

July 2021

MILLER NEWS

“Knowing God and Making Him Known...in the South Pacific”



Dear brethren,

Well, here we are in the beginning of August. How the year is moving by fast. It seems we are all still feeling the effects of COVID 19 all over the world. I know for Melinda and me it has been more discouraging lately with the fact we cannot see our family in California and visit our supporters. When we dwell on this it takes us down paths in our mind that are not constructive. How easy it is to run down those paths. But we are reminded of what Paul said in (Phil 4:8) **“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise”**. I’m reminded that Adam and Eve were in the garden of Paradise where they had all they needed to be happy. Yet sadly they got fixed on the one tree they could not have. (Gen 3:6) That is often us when we get fixed on what we cannot have while missing all the blessings we do have. When the Israelites crossed through the Red Sea and had God’s guiding hand providing them with food from heaven

each day so they never went hungry (Exodus 16:4)

“but--- soon forgot what he had done” (Ps

106:13) They were fixed on the wrong things. I

read about General Robbie Risner who spent seven years in a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp.

But he survived by prying off a covering of a drain in his cell and saw one solitary blade of grass. It

was that one blade of grass that brought color into his colorless world. He called it “a blood

transfusion for the soul” Risner began each day in prayer, lying on the floor with his head down the

drain focusing on that single blade of grass.

Perhaps the lesson for us is to get down and pray and focus on God. Choose to focus on faith rather

than fear and on hope rather than despair and blessings rather than our immediate problems.

Even when the problem isn’t solved to our liking, when we focus on God, he lifts us above our

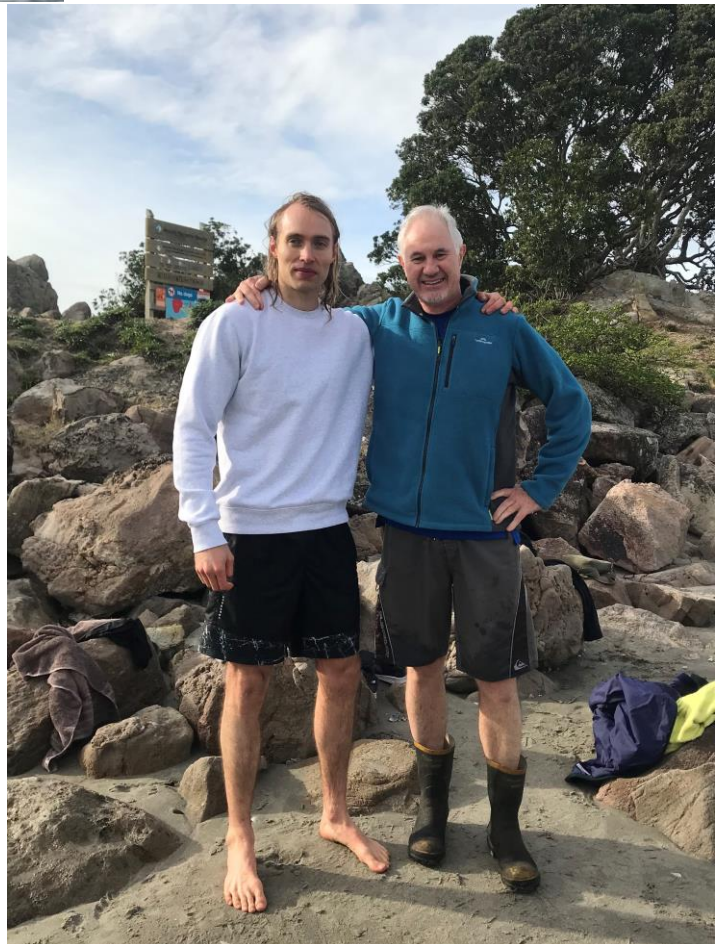
circumstances and gives us peace in the midst of them.





These last few months have certainly given us a lot we can praise God for. I have been attending a gym for many years and always try to ask God to guide me to people who don't know the Lord which is many in our culture. I met one young man I had been praying for his name is Corbin Taylor. Corbin is an Engineer and has started his own Robotics company. One Saturday morning he turned up at the gym the same time as me and we got into this great discussion as he was getting into the eastern religions like Hinduism etc. I knew God had me there at this time and did not want to waste it and was praying help me Lord to challenge this 28-year-old in his world view. Well to cut a long story short we went for coffee the next day and I challenged him that there is one God, and this God has me here to tell you about him and that he loves him and wants him saved and to have eternal life. He was listening. We ended up studying in the coffee shop with others

listening and getting the gospel message too. We progressed to our house every Friday morning at 8:15 until 10 am. Well, he went home one weekend to Auckland to see his family and texted me at 10:00 on Sunday night saying he had been convicted and decided to be baptized. He decided to do it in the ocean, which is here in the middle of winter, it was freezing but want to grant his wish. I said let me meet early Monday morning with a few of the brethren. I was heading north to study with Deryek the man I had baptized earlier in the year. But did not want to leave until; I baptized Corbin into Christ. What a blessing this young man has been to our church family. He is consistent and is growing mightily in the Lord.





This last month I got a text from Debbie a lady I baptized 16 years ago who now lives in Brisbane, Australia. Debbie has grown to love the Lord and is a wonderful evangelist. She rang me and asked if I would study with her mother-in-law Dianne who has returned to New Zealand and has lung Cancer. She lives about 3 hours north of us. So, I took two others from our church and ended having an hour and a half study with her. She wanted to be baptized and I asked her where she might like it.

Hindsight I should have insisted on the bathtub as once we got to the ocean the area, she wanted to get baptized was rough and the waves large we would have got swept out to sea. We finally found a beach that had small waves, but it was a long walk out to get deep



enough. Dianne due to her cancer was out of breath and I thought I may never get her into the water, and we will be calling an ambulance as she was not doing well. So, I got her to kneel down in the water and the lady (Heather) who

was there to help me fell headfirst into the winter water. Anyway, Dianne who was well out of breath at this time, went headfirst into the water in her baptism, to join Heather. Let's just say not the way I intended this baptism to run. But I have learned over the years my good intentions



don't always work out my way anyway. But I'm thankful that God knows the human heart and intentions. Keep Dianne in your prayers as she enters the last stages of her life. But we praise God for her commitment to follow Christ.

As you know I baptized Deryek and Maria early in the year as I mentioned in a previous newsletter. Deryek and I study by zoom every week. I'm just so encouraged by his growth and love for God. I decided to take my friend Andy north with me so he could meet Deryek and that we could study with him.

It is a 7 hour drive one way but it was well worth the trip and we studied for 4 hours with food and coffee in between and then did it again two days later as we all wanted to make the most of our time together, what and encouraging time it was.

Recently my brother asked me once again to come up to Auckland and teach his Crucial Men's group. This group is made up of businessmen, preachers, and members from different groups. I use this as a great time to get these men into the Word as may come from all different religious back grounds it allows me to share what I see has important principles from scripture. They always come and talk



to me how much they get from it. This time I focused on Abraham and Lot and how one lived by faith and the other by sight. There was a young lady serving breakfast and coffee to us at this coffee shop. She stayed in the room and afterwards came up to me intrigued and captivated by the lesson. It gave me a great opportunity to share with her.



that more with Nathan as well.

Recently I had lunch with Anthony and Cynthia Bay who are Christians and who moved from Malaysia many years ago to New Zealand. They live in another part of our country. But it is always exciting to catch up with likeminded Christians and enjoy some food and fellowship together.

We have enjoyed having Aaron and Angelique back in Tauranga after living so long in Australia. It means we can catch up with them and have them over for a meal and get coffee with them. Also, Aaron loves to go fishing with me so that is a real highlight to spend some time fishing with my son. We hope we can do



As always, we are thankful for your prayers that sustain us in our work. As we get older we value your encouragement and support in our work and cannot thank you enough for that.

Melinda has been teaching children’s Bible class. She teaches 5–7-year old’s and always enjoys her time with them.

We would ask you to pray for our country as we move more and more into secularism. The government is about to pass a bill that prohibits people from advising or persuading or converting a person away from seeking to



change or suppress a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Obviously, when we come to Christ there are changes, we all have to make but this bill means we cannot suggest changes in a person's life or lifestyle be made as (1 Cor 6:9-11) expresses. This is one more challenge we face in our changing secular culture. Pray for us.

With us unable to travel this season has its challenges, but we know God knows all this and we walk faith and not by sight as we trust him whatever the future holds. Thank you again for all that you do for us and for your tireless support and encouragement.

In His service

Chris and Melinda Miller