

# A LIFE IN COMMON



The experience of the Gloriavale Christian Community

# LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ...

The idea of living as Jesus and his disciples did appeals to many Christians, but how can that be done in this age of continual and rapid change? The answer lies in understanding that the Bible teaches us about the things that do *not* change — man's fallen nature, and the principles God has given us for salvation and living a holy life. Now, 2000 years after Jesus Christ died at Calvary for the sins of humanity, God still requires people to believe in His Son's sacrifice, and to obey His commandments. The trappings of any civilisation must be dealt

with from Biblical guidelines, so it matters not in which age we live; salvation is still found only in faithfully obeying the God who created mankind for His pleasure. Christian society has no room for the world's selfishness, independence, pride and self-will. Any arguments against Community usually come down to arguments in favour of individual selfishness.

Life in Christian Community is one of the most demanding expressions of Christ's love. His great commandment, that we love one another as He loved us, is fulfilled



*Brethren return from a baptism at the community swimming pool. In baptism we enter by faith into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and are born again into the kingdom of God.*

# A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SUCCESS

by people who lay down their lives for each other every day. Among our members are people who could have made a successful life for themselves in western society, but have dedicated themselves to the greater goal of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Like Moses, they have had respect unto the recompense of the reward, forsaking the riches of the world in favour of the reproach of Christ. Their reward will come. Turning to the New Testament to understand God's will, the members of the Gloriavale Christian Community seek to live a practical

Christian life that emulates the conditions in Heaven, where there is perfect obedience to God, complete unity of thought, no self-will, no argument or strife, and no sin. As a guide, the Sermon on the Mount alone teaches us to:

- trust God for our daily bread;
- live together peacefully;
- live without hypocrisy;
- uphold sexual purity;
- turn the other cheek;
- do to others as you want them to do to you - in business also;
- love our enemies, and
- walk the strait and narrow path.



*Our musicians regularly play for events in the wider community, such as the Waitangi Day Picnic in Greymouth..*

# LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

How are these lofty ideals reached when man is, at best, a carnal, self-centred creature? The Christian life can be lived only by those who have the spirit of Christ, gained by faith and obedience to the gospel. Today, many preachers select only some of the original gospel message and preach about the more appealing parts. But all those precious promises of eternal life come with conditions that must be kept. Just as there were commands in the Old Testament, there are commands in the New Testament for us to follow. We are not at liberty to merely “be led of the spirit” if that leading does not line up with the revealed word of God. Here are some sayings of Jesus that today are largely ignored, but provide the foundation of the Christian life for all our people living in Community. If these commands are not kept, then there is no salvation, and no spirit of Christ to help us live the life He expects.

*“Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7)*

This is not just an emotional experience; it means becoming a completely new creature and living a totally changed life. There must be repentance, which is hating all sin,

turning away from it altogether and leaving it behind. Instead of pleasing himself, a Christian strives to please God, accepting Him as Father and taking a place as a son.

*“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, & take up his cross, & follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)*

Jesus taught people to forsake their own desires and their self-will, and to do God’s will instead. This is the crux of the gospel, to follow Christ’s example:

*“Not my will, but thine, be done.” (Luke 22:42)*

Finding God’s will is not difficult when you follow the Bible, and submit to the Church and to the guidance of godly sacrificial leaders who live and teach according to the Word of God.

*“Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33)*

Converts must count the cost of giving up all - including possessions, self-will, opinions, career, reputation, family and friends. In return, Christ promises that he will restore possessions and family a hundred fold.

*“He that believeth and is baptised*

# PERSONAL SALVATION

*shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)*

Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of God, and we gladly obey his commandments to be *immersed* (in water), which is what the word ‘baptism’ means. In baptism we die unto sin, as did Christ, and our old man is crucified with Him. We are buried under the water in the likeness of his death that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Then, just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also are raised up in the likeness of his resurrection to walk in newness of life in Him.

As we obey His commandment from the heart, He frees us from sin, gives us His new nature and joins us into His body, the Church:

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (II Cor 5:17)*

As new creatures with the mind of Christ and the ability to overcome the temptations of Satan, Christians are “sons of God with power”, and heirs to God’s promises.

*“... he that is begotten of God keepeth himself...” (1 John 5:18)*

The normal Christian life for a person who has truly been born again is that he walks each day without sin. The apostle Paul said: “I die daily,” and this must be the attitude of any victorious Christian. If sin does appear, it is confessed, repented of, and forgiven. Now, people can truly obey Christ’s command to love one another, living together in love and unity.



*Baptism is part of salvation, not an optional extra, or a doctrine that can be lightly ignored.*

# EARLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Our life in Community has grown out of our experience as a Church, where a united desire to do God's will led us to study the scriptures and find practical ways in which to obey them. For instance, how do you *"exhort one another daily"* if you see each other only once a week? How does a man with two coats *"give to him that hath none"* if he does not know his brother's



*Anointing the sick is an act of both faith and obedience that has shown some miraculous results.*

needs? How can we prevent our widows from being *"neglected in the daily ministration"* if there is no commitment of sharing and caring from the leadership?

These practical issues were also faced and overcome by Jesus with His wisdom and care while He was alive. After Christ's death and resurrection, why did the apostles set up the first Church in Jerusalem as shown in the Book of Acts? Weren't they simply doing what Jesus had done — holding a common purse and living in equality? This became our model for the Church:

*And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (Acts 2:44,45)*

The New Testament is full of practical commands and examples of how the Church should be organised. Here are some other scriptures that are the foundation of our life:

*Now I beseech you, brethren ... that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you ... (1 Cor 1:10)*

A major Community decision is



# FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

made in full unity, not by casting a vote and living with a majority. If we do not come to a unanimous decision, the issue waits until unity is achieved. This principle gives the Church great strength and stability.

*Owe no man anything, (Romans 13:8)*

We do not borrow money, but live within our means. If we need finance for a large project, we go without something else while we save up the capital.

*... that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.*

*(II Cor 8:14 & 15)*

We share our strengths and material goods so there is equality in the Church. We also share with outsiders in need, even if our needs are not met. Leaders gain no privileges.

*... and lend, hoping for nothing again... (Luke 6:35)*

We never accept interest. If we want to help someone, we don't expect the money back again; it is a gift.

*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you ... (II Cor 6:17)*

God has given us a wonderful val-

ley where we can live together and bring up our families, free from the undesirable influence of modern society. From here we witness freely to the many who come.

*... whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery ...*

*(Matt 5:32)*

We uphold moral purity and seek to live a holy life. Our young people are taught to come to marriage as virgins, knowing that their union is for life. We do not accept homosexuality, fornication, adultery or remarriage of "divorced" persons among ourselves.

The Community lifestyle has done more for us than we could ever have imagined. It provides the perfect structure for organising our large families and caring for them economically. After many years of enjoying the blessings of Community, we ask: What alternative is there? How else can we keep the principles so plainly shown in the New Testament? At a time when the whole world is becoming more ungodly, we believe that we have found a way of keeping the faith for ourselves and future generations. Come and see it at work...

# EARLY DAYS IN NEW ZEALAND

Founded by an Australian evangelist who wanted to see the gospel practiced as well as preached, the Gloriavale Christian Community began near Rangiora, on the East Coast of the South Island of New Zealand in 1969. God drew many of the early converts from all over the world to come together in faith to solve the practical problems of sharing and caring for one another, while keeping separate from a world that was becoming more ungodly. One of the first projects was

to start a private Christian School with Biblical values taught by our own teachers. Over time, God showed us the wisdom of all living together on one property. When the Lord provided the means of doing this, we designed and built the buildings that best suited our needs. The Springbank Christian Community grew slowly as God tested our resolve and added to the Church daily such as should be saved. Our foundation principles were established at Springbank through read-



*From evangelical tent meetings in Australia to an established Christian way of life in New Zealand...*



# ESTABLISHING THE FAITH

ing and practising the word of God. Our economy depended initially on our tradesmen, who worked outside and earned a reputation for their honesty, and the quality of their drainlaying, building, plumbing, painting, floor laying and aircraft engineering. Income went into a common purse. Then we began establishing businesses on our own property by growing market garden produce, growing willow cane for basket making, and dairy farming. Manufacturing enterprises included

furniture and waterbeds, and the baking of bread.

One of the landmarks of the Springbank Community was a biogas digester which provided our vehicles with compressed natural gas (CNG). Our engineers were the first in the world to run diesel tractors on methane. By 1988 we had outgrown Springbank, and bought another farm nearby, ready to expand. But the Lord had prepared a better place for us on the West Coast. In 1991 we began to shift.



*By 1990, the Springbank Christian Community was home to about 200 people, and growing rapidly.*

# STARTING OVER AGAIN

Just as pioneers had come to the West Coast in the 1860's seeking a better life, we came to the Haupiri Valley with a vision to build a better community for our families. We needed a bigger economy than our Springbank property could provide, and the West Coast gave us ample room in which to expand. Nestled at the foot of the Southern Alps, the farm had been established as a

sheep and deer unit, surrounded by native bush, and bordered on the east by the Haupiri River, and to the north by Lake Haupiri.

We named the 917 ha property *Gloriavale*, in honour of our founder's wife, Gloria. Inspired by God's provision, we set out in the autumn of 1991 to prepare the pastures and build a dairy in time for the spring milking. What a time we had!



*Ankle deep in either mud or concrete, our men poured 28 cubic metres in 20 hours for one slab of the rotary dairy. Our men have since poured thousands more cubic metres of concrete for buildings at Gloriavale.*

# PIONEERING ON THE WEST COAST

Teams came from Springbank for working bees, putting in long, arduous hours to build the district's first Rotaflo dairy - a floating concrete platform for a 40 bail rotary dairy. Built entirely by our own tradesmen, the dairy was the first of many buildings.

As we sold the farms at Springbank and added to our facilities at Gloriavale, more people came to join in the pioneering. By 1995, we owned a total of 1700 ha on both sides of the Haupiri River. The shifting was over, and we were again one people living in harmony.

Together, we sought to create a completely Christian society, where God the Father was honoured, and people could live their entire life in fellowship with one another without the influence of the world.

At Gloriavale, we live, work and socialise together within the bounds of our faith, creating a society in which our children can grow to maturity and pass the faith to succeeding generations. Here, the aim is to make a place where it is hard to live a selfish worldly life, but easy to find God's will and live in daily service to the Lord Jesus.



*Gloriavale Christian Community is found beside Lake Haupiri, at the foothills of the Southern Alps.*

# COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

At Gloriavale, Jesus is given His rightful place as the head of the Church. The King James Bible is upheld as the inspired Word of God, and is the source of all guidance regarding Church order, doctrine, and practical direction for life. When the scriptures do not speak on a particular topic, we apply Biblical principles as far as possible, praying in faith for further wisdom and guidance. Answers are always found, and acted upon in unity.

Authority in the Church is given to

the men, as God established in the Garden of Eden. Our leaders always act in love, caring for all our people equally. Community roles are well defined, with men earning the income while women keep the home and care for the children.

The Church's founder is honoured as its leader, as he has been called and equipped by God to oversight the Church. He and several other Shepherds are responsible for the main spiritual and material decisions. Other leaders, called Servants,



*Gloriavale's community area includes the main building, a service shed, and four accommodation blocks.*

# LEADERSHIP AND BUSINESS

take responsibility in managing the community's companies, the school, early childhood centres, and aspects of our daily spiritual and practical life.

A strong economy is essential to sustain the ongoing existence and spiritual life of the Community. The Shepherds and Servants meet regularly to discuss all the affairs of the community. We do not take welfare benefits, borrow money, or invest money on interest. Our income, mostly from export enterprises,

goes into a common purse which meets our living expenses and development costs. We also support the West Coast strongly, spending millions of dollars a year on building supplies and developing our economy.

True to the Bible teaching of equality in the Church, the leaders do not have any special privileges above the other brethren, but serve them through their hard work, example, guidance and counsel. Theirs is a fatherly role, executed in love.



*The leadership prayerfully considers all developments in the business and spiritual future of the community, such as our oil exploration.*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

Meals are often a time for sharing experiences, preaching, prayer, and exhortation, but the main meeting is held on the First Day of the week, the day when Jesus rose from the dead. This is when the Church comes together to share scriptures, testimonies and songs. We break bread at least once a week to remember Christ's death and resurrection. Meetings may also include baptisms, commitments, foot washing, or prayers for the sick.

Our spiritual Church life is completely entwined with practical Community life. Everyday prob-

lems are spiritual issues to be solved through prayer, counsel and by following the Word of God in faith.

Forsaking all to follow Jesus means that you should love God "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and all thy strength, ... and thy neighbour as thyself." There is no room in Community for people who practise their religion only in their heads. *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.* (James 1:27)



*Baptism by immersion is the start of a person's life in Christ.*



# BREAKING WITH TRADITIONS

A Bible-based society has no place for many of the traditions and fables of western society, some of which are based on pagan superstitions or false religion. Here is a sampling:

- We don't celebrate Christmas, which is based on the pagan winter solstic celebration for the rebirth of the sun god, & the unscriptural ceremony of the Mass.
- We name weekdays and months numerically (5th Month etc) as their normal names glorify pagan gods;
- We do not wear wedding rings;
- Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy do not visit us;
- We keep the Lord's Supper every week according to Scripture and not

just on special days such as Easter.

- Our leaders do not take privileges or special titles like 'Reverend';
- We do not keep special days, such as birthdays and anniversaries;
- We don't baptise infants, who cannot believe or understand God;
- The Church takes its authority from God and not from the State;
- Our faith is based on reality, not rituals, ceremonies, "holy" buildings, vestments, incense & the like.
- We name our children to inspire them, giving names such as Charity Love or Willing Disciple;
- We wear modest clothing, and do not adorn ourselves with jewels, fancy hairstyles or makeup.



*Young people sing at a wedding without such traditions as giving the bride away, white dresses, bridesmaids, flower girls, wedding rings, confetti, or tossed bouquets. It's a wonderful day of rejoicing as a virgin couple enters for the first time into the lasting joys of married love.*

# BAPTISM & OTHER COMMITMENTS

Most of our children ask to be baptised during their school years, and sometimes earlier. Growing up in the Church environment gives them a strong sense of right and wrong, and when they see their need of salvation, they are in the right place to receive help. Much has been debated about the baptism of babies, children and adults, but the scripture teaches plainly that baptism is for believers only, and when children are old enough to repent and

believe, who can refuse them the peace of God that comes with salvation? If we as adults enjoy that privilege, we have no right before God to deny it to our children.

Baptism is essential to salvation from sin, and one of the first works of faith, enabling a believer to have a true victory over the evil of this world. The outward act of baptism is immersion in water, but the spiritual side is an act of God, where a believer's Adam nature is buried, and a new creature is raised with the same power that Christ has over sin. While baptism into Christ requires a commitment from the believer, we also commit ourselves to sharing everything together as adults. Committed members of the Community expect themselves and each other to keep the principles of '*What We Believe*', so that we may all live and work together in peace and unity. The commitment for older people can be made when anybody feels they understand the depth of duty we have to Christ, and the promises help to provide a firm foundation for our life together. Committed members of the Church know what to expect from each other.



*A young man reads his commitment to the Church before signing it before witnesses.*

# MARRIAGE

Hollywood notions of falling in love fall on deaf ears among our people. Love is something to be given when it's due. A man seeking a wife will pray and seek God's will with his parents and leaders before approaching his bride. The couple refrains from any physical contact at all during their courtship, which may last only a few weeks. Now they learn to share their hearts and thoughts with each other. On the wedding day, the Church gathers for a meeting to share exhortations, songs, scriptures and experiences. The couple make vows to God and each other before the Church, for no preacher can "marry" them. Then they go to a place pleasantly prepared for love-making. As they consummate their marriage before God, He joins them together in a bond that only death can break. They return as a married couple to a wedding feast with the rest of the Church. Our couples are taught to come to marriage as virgins, and to remain faithful to each other for life. The state gives a piece of paper to certify a marriage and it also gives a piece of paper to grant a divorce, but what happens in the con-

summation of a marriage is not like paper, and cannot be torn up. It is for keeps. Priests, JPs and marriage celebrants cannot marry a couple. The committed man and woman marry each other through the sacred act of sexual union.

Marriage is a symbol of the bond between Jesus and his Church, and we look forward to the Marriage Supper of the lamb, which we will celebrate when Christ returns shortly to take the Church out of this wicked world, and to himself.



*Elders pray for a couple after they have made their vows.*

# FAMILY LIFE

Christian society provides a fulfilling lifestyle from birth to death, with salvation for the faithful at all times. The main events in life will be baptism, making a commitment to the community in early adulthood, then marriage, raising a family and taking on responsibilities. Older people will be looked after in the family before passing into eternity with Christ. In all those years, they never lack for spiritual, physical or material needs.

Children are reared to serve God in stable families where husbands

love their wives, wives obey their husbands, and children honour their parents. As we trust God for our needs and do not practise birth control, a married couple may have up to 13 children. This natural increase helps us keep our living standards realistic and prevents us from becoming self-indulgent. Many aspects of our life revolve around managing these large families. The married ladies' time is organised so they can keep their Community work commitments and still care for their children. The single sisters



*Most family photo albums show a story similar to the one above. Sarah is the third child in a family of ten. She went to the Community's private school and grew up in the Community, was baptised,*

# THE COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

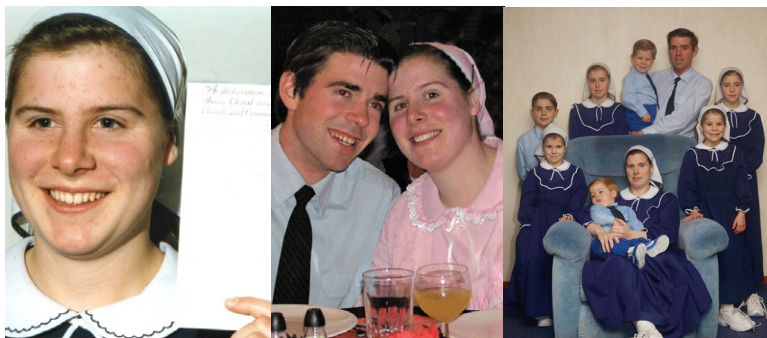
help married ladies with large families knowing that when they are married, someone will help them.

Community living also allows us to economise on many items. For example, if our present families in 2014 lived separately, we would have 90 houses instead of four hostels, 160 cars instead of 20, and 90 mowers instead of one ride-on and two push mowers. We buy food and many supplies efficiently in bulk.

Our three-storied accommodation buildings have an open floor plan to encourage fellowship among the

families on each floor. An extended family may take up one entire floor, allowing grandparents to be near their married children. We try to shift families around so that younger married couples can spend time with each set of parents.

Our way of life is very different from western society, where the spirit of independence drives children out of the home and often far away, neglecting their parents in their old age. There is no generation gap in our society, where children honour parents for the gift of life.



*made a commitment, married, and is now raising her own family. If the Lord tarries, she can look forward to being cared for in her old age, and then going to eternity with Christ.*

# HOME BIRTHS

Home births are important events, with at least 30 babies born each year at Gloriavale. This is a direct result of the modern home birth movement, which began in Australia. The community's founder and his wife began to have their babies



*A visiting midwife checks baby's health on one of her regular visits.*

at home in the early 1950s, when few midwives or doctors would attend a home birth. They brought the practice to New Zealand, which inspired a young couple living at the Church at Springbank in 1974 to believe in 1 Timothy 2:15 and have their first baby at home. This act of faith started the modern New Zealand home birth movement which spread throughout the country and is now a recognised option for all mothers.

We now have our own midwife and another in training, to be on call at the community full time.

Christian mothers take hold of God's promise that they will be saved in child bearing, if they walk in faith, holiness and sobriety. This has been borne out hundreds of times over the years. Midwives who attend our births often testify to the ease with which our ladies have their babies. If complications arise we will go to hospital, but our mothers all prefer to have their babies at home, attended by their husbands, family members and a midwife. Since 1974, almost 460 children have been born in the homes where they were conceived.



# A WORD ON BIRTH CONTROL

Contrast this with the fact that New Zealanders abort 14,000 babies a year, and destroy many, many times more with birth control. It's simply a matter of timing as to when would-be parents choose to destroy their own children. And no matter whether the unborn is labelled a fetus or a baby, it is still a human being. Who has the right to deny a child life when it is God almighty who opens and closes the womb? We trust God to give us children, and to help us raise them.



*Parents with their third baby, born at home with no problems.*



*If we practised birth control, these people would have been flushed down the toilet, aborted, or never even had parents to give them life.*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD

Four early childhood centres provide undivided love and care for children until school age while their mothers contribute to the Community work. Babies are given the best of care in their own special centres, where their mothers come to breast-feed them. At 15 months, the children move to our Toddlers' Centre at one of the accommodation blocks. Here they continue with organised activities in the morning and a sleep in the afternoon. At about three years, they start at Preschool.



*Every day is an adventure for our babies.*

A large play area and plenty of activities are the background to teach them basic principles of loving each other and respecting authority. The children eat lunch together and have a sleep in the afternoon before going home with Mum.

These four registered centres all pass their inspections from the government Education Review Office. Visitors often comment on the happiness and order of our children, who learn early in life the attitudes they need to live in Community.



*Preschoolers love acting in the concerts we do every two years.*

# SCHOOL

Deep concern about the teaching of evolution and ungodly values led us in 1971 to start our own Christian School where the Bible is read and upheld. Our own Christian teachers set a godly example and help prepare students for Christian Community life. We strongly emphasize literacy, numeracy, and practical subjects, such as running a high school dairy herd. We started 2014 with 150 primary and secondary students and the roll is steadily increasing.

Children spend the mornings in the classroom and the afternoons in practical Community activities with their parents and other adults to gain a balance between academic and practical learning. The 15-year-olds normally enjoy their final school year in work experience with some part-time studies before entering into the Community workforce. When needed, some study further for particular purposes. Apprenticeships and tertiary education follow when beneficial for our life.



*Primary boys building a brick flower bed at the school garden. Practical activities are treated as the best learning experiences.*

## SOCIAL LIFE

Our young people grow up learning to appreciate the variety and fulfillment found in the Community social life. This involved music and drama, as well as picnics, special events and non-competitive games. Young people throw their energies into pre-wedding parties, weddings, concerts and other celebrations. Every person has the opportunity to learn music, and most of the adults play in the orchestra or ensembles. The over-riding principle of social activities is that “if one person can

do something, then so can everybody else”. Families look forward to several days of vacation each year, and evenings when they invite other families out for tea or supper. Sometimes the entire Community will take a day off to celebrate a particular event, or just to have a break after a busy work period. Our heated indoor swimming pool is used regularly for recreation and exercise. The area surrounding the farm encourages camping, fishing, boating, eeling and tramping.



*A community version of blanket toss entertains our young people.*



*The young people made this fountain for a Married Couples' Tea*

# CONCERTS

A highlight of our social life, and that of the entire West Coast, is our concert season every second year. The concerts are a means of showing our appreciation to the local people we deal with, and sharing with them some of the blessings that God has given us. Concerts are performed in our Community dining room, which is transformed with huge backdrops and sets to suit the concert theme.

Our 2012 concert, *Gateways to*

*the Past*, was seen by 5300 people during 21 performances. Up to 90,000 hours had been spent making costumes and props, painting backdrops, and designing special effects. We also spent hours practising items and preparing meals.

Our guests receive four hours of quality entertainment and a three course meal. The concert features musical items, dance, songs, choirs, comedy skits and an orchestra. Nobody is ever disappointed.



*Hundreds of children rode our camels at the ends of the concerts.*



# LIFE ON THE DAIRY FARM

Several companies form the backbone of our economy. Named after the promised land, Canaan Farming Ltd is in the top five percent of Jersey Studs. In the last season we sent 900,000 kg of milk solids to the Westland Dairy Company (from three farms). This mainstay of our economy also provides us with meat, drinking milk, icecream, butter, cream, yoghurt, and cheese.

Much work has been done to improve land for pasture. We have also planted about 20,000 trees for

our future timber needs, as well as shelter belts, riparian margins along the creeks, and for reforestation. An overall environmental farm policy ensures that all resources are managed properly.

We have recently set land aside for a school dairy so our High School boys can have practical experience with their own herd of about 50 cows. They provide the community's milk and handle all aspects of herd and pasture management, milk quality, calf rearing and animal health.



*A farmer checks cows milking in the new 54 bail rotary dairy.  
We are currently milking about 1000 cows at Gloriavale,  
and 1200 at our other two farms.*



# DEER FARMING      AIR WEST COAST

Our deer farm has grown from a few animals at Springbank to a fine stud herd of nearly 3000 head. Stags are raised for velvet, venison and trophy heads. Our herd is regularly improved with the best available stag semen for quality, and by using embryo transfer techniques to maximise quantity. Some of our trophy stags are now of world class standard. We also market our own 'Pure Vitality' deer velvet extract as a health supplement for arthritis and a range of other conditions.



*Another splendid Gloriavale  
sire stag.*

Air West Coast is a small but highly visible company, servicing the West Coast with maintenance of light aircraft and helicopters. We also fly charters anywhere in New Zealand, and make scenic flights throughout the South Island. Our experienced engineers and pilots have undertaken several challenging projects over the years, including refurbishing large helicopters, a twin engine turbo prop aeroplane, and flying ferry flights from Europe to New Zealand, and from New Zealand to the Caribbean.



*Our pressurised Cessna 210  
over Lake Brunner.*

## MEAT MEAL

Our MPI certified rendering plant contributes substantially to our economy, and is an important environmental service to the meat industry, processing offal from three species of livestock - sheep, cattle and deer. About 15,000 tonnes of raw material is processed per year to make about 4000 tonne of meal and 1500 tonne of tallow. We are the largest producer of cervine meal in the world, to the best quality. The tallow is sold world-wide for biodiesel, soap, and for use in pharmaceuticals.



*Making meat meal requires huge cookers and machinery.*

## OIL EXPLORATION

For several years we have held an exploration permit on the West Coast for oil and gas. We re-opened an abandoned oil well near Lake Brunner in 2001, and then in 2008 drilled another well to 845 metres, and we are now ready to drill another well with a newly imported rig. Our oil venture has proved to be a challenging investment for our economic base, while providing a cash flow to the local district. We pray that this project will benefit the entire West Coast in future.



*Drilling for coal seam gas near Moana.*

# TRADES AND SKILLS

Our tradesmen are essential to our community, for without their efforts nothing would be built or fixed. Young people are trained as builders, joiners, plumbers, drain layers, electricians, computer technicians, painters, boiler operators, mechanics, aircraft engineers, pilots, draftsmen, farmers, digger drivers, teachers and accountants. Such is the demand that some learn two trades. In 23 years at Gloriavale, our own building programme has included the large community building, four

accommodation blocks, a service shed, three rotary dairies, many farm buildings, an aircraft hangar, engineering and joinery workshops, a hydro generating plant, covered swimming pool, killing shed and processing factories for the meat meal plant. Our engineers maintain tractors, trucks, vans and cars, as well as other machinery, while building new machines. Although some departments may not generate income directly, they keep everything going for those that do.



*Builders pour the concrete pad for our new school building, which will be big enough for 250 students.*

# THE SISTERS' REALM

Dedicated to their roles as wives and mothers, our sisters study the arts of child rearing and home-making very seriously. A House Mother appointed by the Church leaders organizes the household budget and workforce, skillfully buying food and clothing at competitive prices. In a typical week, the womenfolk will prepare more than 11,000 meals and wash at least 17,000 laundry items. Extra work may include bottling fruit preserves, cutting up meat, making butter or cheese, or freezing

produce for future use. Our kitchen is equipped with efficient commercial grade machinery, and designed to handle a large amount of work. A team will also manufacture dresses, trousers, shirts, overalls, underwear, jackets, concert costumes, or soft furnishings. Other sisters work as early childhood and school teachers, in the office, or as telemarketers for our moss company. The sisters' contribution to Community life is essential, and well appreciated by all.



*The sisters produce three meals a day for more than 500 people.*



*The sewing room makes most of our clothing and soft furnishings.*

# OUTREACH

Thousands of visitors have heard the gospel *and seen it carried out* at Springbank and Gloriavale. The practical Christian life shows people how Jesus expects them to live, and it provides the means of doing that. This powerful living witness greatly supports the preaching of God's Word. A Community life instantly provides new converts with an example of how to live for Christ. Many people can also give help and guidance based on their own experience of the practical sharing Christian life.



*Couples celebrate a recent wedding at our Indian community.*

We preach the Gospel to all who come and to those whom God is leading to truth. We have a special responsibility to win the many children whom God has given us. Our population grows continually and we look to God's leading to start other Christian Church Communities, wherever that may be.

He has already led us to preach the Gospel in India and to begin a Christian Community there. This is a huge and challenging task, both spiritually and economically. But the Lord will build His Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, just as He has done here at the Gloriavale Christian Community. We seek to be as a city set on a hill, as Jesus said, that all men may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

## **DO YOU WANT TO VISIT?**

Interested visitors are welcome to stay at Gloriavale. Visitors are expected to quietly fit into the Community way of life.

Women should wear respectable clothing, such as dresses or skirts, not jeans or slacks.

# LOVE IS A SACRIFICE

This song was written by one of our brothers, who has since gone to his reward in Heaven. It beautifully sums up the principles of our life together.

*A life in common together we share,  
A selfless expression of God's real love.  
With joy we rush others' burdens to share,  
And thus show our love for our Father above.*

*(Chorus) Love is a sacrifice,  
Giving ourselves not for reward:  
Forbearing, forgiving, not just in word,  
But fervently serving in deed.*

*As scattered fragments of stone we once lay,  
Each knowing and caring for only himself.  
But now, by God's grace, as he adds each day  
We're fitted and built to a place where he dwells.*

*Our nature of sin is rebellion and pride,  
Which held us apart from our God and each other.  
Is plunged now under Christ's blood and has died.  
We're part of his family, growing together.*

*Our lives now yielded in joyful surrender  
We willingly serve with a soft humble heart  
To please one another, self-will holding under,  
And build up the body, each playing his part.*

*As strangers and pilgrims in this evil world,  
We travel together a unified band.  
One purpose, one mind, and one judgment we hold;  
Each day seeking guidance to be led by his hand.*

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**Gloriavale Christian Community, 189 Heaphy Road, Lake Haupiri.  
Private Bag 611, Greymouth 7840, New Zealand.**

**Ph +64 3 738 0257 Fax +64 3 738 0212**

**32 email: church@gloriavale.co.nz www.gloriavale.org.nz**