student. For this reason, we try to foster interaction outside the classroom, too. One student commented that they liked it "when teachers come into the kitchen to visit on class-breaks." Seeing these visiting teachers as real people is so encouraging to our students and provides the right context for learning in the classroom. It creates an ethos that promotes learning and growing. In Luke 6:40 Jesus said, "A *disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.*"

## Student Life: Pastoral Care



**By:  
Roger Craig,  
Dean of  
Students**

My role at SPBC is highly involved in the pastoral care that we offer students, but the more I think about

it, the more I believe pastoral care isn't what we offer. It's who we are. In reflection on the past 8 years as the Dean of Students, and 3 additional years as an SPBC student, I view my role as who I am, not what I do. I went through a crucial lifestyle change when I was a student at SPBC. If people knew what my life was like even four months before I decided to come, I would have never been allowed in. However, God had a plan for me, and I am the man I am today because he has used SPBC to get me there.

Those changes happened because of all the students, graduates, teachers and workmates that have been in and out of my office, home, and life up until today. They have taught me how to be who I am. Through life, I have always prayed for God to grow me into someone who others can see Christ through. With all of my heart, I want to thank those who have been part of my journey in the past 11 years and who have helped me become who I am. Pastoral care is helping others come to their full potential, and in



*Roger visiting graduates in Chiang Mai, Thailand earlier this year. This was the first trip he's taken to visit graduates, and was very encouraged to see them using what they learned at SPBC.*



*Gip, Dea, Amy, and Nid visit with Lorna Harnett over morning tea. We love seeing our students and young women encourage others.*

our case at SPBC, it's their full potential in Christ as well as in life. As followers of Christ, we should all try to be people who encourage, build up, share burdens, help others grow, and challenge or chastise when needed. I have found that even though we are teachers, deans, compliance managers, financial managers, etc., at SPBC, our true goal is to be pastoral carers who help bring others closer to the One who is our only hope and makes all things possible, Jesus Christ.

Do you want your life challenged or to become who Christ really wants you to be? Have you ever looked at one of our graduates and thought, "How can I have passion and drive like they have?" Stop hesitating, and "JUST DO IT," like the Nike slogan says. We are only an email away. You won't regret it. I didn't.

Sadly this is my last report as I leave SPBC at the end of August. At this stage, it looks like Trish, Maddie, and I are going to Australia for 12-15 months to join my daughter, Ashlyn, and take time to see what God has in his plans for me in the future. To keep in touch, either contact me on Facebook or by my new email: [sir.roger.craig@gmail.com](mailto:sir.roger.craig@gmail.com)

Walking with him on a life time basis,

Sir Rog

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sir Rog'.

*Continued from page 1...* out lives of service. We get excited when we hear of the fruit of graduates in places like Fiji, Australia, Thailand or the Philippines. The spirit of the SPBC culture is epitomized in our value for God’s Word and our value for mature Christian people. God’s Word is rich and when we take time from our busy lives to study it, we can be transformed, and inspired to live like Christ, which will naturally spread the gospel and increase believers.

## Feature: Godspeed Roger

Thank you for all of your work, dedication, time, honesty, and most importantly, your Jesus-centred perspective on life. You’ve contributed all of your heart to the staff and students over the years. SPBC wishes you God’s blessings and grace as you undertake the next chapter of your life. We won’t forget your token of wisdom, “The worst case scenario in life is that you get to go to heaven.”



## Student Column: The Bible is Relevant



**By:**  
**Lucas Rothlisberger,**  
**2nd Year Student,**  
**Switzerland**

Studying the Bible long-term at SPBC has helped me to see more of the big picture of it all. This is key because I believe that many unhealthy doctrines can come out of a misunderstanding of a few particular verses or the emphasis of one verse over another. Furthermore, getting into the background of the Bible made me understand really tough passages in a new way and opened my eyes to how relevant

the Bible actually is. This impacts my life in the way that I can understand why different denominations have different views and this stirs me to be a man that makes a difference in the future of the church. This is how SPBC has contributed to my growth as a person.

*“Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us.*

*His love was not cautious but extravagant.”*

Ephesians 5:1-2 The Message

**News  
from the  
South Pacific  
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*“The spirit of the SPBC culture is epitomized in our value for God’s Word and our value for mature Christian people”.*

### Mission Statement

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

