

Tauranga, New Zealand

January through March 2011



## SPBC Goals and Objectives:

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

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## On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand



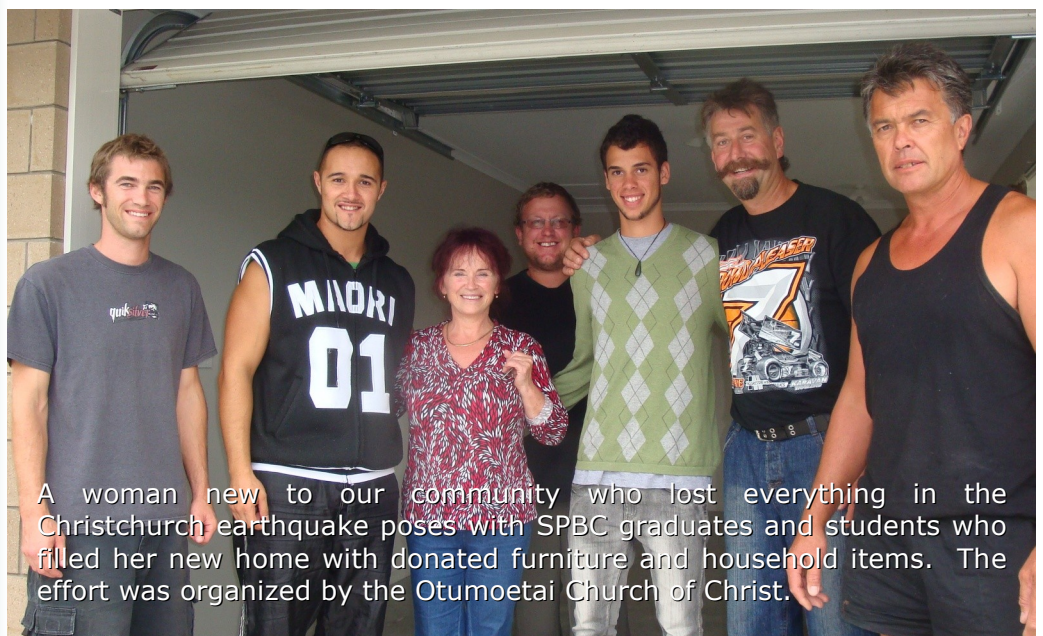
**Steve Raine**  
Principal

As I put pen to paper I cannot help but think of the song "On Christ, the Solid Rock, I Stand". In the past few weeks we have been geographically, emotionally, and tragically reminded of the instability of this world with the earthquake first in Christchurch and more recently in Japan. Many of us have family, friends and brethren in these places. It has been difficult to learn of their suffering and losses. Your prayers on their behalf will be greatly appreciated.

In all of this we have been told by the world of science that the earth's axis has changed and it is rotating faster. Such is a good reminder that our ultimate hope and purpose is not found in

this world but the one to come.

With this in mind we are excited to announce the beginning of another year of study and service at South Pacific Bible College. We have a total of 17 men and women from New Zealand, Thailand, Chile, Philippines, USA, Fiji, Pakistan, Korea, South Africa, and Australia who want to dedicate themselves to one, two, or three years of building their foundations upon "the Rock" which cannot be shaken. Thank you for your participation with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. We are looking forward to another year of exciting, faith building service within the Lord's Kingdom, where men and women of all ages and cultures can grow together upon Christ – the Solid Rock.



A woman new to our community who lost everything in the Christchurch earthquake poses with SPBC graduates and students who filled her new home with donated furniture and household items. The effort was organized by the Otumoetai Church of Christ.

News  
from the  
South Pacific  
Bible College



Making new friendships at SPBC: Aralai, Juan, Gip and Ethel.



Sam delivering a speech in Homiletics class.

## Academics: Off to a Great Start



### David Nelson Dean of Academics

I am glad to report that we have had a great first quarter.

Although our 10 new students have experienced and expressed the normal anxieties, they have excelled in their studies. I'm very proud of them because they have had a good start despite getting used to a new culture, getting to know the way things are done at the Bible College, adjusting to academic life and learning how to manage their time. They have demonstrated a seriousness and focus as a class. As an example, many of the students have taken me up on my offer and have brought an assignment to me for comment before officially handing it in. This encourages me because it demonstrates that they want to get it right. In addition, our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are resolved to be more committed to their studies and this has been demonstrated, too. You know something is right when the whole student body votes to forgo the bi-weekly volleyball games to work in the library.

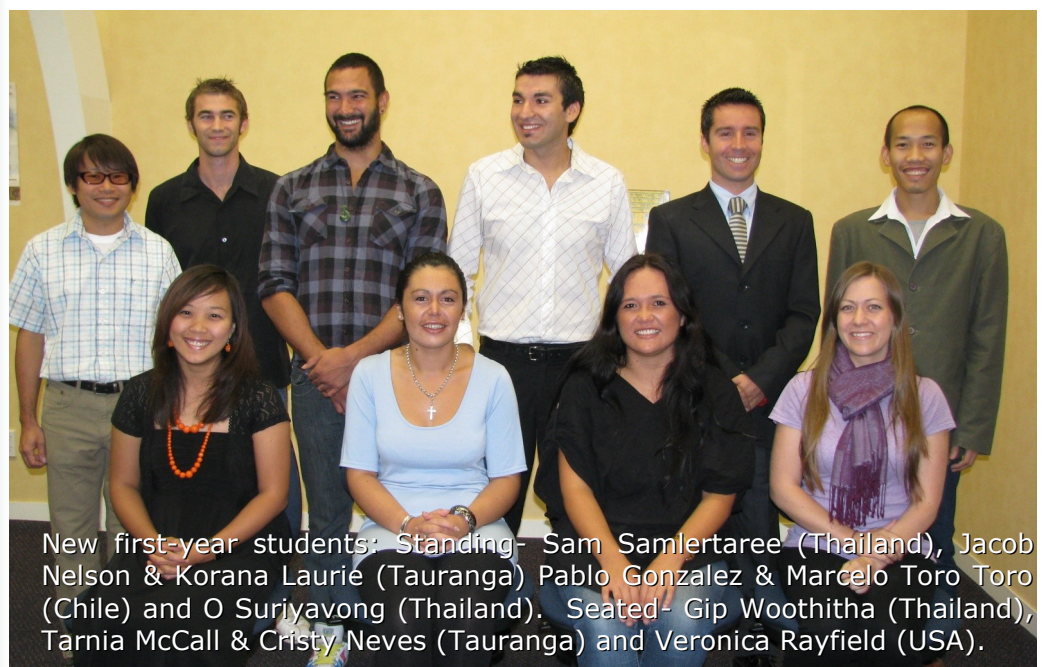
We have been blessed to have several visiting teachers with us this first quarter.

- Dr. Bryan Miller (Nebraska) taught Crisis Counselling.
- Dr. Evertt Huffard, Dean of Harding Graduate School of Religion (Tennessee) taught Introduction to Biblical Leadership.
- Bobby Deason (Florida) taught Scheme of Redemption.

In addition to these we had these local teachers:

- Herman Alexander (Texas & Tauranga): English & Writing, Greek 1 & 2, Survey of Biblical World 1.
- Helen Smith: Pastoral Care & Counselling and Counselling Principles and Practices.
- Mike Austin: New Testament Church and Homiletics 3.
- David Nelson: General Biblical Introduction and Hermeneutics.

Dr. Evertt Huffard also presented an outstanding open seminar on *Islam & Christianity: Understanding our Muslim Neighbours* over a two night period. About 40 people attended.



New first-year students: Standing- Sam Samlertaree (Thailand), Jacob Nelson & Korana Laurie (Tauranga) Pablo Gonzalez & Marcelo Toro Toro (Chile) and O Suriyavong (Thailand). Seated- Gip Woothitha (Thailand), Tarnia McCall & Cristy Neves (Tauranga) and Veronica Rayfield (USA).

## Student Life: A Well Balanced First Quarter



### Roger Craig Dean of Students

Yes it's here again, 2011 and its all go. I started back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January and in the first 2 days back I understood exactly why God wanted me to stay here at the college. In the first 4 weeks of this year I worked 8.5 extra days just to get things organized for the incoming students. I would have hated to see someone new trying to deal with some of the obstacles that we were up against this year... but... as we all know "OUR GOD IS GOOD" and as a reward for all our hard work we have 10 new full- time students, so that makes it 17 full-time students to start with and a number of part-time and audit students to come through the year. The students we have in the class this year come from: Thailand (4), Korea (1), South Africa(1), USA(1), Philippines(2), Chile(2), Pakistan (1), Aussie(1) and New Zealand (4).

The students have started off really well for a big class and the vibe between them is one I haven't seen in a few years. The excitement, the willingness to help each other, the effort to be on time, the energy in coming in and studying at all hours is so exciting for us, as staff, to see. This is not to say other years have not done these things but this year the class has bonded so quickly and firmly it will be great to see the end product in a couple of years.

Our orientation camp this year was a lot of fun, getting to know each other through team games which encouraged everyone to get involved. We had a lot of laughs and all felt very encouraged and built up which is a good thing knowing that the

next two months are going to be tough with some of our students not having been in the classroom for a number of years. This first bonding with the students is so important as it shows them we aren't just a school of biblical studies but we are their brothers and sisters in Christ who want to help them grow in their journey with the Lord.

One of the highlights for me at camp was Mike and myself taking on the Thai students in the game of Jenga, a game for a steady hand, precise movement and heart to make the move. To make a long story short, Mike and I lost... however we did play with two stacks of blocks and got to a stack of 43 high which is quite an achievement.

The Thai students know we will re-challenge them for this title.

Along with teaching and study, SPBC also knows how to do another thing right...eating ... so a lot of international students were wondering in the first few weeks if NZ'ers do anything else but eat, but as all past students know a fed student is a happy student.

With such an international flavour of students, the international flavour of food is just divine and the staff and visiting teachers have been blessed with a couple of wonderful feasts put on by the

students. The students have had a fun games night, with Jim and Marilyn Mauldin hosting another good feed and also I cooked a good old fashioned NZ BBQ with kebabs, Thai chicken wings and the great NZ sausage. To top this all off we have also had a few welcoming morning teas and of course we can't forget the odd birthday cake

thrown in there. Again, like I said a fed student is a happy student. All this eating and studying is good but exercise is also part of healthy living so our volleyball games down at the park helps even all things out. A good bit of rivalry between staff and students is



New student, O Suriyavong, showing Jenga Skills at the Orientation Camp.

always a lot of fun.

I would like to ask for your prayers for the students and also your prayers for finances this year for Student Support as we have a very big class with a lot of finance needed. I know I sound like a broken record on this matter but the Lord does tell us to petition Him on urgent matters of need so please keep this in your prayers.

Walking with Him on a life time basis

*Sir Rog*

News  
from the  
South Pacific  
Bible College

PO Box 8034  
Tauranga 3145  
New Zealand

Phone/Fax:  
64 7 576 9091

Email:  
spbc@spbc.org.nz

*"My hope is  
built on  
nothing less  
than Jesus'  
blood and  
righteousness; I  
dare not trust  
the sweetest  
frame but  
wholly lean on  
Jesus' name.*

*On Christ, the  
Solid Rock, I  
stand; all other  
ground is  
sinking sand."*

**Equipping  
Christians to  
take the Gospel  
to New Zealand,  
the South  
Pacific and  
Beyond.**

[www.spbc.org.nz](http://www.spbc.org.nz)

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## Students and Staff Out and About



Left: Roger Craig was honoured with the 2011 New Zealand Christian Theological and Ministries Education Society Support Staff Excellence Award at their Conference in Auckland in March.



Above Left: Here's to you Mrs. Robinson. DipCM student, Kayla Smith, married Nicholas Robinson during the school break.



Above right: Student, Veronica Rayfield, looking over the "Christchurch Embassy" Welcome Centre at Otumoetai Church of Christ's Friendship Lunch.

Below: The 2011 SPBC students meet the church family.

