

# Miller News

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



Dear brethren

We are heading into autumn in New Zealand and the weather is still mild, in the 70's which is nice. Recently I prepared a sermon that I was going to preach in another city.



I titled it **"The family Business."** I worked on the family farm growing up with my brothers. The farm was a sheep, cattle, grain farm. When I was 19 years old, my dad asked me **do you want to be a farmer and join the family business?** By that stage I was ready to spread my wings and try something different, so much to my dad's disappointment and grief, I said "no". I left the farm never to go back and work full time on it again. As I prepared to preach **Phil 1:3-8** I was reminded by Paul that we are in **the family business**, God business, that is a spiritual business. Jesus when his mother came looking for him in **Luke 2:49** said **"did you not know that I must be about my father's business?"** Because we are called by Jesus, brothers and sister in **Hebrews 2:12** we join in this family business. In fact, Paul says in **Philippians 1:5,7** **that we are partners or sharers** in the sharing of the gospel. The challenge always comes in making sure we keep passing the product, that is the gospel

forward. They say that 50 percent of family businesses don't survive the transition into the next generation. But it's not only businesses that have this struggle in transitions, it is churches too. Churches start with a **few Christians**, and for a period of years there is a **movement** of excitement. The gospel is being spread, but if that gospel does not keep being passed forward and shared to the world around us and in our towns, villages, cities, we can easily move toward becoming a **monument**. I was recently at

another church preaching and one of the young married men came up to me after my sermon and shared his fears and began to cry in front of me as he said, “once the older generation pass on, I will be left to lead the church and there are no other young men in the church to help me.” I felt his anxiety and concerned. It was a great reminder for me that we are to make sure that we keep sharing our faith, **the gospel** so we can

see the family business continue to be passed into future generations. As Paul would say **“the greater progress of that Gospel. Phil 1:12**



This last month we have had many cruise ships come into our harbor and with that some brethren we know coming our way. Some were able to attend our gathering on Sunday morning. This month we had Charles and Genie Kelsey from Lawton Oklahoma. Charles is an elder at the University church of

Christ. They have supported Melinda and I for many years. It was a blessing to see them and show them around our city.

Also coming our way for five days was Phil and Diana Wood from Oklahoma City. Diana's parents Leonard



(since passed on) and Marilyn have been long-time friends and have known us and supported us for over 40years. It was truly wonderful to have them spend time with us and encourage us in our work.



Recently I went to Napier to preach with one of the SPBC students that I mentor. We got to meet up with a few of the men at a coffee shop and caught up with them. It was good to see Andre, he was an ex-gang member, seeing his



conversion to Christ has been amazing. As we sat at the coffee shop, he invited people coming in to meet us and tell them we are Christians and show kindness to

them. On Sunday, I preached on the opening words, titled **"The Family Business" Phil 1:3-8**. Its always good to hear how people were lifted and challenged by it. Glory be to God. It was great being with the brethren once again.

Last week I spoke at our men's breakfast to 17 of our men. I spoke about the **Tale of**



**three hearts** found in the book of 3<sup>rd</sup> John. We meet once a month at a coffee shop and spend time eating and enjoying each other. It is always a rich time together.

I placed this picture in my newsletter to give an idea of our church family at Otumoetai. We have about 70 – 80 in our church family at present. This was a few weeks ago when we had to farewell 3 AIM (Adventure In Missions from Sunset church in Lubbock, Tx.) girls that have been with us working in lots of areas in the church for the last 18 months. We will miss them and their serving hearts and energy.

Now I have some small group and some individuals that I'm studying with and its



always a thrill to see how the word challenges and penetrates our hearts.

Melinda and I recently went to support our sister Jazz who has started up her own food caravan business. We feel blessed to see her



growth over the years in the Lord. She is a single mother and has done well in having her own food business over the years. She is a blessing to our church family.

We are grateful to have our eldest son Aaron and his wife Angelique in our city. We often get to spend time with our youngest grandson Jack who is 14 months old and growing



fast. He is always drawn to his Nana and of course Nana never says no but loves her moments with her baby grandson, and grandad enjoys spending time with him too.

Again, we appreciate the prayers that are said for us and our family and our work. God knows we need them. Thank you again for the support that congregations and some individuals send our way for us and our work, without which we could never do what we do. Please keep Melinda in your prayers as it looks like she will be having a knee replacement at the end of May.



Please let us know if we can pray for any of you in any regards of needs.

In his service

Chris and Melinda Miller

