

February 2021



# Millers News Letter

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

Dear brethren,

Greetings. Thank you for the prayers for Melinda. She finished her second week of radiation this week and is starting to feel the grip and effects of radiation with tiredness. But we both feel the prayers of the brethren too, which we are so thankful for.

I know each of you are dealing with the effects of living in a world of COVID 19. I have been amazed at how God is using this for us all to reset our lives and count



our many blessings along the way. I have seen some wonderful serendipities along the way. About 10 years ago I was up at my family's small cabin about 7 hours drive north from where we live in Tauranga. I would take early morning walks and happened to meet this gentleman who was

out walking his dog down the road. Have you noticed God often lets us all meet people who are so to speak going down a road or while on the road? **Saul meets Jesus** in Acts 9:3ff while on the road to Damascus. **Philip meets the Eunuch** down a desert road Acts 8:26ff. The **good Samaritan** meets a man beaten up and half dead beside a road Luke 10:30ff. I suppose the lesson is, be ready to have an encounter with someone while you are on the road. Well, I ended up walking

down the road with Deryck Watts and when Deryck found out that I was in ministry it opened up for us to discuss many spiritual conversations covering many topics over the last 10 years. Deryck at that point, felt he did not need God as he had built a highly successful business over the years and was self-sufficient.



But I would often challenge him that he was more than his business and that God loved him and that he needs to think about his soul and meeting his God when all this was over. I would encourage him to pick up a Bible and read. Well, this trip in January was different. Deryck was waiting for me and excited to tell me that he and Caryl his

wife were both reading their Bibles and said it was changing their lives. I asked if



I could come up and pray for them at their house which we did. On Sunday, Melinda and I both went up and prayed with them and had a Bible study. Caryl's daughter (Deryck's stepdaughter)

Maria and her husband Paul were there too. We spent an hour looking at Acts 2:37-47 and that afternoon both Maria and Deryck wanted to put on Christ in baptism. Each Sunday afternoon I Facetime them and teach them. Caryl and Paul are both believers but had become sleepy with their faith so it has been great to see them grow too. When I call them during the week Deryck says “the Bible just satisfies everything”. We can all amen that. Please keep Deryck, Caryl, Maria and Paul in your prayers as they grow and take hold of their new found faith.



We have a growing number of children at our congregation at present. With two new births in the last few months. Also we have some people looking for a church to belong to so we have been getting opportunities to share with them who we are. The picture here is the children putting on an

end of year play for us. They did a wonderful job.

Before the children start a new school year, we like to pray for them and place them under God's Banner and explain the story to them from Exodus 17:8-18 That God was Israel's banner (Yahweh Nissi) (The Lord is my banner) which means He is our safe place and our refuge. Don't we all need the Lord as our safe place?



During the summer we had church at the park. It allows us to be in the community and be a light to those walking by as they hear the preaching and the singing.



We had a few of our young couples around to catch up with Aaron and Angelique. Our kids grew up with the Raine girls and CJ Pierson when we all lived in Napier and worked with the church there. So it



was nice for them to reconnect and share memories.

The elders have been visiting some of the families in the church. This day we



went to pray for Zuri who is going to be starting school. We went to her

house to bless her and encourage her by visiting and prayer. The parents as you can imagine were greatly encouraged. During the summer we have been doing a series on praying and waiting. God places us in deserts and in wilderness periods to prepare us for what's ahead. He did that with Abraham, Moses, David, Israel, "I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there." (Hosea 2:14) Jesus and Paul. These are places we learn to prayer and strip away all the pretense and learn to cling to God, calling out to Him in our dry places, from our places of lack where we thirst. Friends, even when we no longer have



the strength to cling to God, **HE IS CLINGING TO US.** During this time we asked the church to place their needs and prayers on the wall so we can, over the weeks pray for them.

Recently one of our members 12 year old granddaughter came

to visit and study with her grandmother. We were thrilled to see her be baptized into Christ.

I continue to have studies with small groups and individuals. Paul and I meet each week and it continues to be a rich time in the word together.





One of the students Michael Osborne, that mentored under me this last year graduated and it was a thrill to see Michael grow. He continues to come out on studies with me and do visitation.

In the middle of January we went up north as



mentioned earlier with Aaron and Angelque and did some fishing and exploring. It is a wonderful wilderness area. I caught my biggest Kingfish ever so that was exciting. Blessed.



Thank you all for your prayers for Melinda. Also, for our work and ministry. Also, for the monthly support that we receive and for the last 39 years. We trusted God back then to meet our needs and he continues to grace us with more than we deserve to this day.

We pray for you all with wisdom and courage to be able to walk faithful through this uncertain season with COVID 19 and trust the only one who is certain and that is God. (Heb 6:13-20)

His servants in Christ,

Chris and Melinda Miller