

February 2024

# MILLER NEWS

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



Dear Brethren,

As always, we are so thankful for your partnership in the Lord's work in New Zealand. It was Paul who said, "for we are co-workers in God's service." 1 Cor 3:9. God has never intended us to do this alone. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie said, "It marks a big step in your development when you come to realize that other people can help you do a better job than you could do alone". Jesus sent his disciples out in twos, there were no solo acts. Why? For many reasons: often to prevent one another from straying off the path, to hold each other accountable, to encourage one another when the going gets tough, to offset a weakness with a corresponding strength. We each have blind spots and we need someone else's 20/20 vision in those areas to help us see things the right way. In Exodus 17 it was Aaron and Hur who came and held up the hands of Moses, one on one side and one on the other, so he could remain steady until sunset. Ex 17:12-13. I'm thankful for those who have helped us, prayed for us, and encouraged us over the years to remain steady and to hold us up when we have grown tired. You have held up our



hands and hopefully we are holding up the hands of others.

It was wonderful to have our family come together after Christmas. Our daughter Abby and Jason her husband and the three grandchildren all came for three weeks. Abby is a doula and came a little earlier as Angelique our daughter-in-law was expecting around the beginning of January. It was a wonderful delight to have our grandson Jack arrive on the January 10<sup>th</sup>. Though it was a bit of a rough birth for Angelique she got through it. Aaron and Angelique have waited 9 years for a child, so Jack is a very special and loved little boy. Abby and family returned home Jan 19 but Ethan our 17-year-old grandson stayed on for 6 days. We enjoyed having him on his own and enjoyed Monopoly games, bike rides and morning devotionals. He also got to do some surf



road trips with his uncles. We are very proud of him.

When I was in Auckland in January, I stayed with my brother Warwick and his family.



Over the years I have discussed baptism with him and why he needs to be baptized. He had asked me to come and speak to a group of men he leads called “crucial men”. He has about 35

men who come from different religious groups in Auckland city and with that several preachers. It allows me to share some Biblical truths with them. After the men’s group he asked me to tell him more about baptism. So, we looked at the



Word together and read what it says about baptism. At the end I waited to see what Warwick's response was and he said, "I want to do it now as I don't know when I will see you again." It was truly an emotional moment for me as this has been my prayer for the past 40 years. When we sat down afterwards, he said "we need to baptize my other brother Richard next" it was great he was thinking this way.

The assembly planning team got together at our house to plan out this year's schedules and what our theme for the year needs to be. So, we are focusing on the gospel of John for the first 6 months. With the theme from Philip's words in Jn 1:46 come and see. We want the church to be more conscious of how we can bring people we meet along to the assemblies and be more evangelistic. We are excited to see what God will do this year.



At the end of 2023 we like to take the children to the park and give out the Bible class certificates for the effort and accomplishments that they have made in learning in the Bible classes. It wonderful to see how our children gain more knowledge of the scriptures every year. Credit goes to the Bible class teaches making sure this happens.

Recently after Jay's baptism we have been getting together and taking him through some new Christians studies. It is wonderful seeing his growth. He helps run a small boxing group and helps train some of the younger men. He has been sharing his faith with them and it is wonderful that even



though he is still young in his faith he is excited to be able to share with them. Please keep Jay Armstrong in your prayers as he grows in the lord.

During the summer the church likes to meet in the park and spend time fellowshiping with one another. The kids play games, and our teenagers and adults just love to catch up and enjoy each other's company. We have pleasant summer weather in the Bay of Plenty with 80-degree weather.



I have been preparing a lesson and sermons for the USA trip in 12 days. I will be speaking at the “Affirming the faith” conference on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at North MacArthur church of Christ in Okla. City. It will be encouraging to be with our American friends and church family. Please pray for us that we travel well and safe and that the lessons are received well.

As always, we appreciate your love, support, and prayers for us as we labor in the Lord's vineyard in the South Pacific.

In His service

Chris and Melinda Miller