

August 2023

Miller News

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



Dear brethren,

Greetings from New Zealand, Aotearoa, which means the land of the long white cloud. Here we are already at the end of August. Who said when you get older that time seems to literally

fly by? The last two weeks we have had former students from around the world come for the 40th South Pacific Bible College reunion. We had ex-students come from Australia, Chile, Thailand, Philippines, USA, Tonga, Fiji, and other countries. Reunions are always deeply emotional times whether it is a reunion with a family member, friend, or member of the body of Christ. Reunions are always special. The Bible is full of reunions from Jacob and **Esau**



(Genesis 33: 4) to Joseph and his brothers **(Genesis 45: 14-15)** to the Prodigal Son with his father **(Luke 15: 11-32)** to the ultimate reunion where we hear the words from the master say, **'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'** **(Matt 25:23)**

This is the ultimate reunion! But in the meantime, it is always such a blessing to be reunited with people who have touched our lives along our journey of



life. One of those was Brianna Sharp, from the USA who did a mentoring program with Melinda and me 7 years ago. It was such a delight to hear how she has grown. Marcelo Torro, from Chili and his family came too. He also did the third year with me. Here he is



pictured with our son Nathan, they attended the Bible College together 10 years ago.

In July, we had 4 young ladies come over to help and encourage us. 3 of the girls were from OCU and one had been through the school at Sunset in Lubbock, Tx. They stayed for several weeks and served in our children's program, participated in our small mid-week

Bible classes, worked with our young adults, mentored some of our children, and stayed in the homes of our young families and just encourage us all. A job well done. One of them was at a coffee shop with me and a couple I have been getting to know at the gym came up to us. They sat down with us, and we shared about the church with them. They are from Argentina. It was wonderful for Tamako, the student, to be a part of this.

As many of you know from my last newsletter that I had a hip replacement. It has been healing well which I'm thankful for. My oldest brother Warwick decided to travel down from Aukland as he knew I was not going far. He took me out for lunch and then we both sat beside the beach, and I shared some scriptures with him and our following Christ and the death burial and resurrection. I



shared some scriptures on baptism with him and he said, "I want to hear more, maybe when you come north in a few months we can study this more together". Please pray for him when I go up to see him in October, we can open our Bibles and that he submits to Christ in baptism.

We had our congregational camp in the mountains in late July, Melinda and I could not go due to my



operation and recovery. But all enjoyed the weekend away.

Every Tuesday evening another elder and his wife and Melinda and I go out and visit members. We write a card to the members we are visiting that night with

words of encouragement and affirmation. Many times, the members cry as they hear the words, we have written about them. We encourage them, honor them, and show our appreciation to them. I think we as elders get more from it than the people we visit.

Melinda recently hosted in our home an honoring morning for Joan Craig who has



reached a major milestone of being 85 years old. Joan is such a wonderful example of faith and generosity that has touched many. We are so thankful to this dear sister.

I'm still studying with people either via skype or messenger and in our home. I have been working my way through Genesis with Pablo in Chili. Paula in Blenheim NZ I have been taking through 1 Thessalonians and with Corben and a few other men in my home on Romans. It is always such a blessing to be in the word together. I have also been preaching at Otumeotai and in Napier, so it all keeps me in the books but thankful for the instruction I get from preparing my lessons to feed the church.

We just had our yearly men's retreat and challenge. Spending 4 days together with brothers is always encouraging. To share their burdens, successes is so beneficial to each of us.



We recently had Grant and Chrissy Stanton stay with us for 11 days. Grant and Chrissy lead a small church of Christ in Christchurch. They have grown to be wonderful friends over the years.

Again, we want to thank you for your prayers support and encouragement as we labor in the work in New Zealand.

In His service

Chris and Melinda Miller