

Tauranga, New Zealand

October-December 2011



SPBC Goals and Objectives:

- Biblical Instruction
- Relevant Scholarship
- Spiritual Growth
- Ministry Skills
- Personal and Interpersonal Development

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SPBC Graduation Ceremony Number Twenty-Eight

Every class has its own dynamic and ethos. The same is true of graduation. On December 10th we enjoyed celebrating the 28th Annual Graduation ceremony and were pleased with the good reviews and feedback received afterwards. The special dynamic of the night was that for only the second

time in our history we had an all-female line up of graduates receiving Diplomas (the first time was back in 1985). We are very proud of the great work that Kayla Robinson (NZ / Australia) and Amy Alfreda (Pakistan) achieved in the Diploma in Christian Ministry. Both have a special interest and passion for working with children and, in addition to this, enjoy working with various women's ministries, outreach, young adult ministries, as well as community service projects.

Ethel Avisado (Philippines) graduated with the Diploma of Advanced Biblical Studies and heads for home in the Philippines. Before attending SPBC Ethel had passed the Bar Exams and is qualified as a lawyer. Upon her return home



Photo: Kayla Robinson, Amy Alfreda and Ethel Avisado show off their new Diplomas at the graduation ceremony.

she will undertake a project where she has been commissioned to study Filipino law and its relationship to biblical principles with the goal of finding ways that lawyers can implement biblical values and principles in the execution of the law.

We were also pleased to present Recognitions of Achievement to four other fulltime students – Juan Cusi (Philippines), Peter Kang (NZ / Korea), Connie Toms (NZ / South Africa), & Aralai Naivalurua (Fiji). Syliva Bow and Gill Raine were recognized for part-time study.

From the Principal's Desk
Steve Raine



Academics: The Graduates Speak



David Nelson
Dean of Academics

The 2011 SPBC was not only unusual in that the graduates were all female. It was also an unusual honour to hand every one of these women a Diploma with an "Excellence" designation on it.

Both Kayla Robinson and Amy Alfreda gained experience by being involved in a number of ministries while completing the Diploma in Christian Ministry. Both the Otumoetai Church of Christ and the local community was greatly blessed by their devotion and enthusiasm.

In her graduate speech Amy said that her reason for coming to the Bible College was to find answers to questions she had been asking. She "was very much interested to learn more about the Bible." And, oh, has she learned. Kayla spoke honestly of her struggles in ministry after graduating from

the Diploma in Advanced Biblical Studies in 2006. The Diploma in Christian Ministry has given her a new vision and humble expectation that God will work in and through her.

Ethel Avisado, in her graduate speech, spoke about what she was taking away from the Bible College. In addition to all the memories of teachers who were also brothers in Christ, she says she is "going to take away memories of the Otumoetai church and how it is such a good family and how people are so loving, caring and kind...I'm going to take away a sense of mission and purpose that God really wants me to do something. I'm going to take away most of all a heart that is open to help others and be Christ for others."

Congratulations to our graduates and to our other students who will be moving on from the Bible College to continue their life and ministry.



Juan Cusi being congratulated by Steve Raine as he is recognised for achievements over the last 2 years..



Graduate Kayla Robinson with her husband, Nicholas.



Aralai Naivalurua receiving Recognition of Achievement.



Student Life: Not the Usual Visit



Roger Craig
Dean of Students

You know that things are going well when you have two weeks off and on your return everything is just the same. I had a small operation in November and while I was recovering the students came to visit one afternoon. I just happened to be finishing cleaning my gun collection when they arrived carrying flowers. So what does a man do when a bunch of students brings him a bunch of flowers? Well, I let them play with my guns, of course. Just joking ... we didn't "play" with them as we are very safety conscious here at SPBC ... aren't we Mary? Anyway, we took some pictures of the students being the "army of God" and the girls posed for a couple of pictures being God's angels ... they looked similar to Charlie's Angels. Long-story-short we had a nice afternoon and I really enjoyed the company.



Photo: Students visiting Roger while he was recuperating.

On another note, congratulations to Connie

Ross and Rob Tom as they were married October 8th at the Otumoetai Church of Christ.

At the end, things are slowing down with all the students' studies coming to an end. On the other hand things sped up with everything that had to be done before the end of the year. It is a time of happiness that students have completed their challenge of two years' study and, for some, relief as it's all over. It's also a time of sadness as students say goodbye to those who have been close. That's a hard thing not only for the students, but also for staff.

To those who are leaving I want you to part with this: "Go with God and remember all things are possible with God... so dream big for His Kingdom!"

Next year is just around the corner and just like normal I am still waiting on

Immigration to make some decisions so please pray for these students who are in this waiting process. We have them coming from

Switzerland (1), USA (2), and NZ (2 maybe 3) for next year so we are going a bit beyond the South Pacific... Well, Jesus did say go into ALL the world didn't He???



Photo: Connie and Rob celebrating at their wedding reception.

Thank you to all of you who have supported the students in any way, through finance, encouragement, or prayers because it all helps. Also thanks for your prayers and support for the staff here as well as it's been a big but very good year.

Well, God bless and I pray you all have a wonderful holiday season. Till next year

Sir Rog

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from the
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Graduation:

*The award
or
acceptance
of an
academic
degree or
diploma.*



**Equipping
Christians to
take the Gospel
to New
Zealand,
Australia, the
South Pacific
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Graduation Evening

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Photos (from the top): A proud staff and faculty surround all of those who received Diplomas and Recognitions of Achievement. Supervisors, Marilyn Mauldin and Mary Nelson with Diploma in Christian Ministry graduates, Kayla and Amy. Roger Craig presents Peter Kang with the "Student of the Year" award.

Below: Ethel's father flew in from the Philippines to see his daughter graduate. Singing group performs during the graduation ceremony.

