

August 2020

The Miller News



Dear Brethren,

Greetings from down under. We have all been living with the Corona-19 cloud over us this year. Recently we had no cases of the Coronavirus in New Zealand. The government took the country back to normal and we all went about life as Coronavirus became a distant bad memory. New Zealanders were patting themselves on the back. We went back to normal life and the church got back together again with renewed energy and fellowship and we were thankful to be back again with each other. But we were quickly reminded that that this little virus does not go away so easy and as Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall."

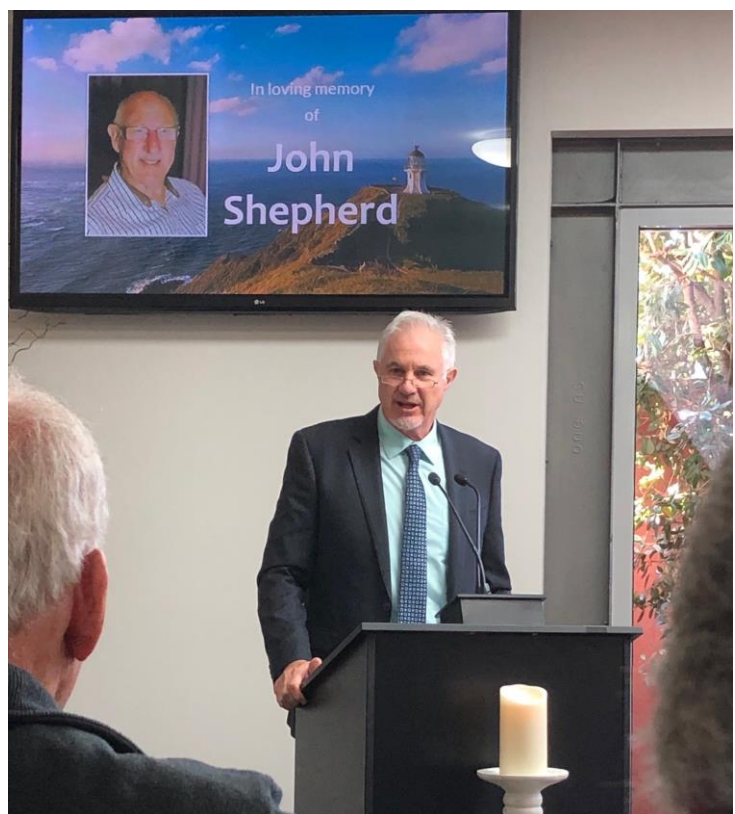


As over 100 days with no new cases went by, we thought we were on our way to normality, only to discover that some new cases had emerged and has been growing steadily again primarily in Auckland our largest city. We are praying that through this people will come to a knowledge of the Lord and that souls will be saved. I was reminded when the Israelites, who

were basically a tribe of nomadic herdsmen and really were not harden warriors for battle came up against the might of the Amalekites, Amalek, a grandson of Esau. Exodus 17:8-18 This fierce nomadic tribe had learned to adapt to the desert region south of the Dead Sea. They had survived by doing frequent raids on other settlements and carrying off the bounty. They killed for pleasure. When the Israelites entered their region, the Amalekites saw a perfect opportunity for both pleasure and profit. But the Amalekites had not taken into the equation Yahweh- Nissi “the Lord is our Banner”. The Lord was leading this large nomadic tribe of people that were His and he was their protector and would cover and protect them. When Aaron and Hur, seasoned old men, held up Moses’ arms on top of that hill, nothing could defeat Israel. Joshua, this young general in the Valley saw the power of Yahweh – Nissi, “the Lord is our banner”, our protector. He remains that for all of us. Nothing can defeat God’s People if we keep trusting and praying to him.

Over the last few years Melinda and I have been down to Napier to preach and encourage the brethren there, and also to encourage John Shepherd who had been preaching there for the last 20 years. John had become a dear friend and brother. But last year he was diagnosed with cancer. He has been a great

encouragement to the brethren as he never stopped smiling and being a source of strength to the church. But last week he finally went home to be with the Lord. John and Ann had asked me to do the funeral several months ago and it was wonderful to be able to send our brother on his way and to share a small lesson as John was an evangelist and wanted me to make sure they heard his last sermon which I was eager to deliver.



Ken Tamai who I studied with and was baptized in 1987 in Napier was there too. When we moved up to Tauranga 25 years ago, Ken slipped back to the world and was unfaithful for many years. But a friend of his started to search and asked Ken to help him and this brought Ken back to the Lord and church. The week I was preaching I called him up to encourage him on his journey.



Let me say it was a thrill for me seeing him return to God and his church.

Over the last year I have been mentoring Paula from Tonga and he travels with me. His wife Mina is mentored by Melinda and they spend time together in ministry. It is wonderful seeing the growth in this couple. Paula did the Lord's supper in Napier and greatly encouraged and strengthened the brethren by his presence.



This last month David Nelson, Mike Austin and

I went through the selection process to become elders at Otumoetai. It is humbling and challenging and carries with it a lot of responsibility. In a lot of ways, we have been doing it for years anyway but it came more official last month. The church put on a special Sunday for us and put a meal on for us and we spoke to the church





individually. You might notice the cake made with the three shepherds and the flock around us. A lot of work by one of the sisters in the church. It was an affirming time for the 3 of us.

During this period, I have been preaching around the region and was able to encourage brethren.

One of the young couples Melinda and I

have been mentoring got pregnant and it meant them sharing their situation with the church and confessing and receiving grace and forgiveness. The church was supportive, and they have chosen to get married and so Melinda and I had a small ceremony in our house for the family. She is an American and



so it meant we could not have her family present due to the Covid. But we will have a celebration we hope next year. It is encouraging to see them grow and have the support of our church family. They will have their challenges, like us all, but they know they are loved and supported by the church here and will have our help in this new relationship.



I have been trying to connect with the young adults in our church. Several of them like to ride mountain bikes so I join them with much fear and trembling as some of the rides and tracks are well above my level. We did a three and half our ride the other Saturday and climbed a 1600-foot mountain. It was one thing getting up and another thing

coming down. All I was trying to do was stay safe and get down.

It is also great climbing Mount Maunganui with families like the Hubbards, who moved here from the US to join one of our company's in New Zealand as a Structural Engineer. They have been a wonderful encouragement to our family.

I continue to supervise Michael Osborn as a third year SPBC student and take him out on studies with me as well as on visitation. Every week I lead Michael and Warwick through Genesis and get Michael to lead different chapters to develop his teaching.

I also have a study with Jase and Khan who come to my place on a Wednesday after work. Jase and Khan have been friends since school days. Khan has been a Christian for several years and Jase has seen his life changed Jase is keen to learn about God. Please keep Jase and Khan in your prayers as he comes to know the





Lord.

We had a children Sunday and Mike (one of the elders) and I prayed for the children and I told them the story of Moses and the Amalekites. Mike and I held a banner over the children symbolizing the banner of the Lord. The children enjoyed that.

Melinda continues to get the ladies together for different events and to celebrate birthdays. The women enjoy their times together.



Melinda and Madi, one of our newer Christian girls, organized a "Parents Night Out", so the parents could go out on a date and enjoy time with each other without their children. As you can imagine it was much appreciated by the

parents. Melinda, Madi and the kids all wore their pyjamas, watched a movie and had snacks and games.



About a week ago Mark Willis and I went out for a fish in the Bay and it was a rough and turbulent sea. But it reminded me that sometimes our lives are in turbulent and angry times. But we still have the Lord that can calm our storms whatever situations we are in.



“And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.” Luke 8:24) Praise God.

We are so appreciative of your continued support of our work in New Zealand and beyond. Please keep us and the work in your prayers.

Again, if you have any prayer request send them to us so we can pray for you.

In the Grip of his Grace
Chris and Melinda Miller