

News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

January — March 2016



Cover: 1
A Whole New
World

Inside: 2
Asian Mission
Forum & Reunion
2017

Highlights 2

Inside: 3
1st Quarter

**Graduate
Update:** 4
Jab & Becky
Mesa, Papua New
Guinea

A Whole New World



Every single student that studies at SPBC brings a unique charisma to the College's environment. A whole new world is created as different personalities, cultures, worldviews, and energy levels influence the tone of the year. We have a wonderful group of students who have

been eagerly studying God's Word and are adding life to this mini melting pot in the South Pacific. With three new students, the year has been kicked off to a great start. There's a huge amount of potential getting ready to be harvested!



Asian Mission Forum & Reunion 2017

SPBC will be hosting the 2017 Asian Mission Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 29 July to 2 August. Local Thai graduates are helping to organise this annual gathering of missionaries, Asian church leaders, and Christians. The Forum will be

followed by the 35th SPBC Reunion, which will be held from the 2-4 August. **Please save the date! We hope to see as many graduates as possible at the reunion!** More details will be shared closer to these events.



Bobby Deason is teaching two subjects, Scheme of Redemption and Intro to Biblical Leadership. Thank you for teaching every February/March since 2010!



Bryan Miller, from Nebraska, taught Crisis Counseling to our 2nd Year students. He has his own counseling practice and we are blessed to have him!



Thank you to Stuart Penhall (Gosford, Australia) for teaching Intro to Pastoral Care during the 1st Quarter.

SPBC needs a new roof THIS YEAR



Help us reach our goal!

When the College was first built our roof was given a 7 year lifetime. We have doubled that and have managed to get 14 years out of it! With many leaks and other damages, we are hoping to achieve this goal to replace our roof. If you are able to donate, please email spbc@spbc.org.nz

Highlights



We welcome our 2nd Year students back to the classroom! Bobby (Fiji), Cecilia (China), Jenifer (Philippines), Lovely (Tonga), Chan (Korea/NZ), and Ofa (Tonga). We also welcome



Bobby's wife, Lonisa, into the kingdom of God! She was baptised a few weeks ago, and it was special to rejoice with this lovely family!

1st Quarter *By: Veronica Gearhart, Publications Administrator*



The students have hit the books! They are in the full swing of studying and attending lectures five days a week. Juggling all of the assignments and exams is extremely challenging, but each student has risen to the occasion. They are utilizing skills of organisation, time management, and perseverance. Please pray for each of them!



Michael Osbourne, New Zealand

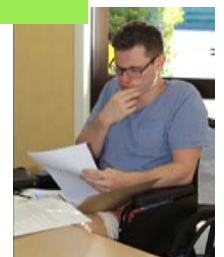
Michael lives about five minutes away from SPBC in Matua, a nearby suburb. He Googled “Bible Colleges” and wanted to attend the nearest one. He became a Christian in April 2015, and he is ready to embark on a serious, dedicated journey with God. We are blessed to have this local Kiwi boy with us!

Merafe Defensor, Philippines

After pursuing multiple masters degrees in subjects like Exceptional Children and Education, Merafe gained her doctorate in Psychology and is more than ready to receive a biblical education! She is eager to serve God until she grows old. She enjoys baking and cooking.



Meet the
**New
Students!**

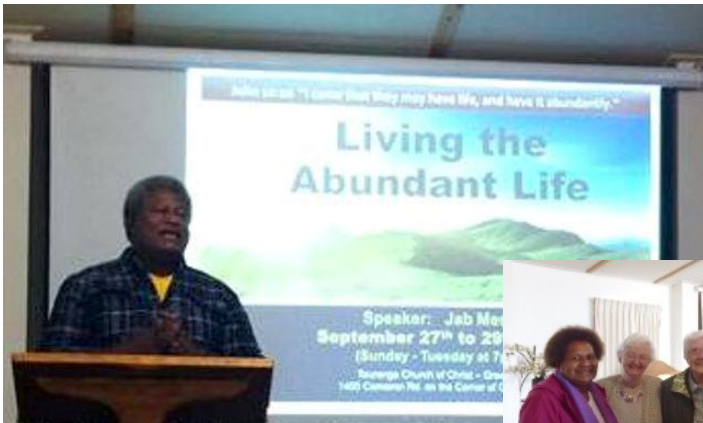


Kaitlin King, QLD, Australia

Kaitlin has just finished teaching English while abroad in Japan for the past 18 months. She’s volunteered in Thailand, Cambodia, and Moree NSW. She is excited to jump into being a student of God’s Word. She enjoys the guitar, swimming, travelling, horse riding, and eating. She drives a blue car.



Jab and Becky Mesa, PNG *By: Andrew Taylor*



Jab and Becky Mesa are from Papua New Guinea. After graduating from SPBC in 1987 they returned to PNG to mainly work in Goroka, Lae but also other islands such as Vanuatu, Fiji, and Bali.

In 1990 Jab became the Principal of the Melanesian Bible College (MBC) and has developed a three year training program. The students can come to Lae to train in ministry for six months and then return to their village for six

months to spread the gospel message. Next, they return to



MBC for further training and assistance in the student's ministry. MBC students have become the foundation of growth throughout PNG as a result of the work!

In 2015 the Tauranga Church of Christ brought Jab and Becky back to New Zealand to host a seminar, which Jab presented. It was themed "Living an Abundant Life" based on John 10:10.

During their ten day visit Becky conducted a Ladies' Morning where she shared her stories of the work in PNG. Becky had not been back to NZ since leaving as a student and was deeply moved to be "back home." She shared stories of her ministry and faith with her NZ sisters from years past.

Jab then shared a three night series that held the perspective

of presenting the gospel as Good News to non-Christians. However, it was an encouraging series for the Christian audience! They were reminded of the blessings we have before us in heaven, but also of the blessings we have *now* as we go through our life together in Christ. We appreciate this beautiful couple and their many decades of faithful service to the Lord! God is GOOD!!

Our Mission

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

