

March 2021



Millers News Letter

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

Dear Brethren,

We have been thankful for the prayers and interest in Melinda’s progress. She has completed all radiation and is recovering well. It has been a time of perseverance for Melinda. I have watched her run her race with grace and fortitude and a lot of prayers. The Hebrew writer says in **Hebrews 12:1** **“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us”** Someone said, **“the mark of a spiritual person is his or her ability to see problems as opportunities instead of obstacles.”** I find that the most important lesson takes place not always while celebrating the good times but persevering during the bad times. I suppose that is why the bad times make the good times SO GOOD. I am constantly having to learn this as I do not always remember it in the bad times. I was reading about the birth of a baby giraffe. Being raised on a sheep and beef farm I saw that in most normal births, the first two parts to emerge are it’s front hooves and head. That is the same with giraffes, when the entire calf appears, it tumbles over 10 feet to the ground, and lands on its back. Within seconds the baby rolls over and stands, struggling to move those gangly legs. Then an amazing thing happens. The mother giraffe positions herself directly over the newborn calf, and it stands over it and kicks it and sends it sprawling. If it does not get up- she kicks it again! And when it grows tired of the struggle, she kicks it again to stimulate its



effort to stand. In fact, every time the baby manages to get to its feet, the mother kicks it again. Her actions may seem cruel to us, but she is preparing her newborn FOR SURVIVAL. Unless that little calf learns to get up quickly and run with the herd when dangers come, and lions seek it out and if it cannot run it will not survive. So, what is the lesson here? When life knocks you down- GET BACK UP. (Proverbs 24:16 “The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.” Lord please keep helping us get up.

Aaron (our eldest son) and Angelique have been living with us since Dec. 30 after their return from living in Australia. We have enjoyed being with them as they slowly set themselves up for a new life back here in New Zealand. Angelique has been offered a job in our local hospital in the Paediatrics ward and she started her first day today. Aaron was contacted and asked to come on as First Mate to the Captain and help take the KOHU (meaning gift) the medical mission ship down to have repairs done on it in Christchurch. It was a 4-day journey. It was a good experience to get back into the marine industry again and help. This ship is getting ready to go up into the South Pacific and do dentistry work and medical work to some of the most remote South Pacific islands that are in our part of the world. All this is done on a volunteer basis. We have enjoyed spending time with them as Aaron has been 14 years away from NZ.

Back in August 2017 I studied with Evander and baptized him into Christ. Over the last four years there has been great growth. Autumn came to work with us in our congregation from the U.S. and they met and got married in 2020, we had a small wedding in our house. This year they had their first child Adriel, but because our



government is strict on immigration they had to leave and return to the US and decided to move to the Big Island of Hawaii (not a bad spot to move to). Melinda and I have mentored and encouraged this couple on their journey, so it was sad seeing them go and having to leave to another region of the Pacific. But we as the church prayed with them and over them that God will bless and protect them on the next stage of their lives.



As a church we feel strongly about the principle of honoring, as often people

can be forgotten for their service in the kingdom. David and Mary Nelson are great servants in our church and at our South Pacific Bible College. David



is a fellow elder and Mary serves in the area of administration. So this day we prayed for them and gifted Mary with flowers and put a lovely luncheon on for them.

We have a growing group of children in our church with numbers reaching 24. Some of the boys went up into the bush for a retreat with their dads. The kids

went eeling and swimming and survival and had wonderful lessons taught them from the Bible. They had a great time together.



I continue to teach a small group Bible study and we are presently working our way through the book of Acts.

Over the last 6 months we have had two babies born in our congregation. It is wonderful seeing

this new life being born and raised up in the church. We make it a practice to get the parents up with their babies to pray for them and for those who can, to gather around them to pray for them as parents in their role in teaching them about God and parenting them.



As I mentioned last month, I continue to study with Deryk and Caryl on Sunday afternoons. They are growing in the Lord and it is exciting to see this. Deryk's comment was this last week was " chris I just wished I could have become a Christian when I was young, I wasted so many years. I just did not know how good this was and is to be in Christ" Pricless words from a new Christians. If you wanted to email them to encourage them their email address is carylwatts@gmail.com



This last month Paula and I visited the church in Napier to encourage them. Moria has been a long standing member and when we visit Napier we try to get around some of the members to see them.

Melinda, every year organizes a morning for

the female students to encourage them and pray for them. Each of the older ladies in the congregation is asked to pray for one of the students. Rachael was Melinda's and she is from Papua New Guinea. She and her husband have sacrificed a lot to be away from their two children for two years to come and study at the Bible College so they can be more effective in the future in their country.

Please keep us in your prayers as we labor in this season. There are many challenges. I teach brethren by zoom and have a brother and preacher I teach every week in Chile. It seems every one feels some effects with this Covid.



Melinda and I took off for four days around our East Cape to get away after her radiation treatment. East Cape is a remote area of our country. It is a



spectacular province and we managed to walk up a 1000 steps to this lovely East cape lighthouse.

Melinda and I are losing support of \$2440 US monthly as of June this year, which obviously is a large amount to lose and comes with its challenges with not being able to leave NZ to raise it with COVID restrictions etc. Please keep praying for us that some of this can be regained over the next 6 months. Thank you to those who have already picked up some of this, we feel blessed to have such love and commitment. Also with us not having to pay out on travelling costs this has helped to keep our cost down. God has always come through for us and gives us what we need and I know he will do this again.

Please pray for our ministries that we are not over burdened with eldership, mentoring, ministry duties and concerns for the church locally as well as nationally as well for our sisters churches in the South Pacific. There is much to do but as we get older we realize we cannot not do it all and God has to raise up the next generation to take up the baton.

Thank you once again for your tireless love, grace, and prayers for us down under in the South Pacific.

In His service

Chris and Melinda Miller