

# News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

April — May 2015



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## Grace and Courage



*The women at the Otumoetai Church of Christ praying for the students after they presented their lessons.*

The female students hosted a special time for the ladies at the Otumoetai Church of Christ to come and hear them speak from God's word. Each



student shared a message from their heart and encouraged

those listening. The women spoke with such grace and courage. Although English is not their first language, they



looked public speaking in the eye, and presented messages to a room full of women. As a school we are very proud

of our female students for implementing what they have learned in their Homiletics class, which is taught by Mike Austin. We look forward to seeing how each student blossoms in their speaking abilities over their two years at SPBC.



## SPBC Founders *By: Mike Austin, SPCEF*



*James Hinkle flew to NZ from Tennessee to teach Minor Prophets and Counselling Principles and Practice. He has more than 25 years of history with SPBC.*



*We are thankful Dr. Jeanene Reese has returned to SPBC to teach Christian Education. She is a Bible lecturer at Abilene Christian University.*



*Christian Evidences is being taught by Dr. Jon Lowrance. He is a teacher at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.*

Peter Craig, Richard Harnett, Gordon Scott, and Howard Scott were the founding members of the South Pacific Bible College in 1982. Looking back over 30 years ago, it would have been hard to believe that their dream to start a school of Biblical Studies would not only be alive and well today, but that it has



been sending out graduates across the globe for more than three decades. Each of these men made unique contributions to the genesis of the Bible College whether it was vision, prayer, finances, direction, instruction, travel or passion.

The Bible College's very existence today exemplifies the truth of the adage, "Show me your vision, and I will show you your future"! It also reinforces the

depth of the faith of these men for they proceeded in the firm belief that God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his great power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all

*generations, for ever and ever! Amen"*

SPBC will forever be grateful and honoured by the obedience of these men. We are humbled that the faith of our fathers is still living, and that God has continued to grow what he planted many moons ago.

## In the Classroom



After the first two week break the students were ready to get back into the classroom. They all showed positive attitudes and a desire to keep learning as much as they can about God and His Word. The students were taught by our staff members, Steve Raine, David Nelson, Mike Austin, and Johnathon Atchley as well as

visiting teachers James Hinkle, Jeanene Reese, Jay Jarboe, and Jon Lowrance.



*Left, Jay Jarboe works for Mission Resource Network (MRN) in Bedford, Texas. Jay is teaching Foundation of Mission to Raj and Dea, Third Year students.*



## Student Life *By: Mink Gough*



My name is “Mink” Tuangporn Gough. I am a second year student from Thailand. I recently married my Australian classmate, Joel Gough, this past April here in Tauranga. I came

to the Bible College last year in the pursuit of a deeper knowledge of the Bible and for a more intimate experience with God.

Since I came, I have been shaped and moulded by His Word. I have learned to “do life and worship” with the staff and my classmates as a body of Christ. I have learned to adapt and adjust with new living environments and the diverse culture I am a part of. (We have eight different nationalities in this year’s class.) It has been great fun although not without challenges.



*Above, Mink and Joel placing their wedding rings on each other’s hands. David Steel was their celebrant. David and his wife, Suz, were also premarital counsellors for the Goughs. Bottom left, Joel and Mink surrounded by SPBC staff members after their ceremony.*

One thing that the Bible College has equipped me with is the opportunity to dig deep in God’s Word and to put what I learn into practice. In our individualistic culture, being independent is applauded, but following Christ is about interdependence. It is about stepping out of my comfort zone, getting my hands dirty, and being a part of people’s lives the way the staff, friends, and Otumoetai Church of Christ have shown me. As I step out of the college at the end of the year, my pursuit will be to love as I am loved, to forgive as I am forgiven, and to bless as I am being blessed.



*Far left, the Goughs with their friends and family from overseas, including 2005 SPBC graduate, Gade, from Chiang Mai, Thailand. Left, Congratulations to Veronica Gearhart, 2012 SPBC graduate, on receiving her Bachelor of Theology from Otago University. Below, staff and students enjoy one of our regular International lunches and each other’s fellowship.*



## Graduate News: Aaron Knotts in Dunedin, NZ



Family life also focuses around the Kingdom. Our children, Gabrielle and Liam, are home schooled with a Christian curriculum. They also enjoy engaging in the community through music, Karate and St John's Youth. As we

Ministry at the bottom of the world is absolutely amazing. The view from down here is always up! Having an upward calling in Christ and sharing this with my family and a team of upbeat, young missionaries who share in the faith is a huge blessing. Having relocated from our downtown location into the community of South Dunedin has been a great leap forward for us as a congregation. Once again we are involved in a community where we can make an impact, make friends and most importantly, make disciples.

It has been a joy to welcome new members into the Body, and to see them grow in the Lord. This is at the heart of ministry, embracing one on one Bible studies, offering community family fun nights with movies and activities for all ages. Our missionary team has made phenomenal inroads into the schools in our local area. We host a high energy lunchtime program in three different schools, and are beginning to reap the benefits of the relationships being formed.

continue in the upward call of Christ, we are aiming at providing a VBS in the holidays and an afterschool program at the church building. Training up children in the way they should go, teaching disciples diligently to fear the Lord and to observe all that He has commanded is at the heart of our mission as we press on.



American missionaries who are working alongside Aaron in the work in Dunedin.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

The words from Jeremiah 29:11 rang true throughout my time at SPBC, and certainly testify to life in service of our King as we minister together at the bottom of the world. Come on down and see us some time. (Aaron Knotts, 1991 SPBC Graduate)

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## Our Mission

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

