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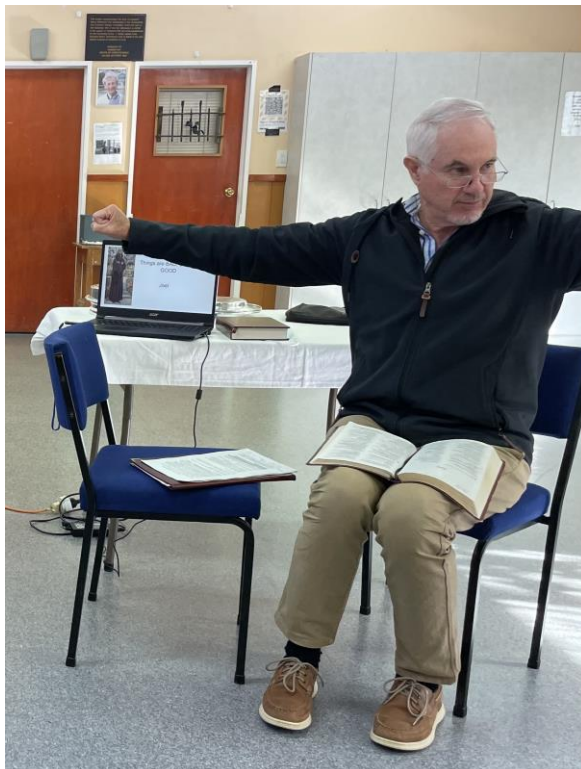
Miller's Newsletter

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



Dear Brethren,

It's always a joy to send a few updates on life down under. Recently Melinda joined me as I travel to the South Island and spent the first 6 days with me and then flew home and I had planned to continue traveling and visiting brethren and encouraging them together at the "Band of brothers" retreat with 10 of the brothers from around the Island. We decided to have some time together and visit some of the sites around Christchurch and then do the TranzAlpine train ride



which takes us through on the coast to coast train ride through Canterbury and then through the Southern Alps and what is known as the "Great Divide" a 446 Km train ride there and back. We stayed over on the west coast at Greymouth, a town that is like going back in time 50 years. Then returned the next day back to Christchurch. It was a wonderful trip and we got a chance to meet people from all over the world and had many wonderful conversation about the Lord and his workings to people we may not meet again.

But while traveling, Melinda picked up COVID and did not feel that well. We did not know this as the tests did not show this and our friend the Stanton's were happy to take us in and accommodate us graciously the day after we returned from our train ride. I preached and taught did the class at the church that meets in Christchurch. Melinda remained home as was not feeling well. Unfortunately, she tested positive and two days later I tested positive along with Grant Stanton. Paula Mafai flew in as he was going to travel with me as I travelled visiting others but, because Grant and I had COVID we had to lock down for 7 days. The retreat that I had planned for the brothers was postponed till October. I was reminded of what Solomon wrote. **Proverbs 16: 9 *The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.*** As you know, things don't always work out as planned. How we have seen this over the last three years as we all had to adjust to the Coronavirus. As human beings, we will never stop making plans, but perhaps a lesson for us (me) is to hold our plans lightly. Here is how the letter of James explains it: **James 4:13 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— v14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."***

How many plans we can all make without regard for the will of the Lord? Far too many. In our arrogance, we plan as if we know exactly what will happen. Thankfully, God has a way of humbling us. That is why we must always keep in mind those words from James, ***"If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*** How we all have countless stories of great dreams and plans we have made only to see them not come to fruition. The psalmist reminds us in **Ps 37:5 *"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act"*** When we give our plans over to the Lord, we are in the safest place in the world. We don't have to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34), and we can rest easy knowing that the will of the Lord will prevail. Praise God!

One of the rich serendipities of my being locked down is I got time with Paula and Grant. No finer Christian friends and brothers to spend time with. We had



6 days together which never happens in life. We studied together, prayed a lot together, watched

the “Band of Brothers” series which is the theme of our retreat and laughed a lot and told endless stories.

Before I went to the South Island, Melinda and I travelled to Napier to encourage the small church there. They are always appreciative of our coming. Having spent 11 and half years there we got to know the



church well.



Recently while I was away one of our members, Heather Ninness, had been studying with her son Russell to put on Christ. Please pray for Russell as he lives in a remote place up in Northland and needs our prayers.

Melinda put on a lovely morning tea for Malcolm



as it was his 84th birthday. Malcolm and Ngaire have been foundational members of our church for many years. We feel honored to have them in our church family.

Recently while in the South Island I drove down to Dunedin and caught up with David and Shirley Woodrow and Leah Graefe. I held a study with a men's group and while there I stayed at a small motel. I met the owner/manager his name is Arnold. He is from Kansas in the US and moved to study at Otago University and play rugby. He ended up staying and has bought this small 1911-year-old Hotel. I ended up sharing Christ with him and challenging him to consider his journey towards



putting on Christ. I introduced him to Leah and invited him to come visit the church in Dunedin soon. Pray for Arnold as he moves away from his religion of Catholicism and takes on Christ as His Lord.

Recently I took Corben and Melissa out fishing. Corben is the young man I



baptized and he met Melissa who is a young single lady in our congregation and have been courting each other. It was good being able to see them catch some fish and enjoy the day.



Recently I went to the luncheon at the SPBC and spent some time with students and faculty there.

We sometimes get opportunities to gather with the young adults in our congregation. This day they had a gathering at the beach and enjoyed



chatting around a beach fire.



Abby, our daughter, holds a Bible study with a group of young mothers on the beach every Monday at Huntington Beach, Ca. They have all gone and are going through different challenges, but Abby has used her own to encourage them. She has been leading them through the book of 1 Samuel.



We recently got news that Angelique and Aaron have a baby on the way. Though it is only 8 weeks in they have been waiting on this for the last 9 years. Please keep them in prayers. We are thrilled for them.

Aaron presently has taken the medical mission ship with 16 others to the Fiji Islands. The dentist and medical team will fly over to join them and will head out to the outer islands. Depending on how Angelique is feeling she will try and join them as she runs, the dentist and doctors and makes sure all things run

smoothly as possible. Please keep them in your prayers.

Once again, we appreciate so much your belief in us and our work in this part of the world. Without your help, support, and prayers we could not be doing what we have been called to. Thank you.

In His service

Chris and Melinda.