

JANUARY 2025

# THE MILLER NEWS

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



Dear brethren,

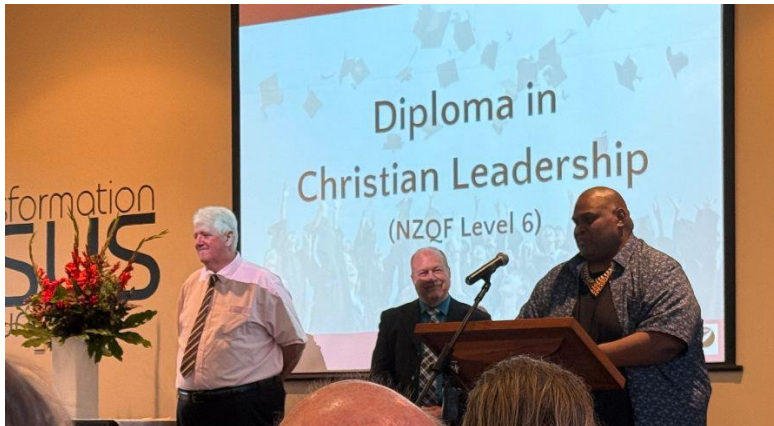
I pray that as we enter this new year, we will remain faithful till the end. As I write this, we are often beset with different challenges from health issues, family troubles, congregational struggles and life's setbacks and our list goes on. How often though have we seen Christians who have been faithful and serving the Lord trip up at the last post and fall away. This last year I have seen Christians who were once excited for the Lord, now facing setbacks, struggles, listening to the wrong advice, and the **worries of the world and deceitfulness of riches Mark 4:19 choke out the Word.** The Hebrew writer warns us in **Heb 2:1 "for this reason we must pay close attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it"**. Consider this word "drifting." It means to float by. It's what a piece of bark, a leaf or a dead fish does in the river—it floats by the boat that is being rowed up stream. It takes no life and no motion to float by. One needs only to do nothing, and you will float by. Hebrews says that if we do not vigilantly pay closer attention to the Word of God, we will float by—we will drift away from God's Word. I remember My father had a boat and sold it and it was not long after this he heard that it had slipped it's mooring and ended up on the rocks, wrecked. As we come into the 2025, lets make sure we don't drift slowly away from

Christ and his Word, but remain faithful to the end.



As I mentioned in the last newsletter, that Alvin Prasad came to my door selling Solar Panels. I invited him in and 3 months later Alvin was baptized into Christ. We continue to study together, and it brings me joy to see him grow. But Satan remains busy as he does with each of us as not long after his baptism his company went

into receivership, and he is presently look for a job so your prayers. would really be helpful for him as He is a certified accountant and wants to get back into this.



This last year I have been mentoring Allan Kwaimai who is originally form the Soloman Islands. He has been under my guidance for the year, and it is wonderful to see how he has grown. He has been a part of some of my studies which has been



encouraging. This was his graduation night, and I'm thrilled that he received his certificate.

It was sad that we had to say goodbye to a dear sister who was one of the original members of our congregation from its beginning. She was 96 years old when she died and even came to church with her radiant smile, and two days later she passed away. Heaven rejoices at her



arrival.

We had the SPBC graduation in early December. Its always sad to see students leave as they come a part of our lives. Wijit and Poppy Wongboboan will be heading back to Thailand and though it is sad seeing them go it is also exciting to see the influence they will have for Christ in the places God places them in Thailand.





Through our summer we have had visitors from other countries come to see New Zealand and visit our church family. As a tradition we like to take them to a Turkish restaurant near our church building. The owners are Muslim, but we have built a relationship with them, and they have

attended our services several times. This family was visiting from Colorado Springs and we were blessed by their visit.



We had a reunion with the two families that we worked with in the mid-80s to mid-90s together. We were all once young, but the photos give that away. We spent a lot of time remembering our times together and the joys and the mistakes we made that have helped form us to this day. We had most of our children present with us and then the grandchildren. It was so refreshing to be able to catch





up at the park together for a brief time.

We presently have our family from the U.S. with us for 3 weeks, so it has been keeping us busy as they are teenagers that are ready to go. It has been a blessing to have them around. As they get older, it will get harder to rally them back to NZ. So, we

are grabbing the moments while we can. We went down to the Hawke's Bay where two of our children were born. They have not been back for over 25 years. So, it was good to show them the houses and the church building etc that they grew up around. We have been on hikes; bush walks and swimming in the river etc.

As always, we count our blessing knowing that things can change in a instant. We can all be thankful that the Lord never changes. **Malachi 3:6 For I, the LORD, do not change.**

We pray that 2025 is the year that we can all grow closer to the one who does not change and that we find our hope and security in him.

Thank you for your prayers, support and tireless love. Keep us in your prayers as we lead, mentor, share the gospel with those around us.

In his service,

Chris and Melinda Miller

