

May 2017

# Miller Newz

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



Dear Brethren,

Greetings from down under. It has been a busy few months but extremely fulfilling. Melinda and I travelled to Napier this last weekend. I did the preaching and teaching there and encouraged the church. I was once again challenged by my own sermon on Mary's extravagant love in Jn. 12:1-11 when Mary **poured out** the alabaster jar as an expression of her love for Jesus. When she expressed her love it was not just a "dab" but a "pouring". So much so she uses her own hair to clean it up. My pray is that our love and lives are being poured out for Jesus, onto the lives of others. Love is the energy of Life; it should be the reason we get up in the morning. Each day can be exciting and meaningful if we see ourselves as

God's agents, waiting in the shadows to pour some love on the tasteless lives we encounter. So I would encourage you to get your jar of love ready and **pour it out!**

This last month it was exciting to see Raymond and Michelle, who immigrated to New Zealand and three years ago, met some members of the church and were baptized into Christ.



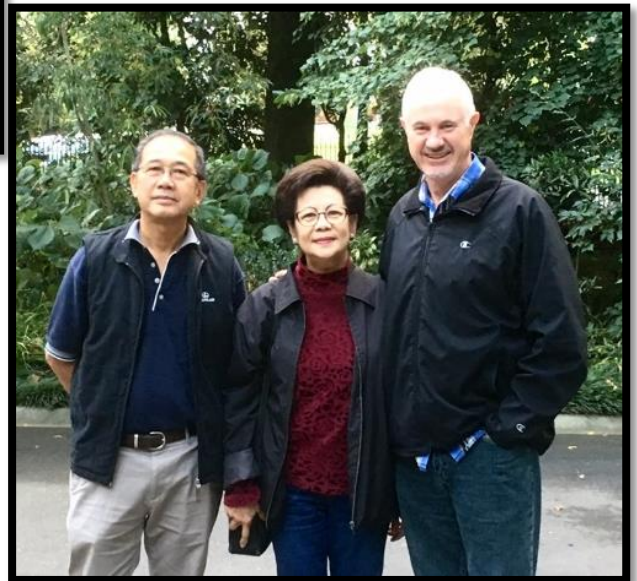
When they were baptized, it was their desire to teach their own family and friends back in the Philippians. So they



took 6 weeks off work and did just that. Raymond and Michelle ended up baptizing 10 into Christ. Here is this small church in Whakatane 5 years ago sending out its own missionaries into all the world. The angels are rejoicing, as we all do.



Recently the Belmore church of Christ in Melbourne, Australia asked if I would come and preach and teach the brethren there. I spent nearly two weeks in Melbourne, a beautiful city and region. I was treated like a king and was always fearful that they would discover that I was really just a country boy from New





Zealand. I was hosted by Charles and Swee Hooi and was blessed by the hospitality. I spent time with Dr Benny Tablaujan and his family and got a chance to visit with members and encourage them but most of all be encouraged by their faithful service in the Lord. While I was there, they asked if I would speak at the new Church plant that is being established on the west side of Melbourne. Five of the churches of Christ in the Melbourne city are collectively contributing to help a brother start this new work. It's wonderful to see such a collaborating adventure. While there I got to meet one of their new converts who is a doctor and his family. It was refreshing to see his new faith excited about hosting the church in their house. New friends and been made as well as renewed old friendships.

This last month was also sad as we lost a dear brother and friend Barry Raine to brain cancer. Barry fought hard for about two years but as Paul said **“the time of my departure has come”**

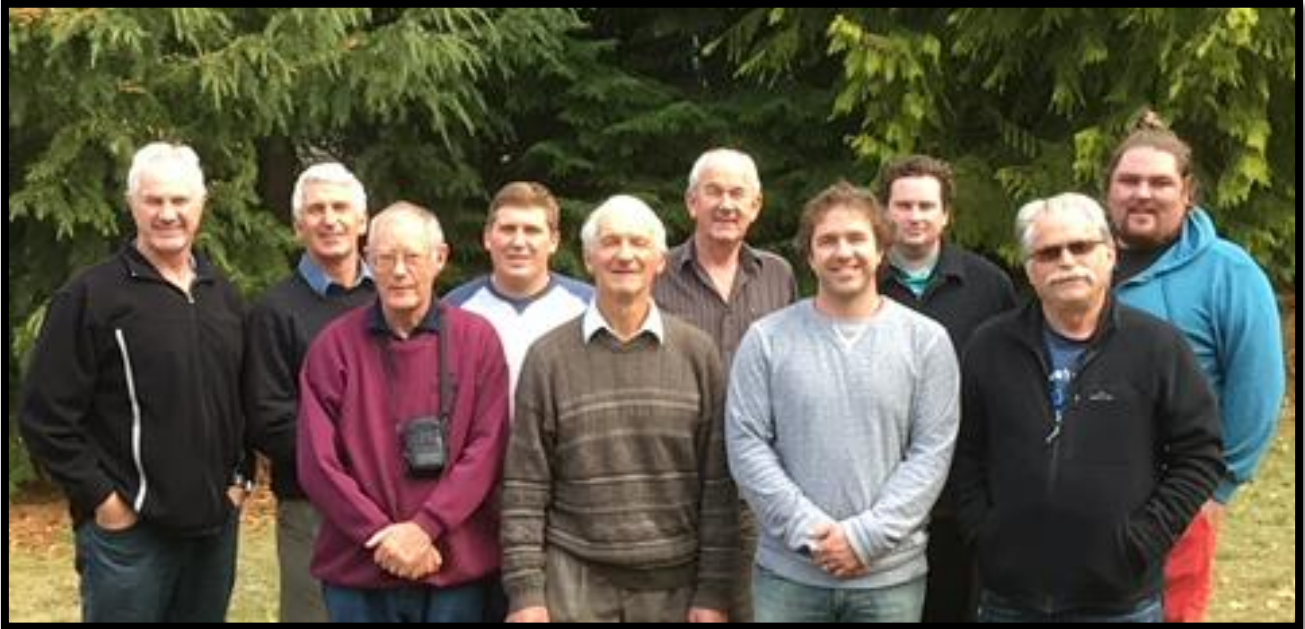


2Timothy 4:6 Paul in the Greek language envisioned a boat having its ropes untied from the dock and it gently being pushed away and sailing into the sunset. As Paul goes on to say in 2 Timothy 4:18, **“it is the**

**Lord who will bring you safely into his heavenly kingdom”** It was time for Barry not to be at the helm as the skipper of the boat but the Lord. But I must admit I feel I was at the dock saying good bye to my friend, brother and comrade. But also feel the joy Barry will have going on to those heavenly shores.



This last month David Ross Nelson and I organized a small “Band of brothers” retreat in the South Island for some of the leaders who live in the outpost of the South Island. Alan Taylor kindly let us use his holiday home in the mountains on Lake Hawea in central Otago. It’s an amazing and beautiful region of New Zealand. David and I organized topics for Bible studies and fellowship. It was wonderful to see brothers share and participate in this weekend together. They all expressed they wished they did not have to go back home. We have limited bed space so we are thinking of ways of getting more beds so we can host more



brothers. We spent two weeks visiting brethren in the South island.



The neighbourhood Bible study I lead on Wednesdays is still running well. We have about 6 who come and we have been getting visitors who come and it is giving us opportunity to share the good news with them. We have had a young lady by the name of Kerry come and is discovering the word is rich, challenging and lifesaving.



We have been having T groups which stands for transformation groups or home group in our home. I have been teaching first Peter. It is wonderful way of catching up with brethren through the week.

Melinda continues to teach children's classes and always attracts children to her. She also mentors and gets with many of our young mothers and single girls to encourage them in their walk of faith. But the biggest thing she does is support me in our work.



Recently I was out taking a walk about 5 pm and a couple pulled over to ask me if I knew where the local park was. So I gave them direction. About 30 mins later they drive by me again and thanked me and pulled into a drive way. I felt I needed to visit with them so walked over and got into conversation with them. They asked me what I do so I shared with them



what I do and my Christian faith. Well I invited them to come to church with their two boys and they came. I went around last week and felt I needed to begin a Bible study with them and found them two Bibles. 3 other members went with me to also train and encourage them. Please pray that Glen

and Makara will remain open to the word as we study it together.

On the family side Aaron continues to do well with his Managing officer role though at times it can be stressful running staff and making sure the three boats they have are running up to standard to take the hundreds of passengers they get through for whale watching and snorkelling are safe. He is constantly training future captains who work with him.

Aaron is w wonderful influence for Christ on the staff and is presently leading



many to a walk of Faith in Christ. Angelique is stepping down from her role as head nurse running a Medical clinic for Babies and doing work at the local hospitals.

Abby continues to try and build her birthing business as well as teach and home school the children. She amazes me with how she juggles it all.

Nathan continues to travel and sell the clothing and articles for Lower wear. He seems to be doing well in his sales. He is off to Bali next month with a friend on a surfing trip.

As always we appreciate your prayers for Glen and Makara and for Manpreet

and Cecilia who I also study with. Please pray for Otumoetai as we transition. Wisdom and courage is always needed.

Again thank you for your prayers, encouragement and generosity without which we could not be about the Lord's work in New Zealand and beyond.

Please email us also for prayers that you may need, so we can pray for you.

Blessing in Christ

Chris and Melinda Miller