

January 2021

The Millers NewZ

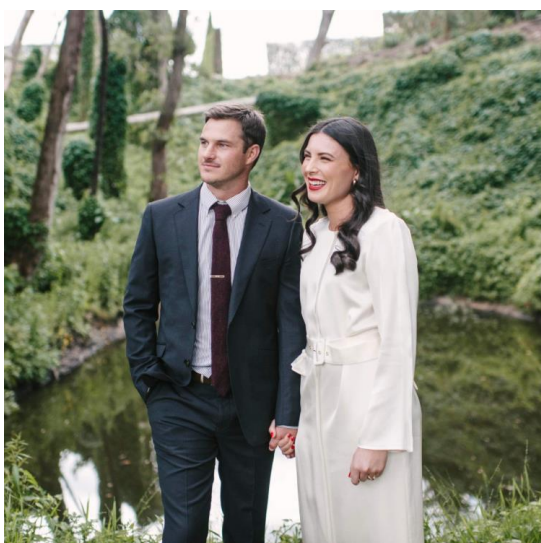
“Knowing God and Making Him Known...in NZL and beyond”



Dear brethren,

Well, 2020 has been for all of a challenging year with COVID and our own personal growth struggles and trails all thrown in the mix. But I always remained when I look back how God cares for his Children. When the Israelites had rebelled at Mount Sinai and God once again gives them a plan of recovery when they submit and obey His will. (Deut 11:8,13) He promises them that he cares for the land in which they are going. Deut 11:12 NKJV **“From the beginning of the year to the very end.”** It is a great reminder that God cares for us for in every season of our lives. Like a good Father taking care of a child he loves, God will watch over you and me and never takes his eyes off you. The condition was naturally to stay in line with his will. But who else can make such a promise, and keep it? I recently tried to get hold my lawyer to update our will and a record response, that “she was away until the 18th of January”. Aren’t you thankful that God guarantees you around the -clock care when we stay in line with his will? But it is not just in one season of our lives, but all season.

I decided to send a quick overview of the year **“from the beginning of the year to the very end”**. At end of 2019 we had our family arrive from the US and Australia for Nathan (our youngest son) and Georgia’s wedding. We are so thankful that it was this last year and not this year as we



could not have the whole family together.



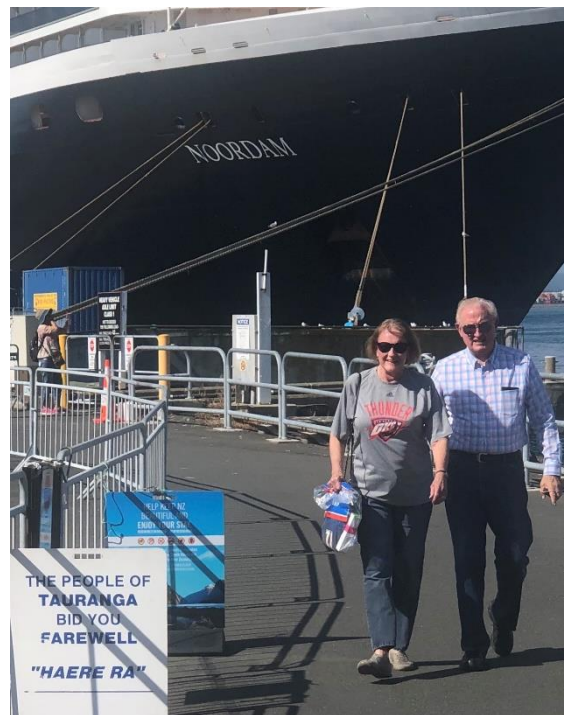


It was while Jason (son in Law) and Abby (daughter) were here that I was leading a devotional on Naaman in 2 Kings 7 and discussion opened up about baptism which Jason had done when he was a teenager but felt that he did it because of group pressure. So we did further study and Jason wanted to be baptized as soon as possible. I felt truly honoured that he will allow be to study with him and let me baptize him onto Christ.

When February came we had several members arrive from the US to



visit us and see our work and location. Several of them arrived on the last cruise ships that would be traveling into our harbour. But it was wonderful to see Joe and Vickie Bright from Missouri who had worked in Ireland with Melinda as missionaries back in 1979 in which Melinda and I were dating at that time. But also to see the Sullivan's who have been long time friends and supporters of us since 1982.



Seeing Jared Austin get baptised into Christ by his Granddad was very special as Jared grew up around us as a small boy. Seeing that third generation emerge is always encouraging.





Melinda and I continued through the year to do what we feel called to is mentor and shape and equip the young generations. This is one of the rewarding works we do. Sometimes it is spending time with them on a bike ride or meeting them out our house and having a bible study with them or at a coffee shop

or taking a work with them or being on one of the church ministries alongside of them. But we constantly keep in mind Eph 4:11-14 –“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church; the apostles, the prophets , the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their RESPONSIBILITY IS TO EQUIP GODS



PEOPLE TO DO HIS WORK AND BUILD UP THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST” --. Sadly we have seen many missionaries running around busy but never spending time equipping the saints and when they leave Christian begin to die off and slowly the church dies off. We are conscious that we cannot afford to do this. Discipleship is and ongoing work.



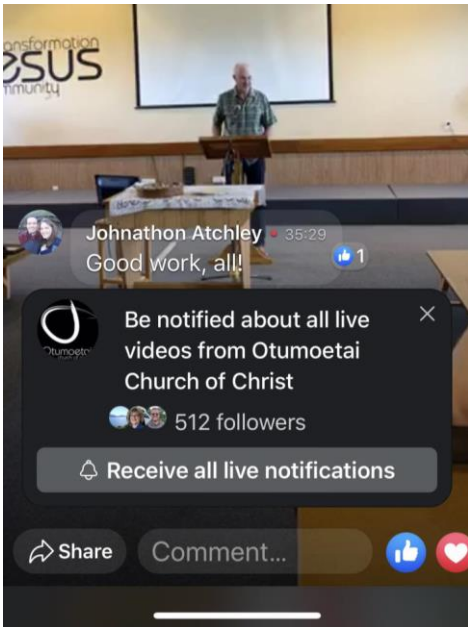
During lockdown we felt the police had been under a lot of pressure and one of the policemen was shoot and died in the line of duty. So, the Otumoetai church thought about ways we could bless and show respect to those in authority. 1 Peter 2:13-15 Our sisters made up care package



and took it to them. They commented “ that now one had done this for them and this meant so much to be thought about and appreciated”.

Over the years South Pacific Bible College has approached me to mentor and help lead Michael Osbourne through the year of 2020. As you know we

were struck with Covid and our country went into a 2 month lockdown. So a lot of my studies and teaching and preaching were done through Zoom and Face time and Skype that even continues to this day. This has been extremely challenging as I like to walk and move around in my teaching and preaching. So I have had to set things up either in my office or out in the back yard our the living room.



But I understand that I have not been alone in this. Life is learning to adopt and that has been what we have been doing.

The church wanted to lease out some of the space we had not been using. But in order for it to be leasable we need to raise the money from our members to do this re-reovation. It was going to cost us just over \$200,000 NZ and wanted the

church to raise \$100,000 and the rest we would borrow from the bank. Well lock down struck and we as a leadership decided to proceed with even with the lock down. The church stepped up and raised \$120,000 on March 29th. It far exceeds our and let me say my expectation, “Oh, Ye of little faith”. We are still waiting to complete the work in 2021.



In the month of May-June we had a selection process for eldership. Which three us Mike Austin, David Nelson and myself stepped forward from 6 men selected. Being an elder comes with its challenges and prayers are always needed.

During the year we had a wedding at

our house with a younger couple. It was difficult through lock down and restrictions through the year, so a small ceremony was held in our house.

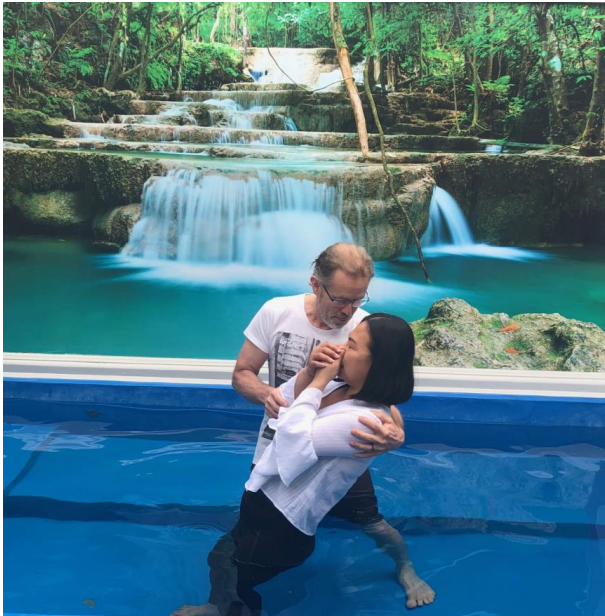


Due to travel restrictions with Covid I have not been able to travel. But I have been able to travel within New Zealand in which I travelled and preached and got with leaders and



members in small congregations within the country. They always look forward to me coming and spending with them.

We had the joy in of seeing Syully get baptised into Christ and begin her walk.



We faced a new challenge when Melinda was diagnosed with breast cancer.



She ended up needing two operations but are grateful that they have removed it all. She begins radiation in two weeks. We have seen the love of the brethren displayed with care packages and prayers and are reminded of God's love through these varied gifts. As we begin 2021 we are truly thankful that God is always **present at the beginning of the year to the end.**

Thank you for your prayers and support in this last year. We continue to thank God for all of you and may Gods grace be with you from the beginning to the end.

In His service
Chris and Melinda Miller