

Miller Family NewZ

"Knowing God and Making Him Known...in the South Pacific"

January 2022



Dear brethren,

Greetings. Here we are in 2022. How time marches forward for each of us. As I have been pondering the book of Hebrews and our present world of uncertainties with Omicron and the struggles that this world dishes out to each of us. I'm reminded in this wonderful book, not to **'drift away" (Heb 2:1) from it (That is our salvation in Christ)**. Why, such a sobering warning? Because like the Hebrew Christians who apparently were about to slip back to Judaism, we too can slip away Christ and float down the harbor of self-preservation, selfishness, doubt, and sin and once again go back to the old false and destructive systems of this world. The Hebrew writer warns them, as he does us, in **(Hebrews 10:38) "If anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him"**. There is no turning back but only a pressing forward as **"aliens and strangers" (1 Peter 2:11)** destined for a new home not of this world. Or as Paul reminds us, our **"citizenship is in heaven" (Phil 3:20)**.

Every pilot knows there is POINT OF NO RETURN. The runway has all been used up; its fly or die! In the book of Hebrews, we find a list of ordinary people who, in the worst of times, refused to turn back. The Bible says: **"If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a place for them" Heb 11:15-16** Satan will use every trick in the book to get us off track, but we don't need to buy in to it. As 2 Tim 1:12 **"For I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day"** Thank you God.

It was wonderful to see the students at the South Pacific Bible College



graduate as they had a very trying year with a lot of classes having to be done online. But they persevered and came through. But also, with government restrictions of students not allowed in the country due to COVID 19 has made it very challenging for the college. Though the number allowed for the graduation due to COVID 19 was limited. It was wonderful to celebrate with them.



Over the last two years we have spent time having Abraham and Rachael Mesa from Papua New Guinea with us. It was a big commitment on their part to



come away for the two years as they had to leave there three children with the grandparents for the two years of study, The picture was their last time at our place with us. They will do a

wonderful work back in their own country.

This year we could not have the end of year Children's Bible classes celebration at the building, so we ended up having it at the park. The children and parents and teachers all felt truly blessed to see how our children are growing and are



important to our church family at Otumoetai.



Due to the Covid restrictions we could not eat inside the building, but we had our cups of tea and coffee at the entrance. Fellowship and the meeting of brethren is always special inside or out.

Over the past few months Jaz Haywood has been wanting to share the gospel with



her employees. So, she asked if they would come to work earlier and she would pay them and if they would like to start every Monday morning with a Bible study. She also asked if I would come beside her and help her lead the study. I agreed but wanted her to learn to lead it. I would give her the sheets



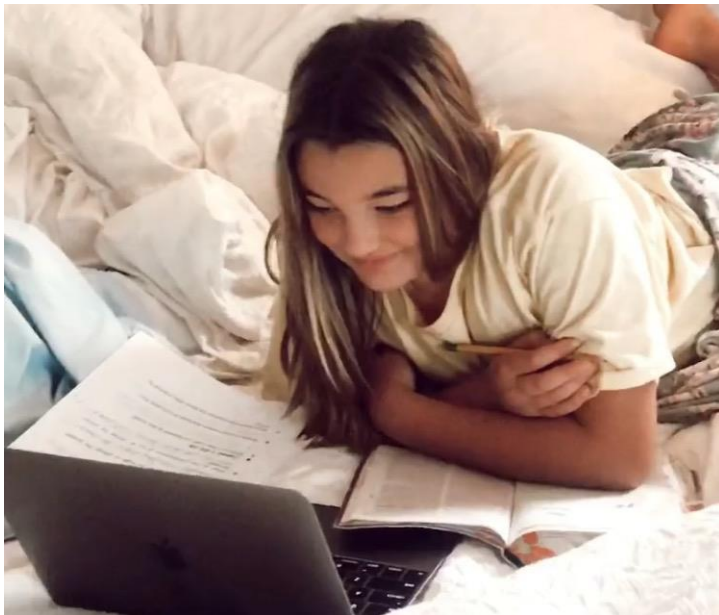
to help her lead them through it. The girls all come from different religious backgrounds and have little understanding and so it has been wonderful to see Jaz gently lead them and to see their eyes open as the scripture

challenges them. Jaz has been doing an amazing job.

In the middle of January. I went away with my two sons on a fishing trip and to have time with them.

Anytime we get to be with our children is always special and this was no exception. Though it was only six days away we caught fish and read and had some good spiritual conversations and prayed a lot together. I'm very thankful.

These last few months I have enjoyed studying with my youngest granddaughter Indy. Even with Christmas and some interruptions it has been a great blessing and one I will cherish for a lifetime I have remaining. Please keep her in your prayers as I lead her to obeying Christ.



I'm enjoying helping to lead and train Corben who was a young man I met at the gym and ended up having a study with and baptizing into Christ this last year. Four of our men get together on Fridays and we are working our way through Colossians. Corben has been studying and led a few of the studies and has done a fantastic job.

Please keep our church family in your prayers as we head into tighter

restrictions with the new Omicron variant heading to our shores. As an elder/leader/ evangelist it always comes with its challenges but I'm grateful to have other good men beside me and to have some very wise members that we can glean from. One being my wife Melinda who has been this wonderful encourager and helper. I could not do without her.

Also please pray that this year we can reach more people with the gospel and that we can bring others to Christ.

Also please Keep the Kingdom of Tonga in your prayers as they have had a massive eruption that sent a tsunami racing across the Pacific Ocean and unleashed a sonic boom that would zip around the world twice. We are in touch with the brethren there and they are doing ok despite the circumstances. The church here will be sending financial help soon to the church there as they attempt to recover.

As always, we appreciate your support of us and the work down in New Zealand. Thank you. May God bless your work wherever you are living.

In His service
Chris and Melinda Miller