

Miller's September News

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



Dear brethren,

How the year has flown by. The last few months have had its ups and down in more ways than one. Last year I had a vitrectomy surgery on my right eye to remove a gel-like substance that fills the back of my eye. Then earlier this year with a cataract surgery. However, I have been having further complications which they are working on. But it has reminded me how one's vision is so important. **But especially our spiritual vision.** Jesus had a keen spiritual vision in Matthew 9:36 when it says, "**he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd**" How I wish we could see the world with the same degree of spiritual vision that Jesus did. The story of the good Samaritan in Lk 10:30-37 is a good reminder of how two men passed by an injured man because they were intentionally blind to his suffering. They never saw people as Jesus saw them. The good Samaritan had 20/20 vision. His eyes were connected to his heart. As a result, when he noticed the man by the side of the road, he was moved by compassion. How we all need to have Jesus eyes and heart to see people as Jesus sees people. Lost and alone. A simple prayer for all of us to pray is. "Lord Jesus, as I interact with others today, help me to see them as you do." An outwardly focused mindset causes us to start listening with our ears, seeing with our eyes and responding with our hearts. It sends a powerful message, "I noticed you! You matter to me! But most importantly you matter to God." Recently I was having a bible study with a man at a coffee shop and at the end of the study I would spend time to pray for this man. At end of the study, I noticed an attractive elderly mother with her attractive daughter looking at us. We had their attention, and I said, "good morning". The mother immediately asked me could you pray for us too?" So, I moved to their table and asked, what would like us to pray for? She said my daughter is going through a divorce and immediately they both started crying. I prayed for them, and it allowed me to have this spiritual conversation with them. I don't know what the result will be from this encounter, but God is teaching me always to have spiritual vision for

people, to see people as Jesus sees them, lost and alone without the Lord.

This last month we enjoyed fellowshiping with our midweek home group. We have been working through Ecclesiastes and often enjoy our fellowship meals together. Melinda always organizes the cakes, which she did for Bella's 12th birthday. Bella and her dad have only been attending our congregation for the last 11 months and I baptized Jay late last year. It is wonderful seeing their growth.



Recently, Andrew and Hope Hastings returned to Australia as they are expecting their first child. They plan to live and work near Andrew's family in Gosford Australia. Andrew grew up in the Gosford Church of Christ and graduated from our Bible college. Hope started attending



church and they started dating and she became a Christian. They have



been a blessing to our church family. We will miss them. We had a farewell for them and prayed for them.

Every year we have our national Men's retreat. Its always a blessing to our brothers from around the country and from Australia.

We had Grant and James from Christchurch stay with us. They are the leaders in the church in Christchurch. It was great to have them stay at our place before the retreat and after.



Every week at 6:45 a.m. on Wednesdays I meet Deon Connaway, at his office downtown for our Colossians study. Deon is one of our members. He and his family moved here from South Africa a few years ago. He asked me if we could do a study together as he wanted to grow

more. Deon works for our city council and so we meet at one of his conference rooms. We are praying that this will spark interest in other employees and lead to further discussions and studies.

As I mentioned last month about Alvin coming to my door to sell me Solar Panels. I invited him into my house, and we ended up not talking about the Sun but THE SON of God. We are presently studying. Please Alvin in your prayers.

This last month my brother invited me to come to Auckland and speak once again at the Crucial Men's group on the Saturday morning. It is made up of men from different religious groups who want to learn more about Christ. I spoke on "The three chairs" a

lesson that talks about what chair you sit in in life. Challenging them to



sit in the chair of commitment. The lesson went well which is always encouraging.

Recently for Father's Day which is in Sept in New Zealand, we had John and Rosie Atchley over with their son Ambrose who is just 3 days older than our grandson Jack. They are both now 8 months old. Both John and Rosie in the last few years have lost their dads so we wanted to encourage them in this season.

Nathan, our youngest son, has gone to visit and stay with our daughter and her family in California for a while. They are all enjoying the time together.



and his parents so close and getting to spend time with them whenever we get chance.

We had our national Rugby team called the All Blacks play Argentina recently and so we dressed up in our support gear and Jack my grandson joined us.

Melinda and I love having Jack



As always, we love and appreciate your prayers and support for our work in New Zealand and beyond. We could never do what we do if it was not for congregations and individuals who are behind us to achieve our calling.

In His service,

Chris and Melinda Miller.

