

Tauranga, New Zealand

April through May 2011



SPBC Goals and Objectives:

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

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**Steve Raine,
SPBC
Principal**

Missional-Say What?

If you have been reading current mission books, or listening to podcast sermons, or attending lectureships, or researching on the net, no doubt you have encountered the current buzz word, 'Missional', on more than one occasion. It seems like everyone is on the bandwagon, so to speak. I have no desire to write a theological treatise so from my perspective I understand 'missional' to simply mean we are supposed to think like, look like, act like the incarnation of Jesus to our world.

Now I understand that the pendulum of Christian thought and practice swings. I also understand why, for some, this might seem like a new revelation of what church and



Diploma in Christian Ministry student, Amy Alfreda, helps other Christian women serve free breakfasts and smiles to children at a local primary school.

Christianity is all about. However, on the other hand I can't help but think that this is simply what Jesus meant in many of his clear teachings like "you are the salt of the earth" and "you are the light of the world", or "whoever gives a cup of water in my name".

Here at SPBC students are for certain sitting in the classroom, learning at the feet of many fine teachers and leaders. But that's not all we are about. Once their heads are full we

also like to see them get their hands dirty. Several years ago we introduced a new class, 'Ministry Skills & Practicum' to enable students to be missional as a part of their growing experience here at SPBC.

This year we are incredibly blessed to have a fine group of students who want to get their hands dirty and enjoy serving in a wide variety of ways often above and beyond their very full learning schedules.

Academics: Minor Prophets and a Lot of History



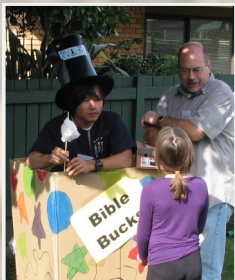
David Nelson
**Dean of
Academics**

The 2nd quarter began with Dr. James Hinkle (Tennessee) teaching the Minor Prophets class and Sean Todd (Chiang Mai, Thailand) teaching Church History 1 (a marathon subject covering 15 centuries in 45 lecture hours). Both of these men did an outstanding job in fulfilling their responsibilities as teachers. Commenting on the Minor Prophets class one student said, *"James knows his material. It was such a blessing to hear him share about a topic he is passionate about. The final exam was great. It wasn't easy, but covered information I will actually use in the future."*

With his animated manner in the classroom and ability to make the characters of church history come to life, Sean was able to keep the students'

attention throughout this journey of church history from the trials of the early church to the religious wars of the Reformation. One student said this class was one of his favourites and added: *"which is funny because before the class started it honestly looked like the most boring subject to me; I had no interest in it at all from just reading the title alone. But now I actually go home sometimes and do my own personal side research about some of the people we talk about in class."*

In addition to teaching the Church History 1 subject, Sean also presented a two night seminar on "Buddhism & Christianity." Drawing on his 20+ years' experience living and working in Thailand, Sean was able to bring knowledge and insight about the Buddhist faith as it is practiced in Thailand. A few from the community and the church attended this interesting seminar.



Sam and David test a child's Bible knowledge at Super Saturday.



Juan and Aralai relaxing during a student evening at Jim and Maralyn Mauldin's house.



Visiting Lecturer, Sean Todd, enjoys lunch with Nit and O Suriyavong.

Student Life:



Roger Craig
Dean of Students

Fast.... I mean really fast, is all I can say about this year. Half way through the second term already.... man..... Christmas is going to be here before we know it.

So what has been happening since the last report? Study, work, rest, study in that order. On the last week of the first term we had Work Week where we spent the week working around the community and giving SPBC a spring clean. This year Work Week was exceptionally good. As most of you know Christchurch had a big earthquake three months back in which 188 people died and 100,000 homes were damaged with many of those having extreme damage. In Tauranga a lady named Rosalie started a fund called "Rise up Tauranga" where people could donate clothing, furniture, kitchenware, canned food etc. for those who had to leave Christchurch and start new homes in other parts of the country like Tauranga. The Otumoetai Church of Christ played a big part in

this. Students were involved in a "Go Sunday" where, as a church, we were on a mission. As a body we split into groups. Some went out into the community, picked up donated items and took most of it to people in need. Some helped prepare a great feast, and I mean a



"Who are these clowns? Nit, Amy, Juan, Marcelo, Ethel, Gip and Aralai sharing the Joy of Christ with neighbourhood children during "Super Saturday" at the Otumoetai Church of Christ.

feast where we invited 14 families who had moved to Tauranga from Christchurch. This was our way of welcoming them to our community and showing the love of Jesus to them. During Work Week we continued to do this and finished the last lot of picking up furniture, packing up clothing and food and preparing it to be sent to Christchurch to help some of those who decided to start their lives again in a broken city. The students found this very gratifying to really help people in need.

During Work Week we also spent a day in gardens around the local neighbourhood helping out some of the elderly. Like I said it was an exceptionally good Work Week where the students could be Christ to others.

After this they all had a well-earned two week break with some sightseeing and plenty of sleeping in. Most of the students ended their holidays by helping to teach and encourage children with Bible stories, crafts and a Bible-themed carnival at the Otumoetai Church of Christ. Holidays don't last forever so it was back to the second term and right back into hard study. But there seems,

however, always time for a bit of romance and I would like to congratulate one of our more mature students, Connie Ross on her engagement to Robbie Toms. We wish you all the best Connie.

Again, please keep the students in your prayers and also, again, if you know of someone who would benefit the kingdom by being here, please let me know. Take care.

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*"This
journey is
taking us
to
Heaven.
So stay
focused
daily!"
Joe
Kanabibici*



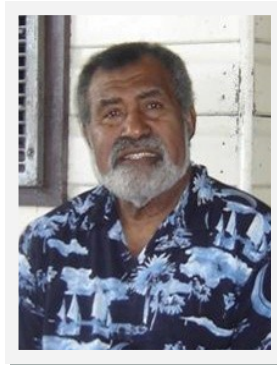
**Equipping
Christians to
take the Gospel
to New Zealand,
Australia, the
South Pacific
and Beyond.**

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Today We Salute a Friend by Mike Austin

Joe Kanabibici passed from this life to the "home of the soul" on the 18th of April 2011. We salute our friend, our brother and example. Our experience of Joe at South Pacific Bible College is summed up in the frequently uttered statement, "If only we had more students like Joe!" Joe wanted to learn and grow for only one reason, to go home to Fiji in order to live and teach his faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Joe was a hard worker and an uncomplaining soul.

Joe was a man of exactness in many ways, in the best sense of exactness, his written expression somewhat "executive", his manner always considered and well thought out, his wisdom worth heeding, and example well worth careful. At that time in life when men often become thinking Joe was and growing in that time in life idle away their purpose and vision.



his Christian following. At that time in life when men often grow Joe was more time in life when closed in their open to learning understanding. At when men often days, Joe lived with

His wife, Mereani, wrote of Joe's funeral, "His relatives talked highly of him. They commented that he 'walked the talk'. He showed Christ's love by giving in times of need. We were encouraged and edified and we will try to imitate him as he imitated Christ. His individual help for each family in the village, his Bible teachings at the school and his help for the unfortunate children to buy their lunches were effective tools for sharing the love of God and His gospel."

Concluding her letter, Mereani writes, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me' (John 14:1) I thank God for giving me such a loving, dedicated and understanding husband. Thank you SPBC staff and the Otumoetai congregation for the unique and outstanding training you gave us. Although he is absent in body, his voice still echoes his goal, 'This journey is taking us to Heaven. So stay focused daily!'"

We have lots of fun memories of Joe too. He had character, and we had some adventures together while he was in New Zealand. We'll remember his comical disbelief and humble acceptance when he was first asked to take his turn washing dishes at the college and his joyous laughter when he got to pour buckets of water on the "Pharaoh" character at a children's day. We smile often when we think of Joe and Mereani. They have brought joy to many of us, and some idea of how good life can be after "retirement". Two living examples of what the terms "missional and incarnational" mean when applied in life and faith.