

DECEMBER

THE MILLER NEWS

"Knowing God and Making Him Known...in the South Pacific"



Dear brethren,

Greetings once again from down in the South Pacific. It seems that time has gone by fast, and we are now into Christmas and a new year. Melinda and I have been catching up with a few things that we put off due to our US trip. Melinda had cataract surgery on both eyes on Nov. 1. So, for a few weeks she was recovering from that. Then once she could see I went in for Vitrectomy surgery on my right eye. So that meant I was out for a few weeks as my right eye healed. It has made us both appreciate the value of sight. I have greater empathy for Bartimaeus who had either lost his sight or was born blind. But when asked by Jesus, **"what do you want me to do for you?"** V51, he had one answer **"I want to SEE"** Mk 10:46-52 I appreciate his raw need, "I want to see". I thought about that. What is so courageous about this man is that he was not going to let the **crowds, critics** or even his precious **coat** stop him from achieving that. I was reminded as I pondered the story of Bartimaeus that really it is our story too. We should be so desperate for Jesus that we chase after him despite what others say to us. We should want to be with God so much that we **don't allow any obstacles** get in our way. Even after he was healed of his sight he did not walk off and forget God but **"followed Jesus down the road."** How many times do we forget God after he has helped u?



Since being back we have been trying to catch up with members. One of our older sisters Pat Martin turned 93 so Melinda and I wanted to make sure we were there to celebrate this milestone of this wonderful sister. Pat immigrated from Canada many years ago with her husband and it was while in New Zealand in the 1960's, that they met members of the church and were baptized

into Christ. Pat has been faithful all these years and reminds us of what Paul said in **1 Cor 15:58** **“To be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the**



Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the lord is ever useless”. Pat is that to

the church in New Zealand.

Though I was in the middle of healing with my eye surgery. We cannot stop love prevailing. On Nov.19, we had the wedding of two of our special young people. Hope is from Korea and came to New Zealand live and work. Little did she know that the Lord had many other plans for her. One was her conversion into Christ. The other was to meet Andrew Hastings who had come as a Bible College student from Gosford, Australia. It was wonderful to catch up with their family from Conway, Arkansas, and Gosford, Australia. God was once again at work and the two are now married.



The day was a wonderful celebration. Melinda continues to faithfully get ladies that have birthdays together for fun and coffee.



The seniors had their end of year Christmas party to celebrate another year together with 28 coming. Even some of the younger members joined in to serve and encourage.

One of my dear brothers in Christ, Jim Mauldin has been battling with Cancer.

Jim and Marilyn served beside Melinda and I for 11 years at Otumoetai Church. I will often Face

Time him to pray for him. Andy Taylor who was baptized the safe time with me 42 years ago also a dear friend of Jim's facetimed with me to pray with him.

Every year we have a gathering of the volunteers who serve in the body at Otumoetai to encourage them at Palmers a garden center to encourage each other. It encourages the members in their service to the church family.





It was a thrill to see Aaron (Captain) and Angelique (head Nurse) achieve



their medical mission trip to the Fiji Islands. The team they had around them did an amazing job and went to the outer islands of Fiji that get very little dentistry or medical help at all. They treated over 635 people and did 578 primary health care services. So, the ship the Kohu (meaning gift) coming to these islands truly was a blessing for many of them. The Fijian people are just so grateful for this help. They served there for 3 months. Plans are being made to return next year as there is such a great need.

teaching. He has done an amazing job with the kids, and they have all grown to love him. Georgia is still teaching and composing her music and has done very well this year with it.

Abby, Jason and the three grandchildren are heading to New Zealand on the 28th of December. We are excited to be able to see our family and spend the month of January with them here.

As always, we are grateful for



prayers, encouragement and support. We want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and God bless you in the new year. As with Bartimaeus we all want to “follow Jesus down the road”, (Mark 10:52) to opportunities, challenges, and our way knowing the Lord walks whatever people come beside us.

Blessings

Chris and Melinda Miller

