

News From South Pacific Bible College

Tauranga, New Zealand

August —September 2016



Cover: 1
Building
Everywhere

Inside: 2
Building Up the
Temple

A Built Up Staff

Inside: 3
Our Lives are
Built Up at SPBC

Back: 4
A Long Term
Vision for
“Building” Up the
Kingdom -25
Years of “Trust”

Building Everywhere *By: Steve Raine, Principal*



This framework will soon be a duplex containing a three bedroom unit (flat) and a one bedroom unit that is wheelchair approved. To the far left of the framing near the fence, there will be a courtyard, garden, and tables. Parking spaces will run along the front edge of the property, from left to right, running parallel to the footpath.

One cannot be around SPBC at the moment without being confronted with the concept of “building.” In our previous newsletter, we announced that we sold a set of student flats earlier this year. This allows us to develop a school campus on our existing property, which will promote safety, communal living, and save on transportation expenses.

We are excited to share that the construction on the first of our new student accommodation blocks has begun! And with its position right in the middle in our existing property, one cannot escape this daily reality as

each and every day presents a different picture of the progress being made.

However, this is a mere physical picture of a far greater reality for us. This is but a reminder that practically everything we do is about the building up of God’s Spiritual House, whether that is the individual temple of the believer or the church as a whole. Each article, in one way or another, will reflect on the theme of “building” and our prayer is that you will, in turn, be built up.



Students visiting a member of the Napier church. They love building up and encouraging older Christians.



The student body and Dean of Affairs, Gill Raine, enjoying stunning New Zealand scenery on their way to Napier.



Ofa None (Tonga) and Cheryl Pratt (secretary) together at the Staff Appreciation Dinner. Cheryl contributes a strong work ethic and dedication to SPBC.

Building Up the Temple *By: Mike Austin, CFO*

The church in Napier collectively and as individuals are very supportive of our graduates and church planters. In our rush to plant new churches we should not neglect those existing churches that are usually the ones providing various forms of support for those planting churches. Such was the spirit and intent of our recent outreach trip to Napier. The students wanted to serve and encourage them. So, we travelled 300 kms to Napier and spent Saturday afternoon preparing lunch for the church to share on Sunday. We had a great time of fellowship, worship led by Bobby, and I enjoyed teaching and preaching. It was truly a team effort with Lonisa coordinating the kitchen crew and everyone pitching in. We also enjoyed past student favourites at



dinner such as, Hot Chick, Pictures with Pania, In Search of the Perfect Man (still looking, although Cecilia got close), the Veronica Bell, and the Chocolate, Factory (without Willy Wonka)!

We also visited and sang songs with my mum and now you know where I got my sense of humour! *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves."* Romans 12:10



A Built Up Staff *By: Cheryl Pratt, Secretary*

On Friday 2nd September students hosted the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner. We were treated to a 3 course meal of restaurant quality followed by entertainment and games. Certificates were presented to staff members along with a red rose and words of

appreciation. The finale was a wonderful slide show. We were all 'built-up' more than we could have imagined.



"The staff dinner was amazing, well planned, fun, funny, a laugh a minute, but most importantly, was extremely caring, loving and appreciative toward each staff member. Building up barely describes how we felt!" -Gill Raine, Student Affairs

Our Lives are Built Up at SPBC *By: Jenifer Saavedra, Cecilia Wu, & Lovely Longopoa*



With the difficult circumstance I was in, there was no way on my own means that I was going to make it to New Zealand. When it comes to major decisions in my life,

I took a huge leap of faith with coming to SPBC, which still comes second to the commitment I made to follow Jesus 13 years ago. This is my first time to be outside my country, away from loved ones, to have different food, language, culture, a different education system and qualification, and even a strange church culture. All of these things really make me see just what I am. I am absolutely nothing without God! Never in my life have I had this much dependence on God.



SPBC is not just an academic theology institution. It is a family and a cultural furnace to me. My classmates and I came with a hunger for God's Word and the real

truth, but we also carried along with us our pride, prejudice and presumptions from our different cultures and backgrounds. SPBC has transformed me to be a more tolerant and open-minded Christian and helped me to improve myself through excellent examples of the staff and students. I have found a sense of belonging in New Zealand because we are all working towards the same goal, which is to serve God's kingdom. This is an environment full of love, one where we learn from each other and grow up together.

-Cecilia

2nd Year Student, China

Contemplating on everything the Lord has done for me through SPBC, the Otumoetai Church family, and a few committed people who support me financially, I am deeply humbled. Through them, I have experienced God's love, grace, mercies, and blessings in depths I never have before. One of the best things that came out strongly in me because of this is the spiritual gift I recently discovered I have: the joy in giving different ways. I love my SPBC family, and I am very grateful of how God is using them to nurture and grow spiritual lives. I am not the same person who came here a year and a half ago. All glory is the Lord's!

-Jenifer

2nd Year Student, Philippines



Ever since the beginning, SPBC has honestly been my special home. It's sad to think about leaving this place in a few months. I have been loved and cared for since day one, and that is why I am loving it

in New Zealand. I call the staff, students, and church community "family," which is a big deal to me because in Tongan culture, family is everything. I will carry everyone here in my heart forever.

-Lovely

2nd Year Student, Tonga

A Long Term Vision for “Building” Up the Kingdom -25 Years of “Trust” *By: Mike Austin, CFO*

In July the South Pacific Christian Education Foundation (SPCEF) passed another amazing milestone, it's 25th Anniversary. The Foundation is the primary funding source for the Bible College and during the past 25 years has made grants totalling \$2,678,300.

The Foundation has been able to do this because of the generosity of its donors, the combined experience and input of its trustees, its willingness to take sound investment advice, and above all, the blessing of God.

Two of the original trustees are still serving the Foundation today, Malcolm MacLean as Board Chairman and Mike Austin as Treasurer and Investment Manager. Rex Merrick has

the next longest tenure, and in recent years Andrew Taylor has joined the board and added his expertise.

The original donor, was Doug Winton (\$20,000), an old raspberry grower and faithful servant of “the



Creator” from Korere in the Nelson region. Since 1991 the Trust has been the beneficiary of a number of estates and the recipient of generous donations from within New Zealand and overseas. We praise our Provider as we

celebrate 25 years of faithful generosity and the deeply significant spiritual investment that has been made in the lives of *every single* SPBC graduate.

Help Build on the Foundation God Has Laid

By making the Foundation a beneficiary of your estate or by making a donation, you provide opportunities for future generations to know the Word of God. The trustees are available to answer any questions you or your legal advisor may have in respect to your intentions and the Foundation's profile and purposes. SPCEF is registered with Charities Services and the Trust Manager is a senior member of the NZ Trustees Association. Initial contact can be made at maustin@spbc.org.nz

Our Mission

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

