

# VISION

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## Jesus is Real

I was born in a small town at the bottom of the South Island of New Zealand, called Bluff. My mother was living with my grandparents when I was born and my mum and I lived with them until I was five years old. Mum then had a new home built in Bluff and we moved in there. I went to Bluff Primary School just across the road and I always went to my Nana and Pops place before school, at lunch time and after school, because my mum was working. I didn't mind because I loved my Nana and Pop very much and they looked after me very well. I went to high school in Invercargill, about a 25km drive north of Bluff and I had to catch a bus every day to get to and from Cargill High School.

brothers and sisters to me. My aunties and uncles were great towards me too. Growing up in Bluff was a bit of a challenge. I wasn't very good at my schoolwork and I didn't like school at all really. I got bullied by bigger kids and so I bullied other kids too.

I left high school in 1992 and I did a course in wood carving. Mum then talked me into going back to study so I listened to her for a change and chose to do an automotive engineering courses. I passed, which enabled me to start my apprenticeship as a mechanic at Honda Cars, Invercargill. I got an award as the top apprentice for the region and in 1998 I got the Best Practical Student Award. I completed my apprenticeship and have been a mechanic most of my working career.

When I was about fifteen years old I stopped playing Rugby Union and switched codes to play Rugby League, a sport I love. I played at club level, winning four grand finals. I also played as Captain on many occasions. I represented New Zealand at student level in 1999 when we went to the World Cup in England and Wales - and we won the tournament.

So, as you can see Rugby League was a big part of my life, but it was something I was not a

natural at and I had to really put in the extra hours training - hard training. I did power lifting in 2004 and got third place in the South Island Champs, in the 100kg class, but I stopped after training became too hard and draining.



As I was growing up I played Rugby Union. I also enjoyed going to the Mutton Bird islands with my Grandfather, my Aunty and Uncle and cousins, to catch mutton birds. When I was growing up I didn't know or have my Dad in my life - it was just Mum and I, but I had my cousins, who were like my

## Jesus Is Real

My spiritual eyes and understanding about Jesus were opened on Christmas Day, 2007 - it was the same year my Grandfather died. In the morning I went over to my cousin's house to watch a Santa Claus give presents to my cousin's kids. When I went back to my house, I opened the front door and to my surprise I was greeted with a familiar smell, it was very strong, but it only lasted for a moment. It was the same smell I used to smell only when I went to my grandfather's house. It was a distinctive smell, very strong and I thought that maybe this was my grandfather's ghost coming to tell me something?

I sat down straight away to think about what had just happened and immediately I came up with the question, "If my Grandfather is visiting me on Christmas day, what is it for?" I then got an awesome revelation that we were celebrating Jesus birth - Jesus is real! JESUS IS REAL! Wow! I suddenly really believed in Jesus in my heart. I then told my mother what had happened and she was confused, but I was so convinced Jesus was real - that was awesome!

After being a Christian for some time now I know that this could not have been my grandfather's ghost that visited me. It was God the Father Himself using something familiar to me that would get my attention - and it worked.

It was the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 2008, just weeks after I was saved. I was at my friend's house after our church service earlier in the day. I heard a very clear knock - 3 knocks to be exact - so, I said to my friend, "Did you hear that knock?" He said, "No!" However, I knew there had been a knock, I thought that maybe it was God and I was the only one He wanted to hear it, because He wanted to get my attention. Well, it worked, because straight away I felt in my heart that I needed to go home to be alone and to pray to God. So, I went home very much focused on wanting to pray.

It was around 11 pm and I entered the house, went into the bedroom and closed the door. I got my Bible out, sat down on the end of the bed, opened the Bible to the Lord's Prayer. I was learning how to pray, I needed to read the Lord's Prayer - before I was saved I didn't know how to pray and I had never read anything out of the Bible before.

## Filled with the Holy Ghost

I did learn before that night that God's Word teaches us that we can ask God to let us pray in the Holy Ghost. "Well", I thought to myself, "I want to

give this a go, let's see what happens." I started my prayer with my eyes open and I said these words: "Father, let me pray in the Holy Ghost!" Then I started to pray, reading the lines of the prayer, then praying it out loud, I said, "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name JESUS!" OH WOW! Did I get answered indeed! This is what happened the moment I said those words and straight after I said the Lord's name, JESUS!

I felt a vibration, a very powerful, tangible feeling, enter the bottom of both of my feet. It was like electricity surging in my feet, moving slowly upwards through my legs, penetrating every cell in my body as He was moving through me. Then I felt the Holy Ghost keep moving through my core, right up through my neck, passing through my head, covering the top of my head like a perfect fitting hat. The feeling started moving round and round, and back and forth on the top of my head, penetrating right through my skull with vibrations. It was electrifying, so powerful, wave after wave into my brain. Then He moved back down through my head and neck, down my chest and into my heart, He began moving round and round, back and forth, just like He did on my head, penetrating my heart again and again with power - so powerful!

That was the first wave of the Holy Ghost that came upon me and yes. I did feel scared. Here I was having an intense encounter with God, when all of a sudden I realized this was real. I had a realization of the awesomeness of God. I was thinking, as I could feel what He was doing with me, "What is He going to do with me next?" I thought to myself, "Come on, this is God. Don't be afraid, you have to keep praying, this is what I have to do." So, I continued to pray with the next line of the Lord's Prayer as the Holy Ghost began another wave of the Spirit.

Entering into both of my feet, powerfully moving through my body, the same as the first wave of power that came - doing the same thing, penetrating my head, mind and heart. As I continued to pray each line of the Lord's Prayer a new wave would surge through my body - with increasing power the Holy Ghost continued His work in me. I was shocked to realize what was happening to me - it was so amazing! I am trying to explain with words but it is so hard because this was a very intimate encounter and I know that it is only Jesus and I that can really understand my baptism in the Holy Ghost - it was that awesome!

When the Lord was sending His last waves of power through me it was so amazing, beautiful and

personal - it was in fact a heavenly encounter. I finished my prayer and stood up trembling, shaking with the awe of God. I laid down in bed for two hours, trembling, then I got up and showered to try to relax but it didn't work and I didn't sleep for two nights. I had to force myself to eat for two days because I felt sick and for many days later I received many surges of power of the Holy Ghost.

### The Wind of the Spirit

The wind of Gods Spirit was blowing around me so that I could physically feel His wind. I went to my bedroom after having a shower and started to put my clothes on. As I was putting on my trousers I looked at my curtains in the bedroom and I noticed them swinging back and forth from the window. I just thought, "I have left the window open and the wind from outside is blowing in making the curtains move." That wasn't the case though because when I checked, I found the window was completely closed. I realized that the wind that I

could feel blowing around was the Spirit of God. Then I decided to move over to the larger of the curtains in the bedroom. I put my hands up in the air right in front of the curtain to see what was going to happen and "Yes!" it was just as I thought; the curtains began to move a lot, swaying out from the window the full length of the curtain, about fifteen centimetres out from the window. I was amazed - as anybody would be! What I thought was a

spiritual wind, that wasn't affecting anything else but me, was now a physical, visual reality to my natural senses that was moved by an eternal spiritual person, being the Holy Spirit of God.

I then decided that I needed to share this experience with someone. I thought to myself, "I really need to talk to someone right now about this experience." I thought my good friend Daniel would listen to me, so I phoned him at one in the morning and I briefly explained to him what had happened to me. Then I persuaded him to come over to my house.



He came over, came inside and I was thinking to myself, "I wonder if Daniel is going to feel in his body the same power as I was feeling?" because the power of God was surging over and over through my body. As I put out my hand to him to shake hands I said, "Shake my hand bro', I want to see if you can feel what I was feeling?" We shook hands together as I looked at him and said, "What can you feel bro'?" He said, "The strange thing is I can see I'm holding your hand but I can't feel your hand in mine!" I said, "Me too! I can't feel your hand either! It was strange. I felt as if it wasn't me in my body, but I knew it was the Spirit of Jesus moving in me. It was so amazing - wow! I then said to Daniel, "Watch this, I will show you something" and I moved over to the curtains in the living room, put up my hands towards them and they started to move greatly, swaying back & forth out from the window the full length of them. Daniel was as amazed as me!

I then told him something I haven't mentioned to you yet; that straight after I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, when I sat up from the bed, the first thing I did was look at the bedroom door that was closed and I knew in my mind that there was no doubt that if I commanded the door to open by the power of God, that it was going to open! It was an amazing feeling of confidence (faith) in God, but at the same time I had a voice in my heart saying I shouldn't misuse God's power. I will never forget

the feeling of absolute faith at that moment - it was so great!

After I told Daniel about this, he then said, "Because of this faith we need to pray for some people in need that we know; and one of them was a lady who was pregnant with a child. She had just been to the doctor and was told after examinations, that the baby had died in the womb. I had been told that she wouldn't accept the report, but that she and her husband would be praying for a miracle! So, Daniel and I prayed a simple short prayer of

faith in God.

It was just a few days later that I received a report that at the same time we had prayed for the baby (at 1 a.m., the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2008) a strange thing happened in the house where the baby and its family were. Everyone in the house woke up - about the same time Daniel and I were praying - to a strange feeling. The baby's mother was prompted to go for another examination of the baby and "Wow!" you guessed it, God Almighty in His love and power had brought the baby back to life! It was a miracle! Praise God! That baby is now a beautiful healthy little girl. Amen! I know that night my revelation of the reality of Jesus gave me a huge injection of faith.

### **Total Surrender**

Before this I had decided to believe in, and follow Jesus, in the hope that what my heart was telling me was right. I didn't want to take any risks with the reality of heaven and hell - I wanted to go to heaven, but God Himself revealed Himself to me that night, the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. What before had been only searching and a hope that what I was being told about Jesus was real, became an absolute eternal spiritual reality, through a miraculous encounter with God - physically and emotionally. This changed my commitment to Jesus and to God the Father to one of total surrender to allowing Him to have His will done in my life.

It's funny, because before all of this, I said all I would do in my way of commitment to God was that now I was saved I would just go to Church once a month and cut back on my drinking and other wrong things I was doing. I had no desire to have God work in my life. I had the mentality that I just wanted to get one foot into heaven, but I still wanted to live the way of this sinful world. Ha! Little did I know that God was so real and that He was the one who was going to decide my destiny! God was so serious in what He was doing with me and I knew I had to trust Him.

### **Putting on Christ**

Since I was saved I have been to Africa seven times to do the work of God. I have seen God do many miracles, deliverances, healings and salvations. I married my beautiful wife Rina, who I met while on a mission in Zambia in 2009. We are now living in New Zealand and have five beautiful children, giving thanks to God. I have seen an amazing transformation in my wife's fellowship with Jesus since she received her baptism in the Holy Ghost. We both have a heart to go to the nations, to do

mission work as a family, and to take the Gospel message with signs and wonders to the world.

### **Clash of Kingdoms**

As I have given my life to Christ, to follow Him to do the work of God, He has shown me through the Word of God and experience that most problems in people's lives are

spiritual. Even though they appear to be natural, they are not. In the natural, people's bodies are tools or like a housing for evil spirits or demons. Even though we can't see them they are usually there, very active, and sometimes in numbers. You see, for example, you can't see the wind, but you can feel it, hear it, see what it does - you don't know where it comes from or where it is going, but it is real.

I remember one event in Uganda, in 2009. In a remote village there was a young lady at one of our meetings, right near the front with her hands in the air worshiping God with a glow upon her. After a sermon from John Watson we ministered to the people by laying our hands on them in prayer and to our total surprise the lady who seemed to be so connected to the Lord was suddenly in trouble. When John Watson touched the lady on the head in prayer she lost her glow and a great darkness came upon her face. She fell down and began to shake and to roll around on the ground. John simply commanded the demons within her to come out in the name of Jesus and she was set free. You see, the lady was a Christian, she went to church and she



worshiped God, but she was still oppressed by demons in some areas of her body or personality - but we praise the Lord for He set her free that day!

In another village in Uganda, in 2009, I was sent alone to minister in a Church. After preaching my message I felt moved by the Lord to pray for anyone who was in need. I remember some people had to assist a little girl, about eight years old, to come forward for prayer. She was very weak and not able to walk by herself. They told me she had a very bad chest problem and had much difficulty breathing. I wasn't sure that was because of her sickness so I just placed my hand on her head and prayed for healing. In just a short time she fell to the ground and I expected that she had been healed as she fell to the ground by the power of the Holy Spirit, but it wasn't over yet. She started to thrash around violently on the ground because there were demons in her that could not stand up to the power of the Holy Spirit. The people watching around her jumped back in fear. I continued to pray for her and all of a sudden she lay still on the ground. Everyone was quiet, when all of a sudden she jumped up from off the ground and ran straight for the door and out of the Church. I said to some people close by me, "Chase her and bring her back!"

After some time, they found her and brought her back to me, and she stood in front of me just looking at the ground. I said to her, "Little girl how

are you?" She lifted her head up, looked at me straight in the eyes and said these glorious words: "Praise the Lord!" She was delivered from demons that had caused her sickness and she was totally healed! She turned around, walked outside and started to run around playing with all the other children smiling, laughing, full of joy and strength! What an amazing difference. Before her deliverance she was totally dependent on other people, but now she was free! Wow! It was amazing. I will never forget what Jesus did for that little girl who was oppressed by Satan, Praise the Lord!!!

### **You Are Being Called**

I know with all my heart that Jesus is real and that He is the only way to God. He is the only way to make it into heaven when we die, for without faith in Jesus we commit the sin of denying the only Son of God.

Despite many peoples doubts (or denial) Hell is real. It is described in the word of God as a place of eternal torment, day and night, for the Devil, his angels (demons) and all those who reject Jesus and His commandments.

### **Riki Ashwell, Invercargill Chapter**

Riki, Rina and their family live in Invercargill, where they run a house church called House of Rescue. Riki ministers in public deliverance and healing meetings as well as in street evangelism.

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## **Lower North Island Camp – 22 to 24 March**

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The camp kicked off at 6pm on Friday night, it was only a small camp with 35 people attending. The evening included praise and worship and Laurie Hennessey, our main speaker, gave his testimony. This was followed by supper and everyone catching up with one another.

Saturday started off at 7am with a prayer meeting which most members attended. After breakfast four men each gave a 10-minute testimony. During the day Graham Eagle, Bernie George and Laurie Hennessey all spoke, with Laurie doing the main share. During Saturday evening there were some very powerful words of knowledge spoken

over individuals, with prayer for the sick and deliverance ministry.

Prayer at 7am started our Sunday, followed by breakfast and more personal testimonies. Laurie then spoke again followed by Bernie George leading us in Communion before lunch. Then it was time to clean up and head for home.

During the whole week end there was a real excitement running through the camp as the Holy Spirit touched many if not all who were at the camp. Laurie Hennessey is an excellent speaker and I recommend that he be used right throughout the country.

**Jack Davey, Regional Director**

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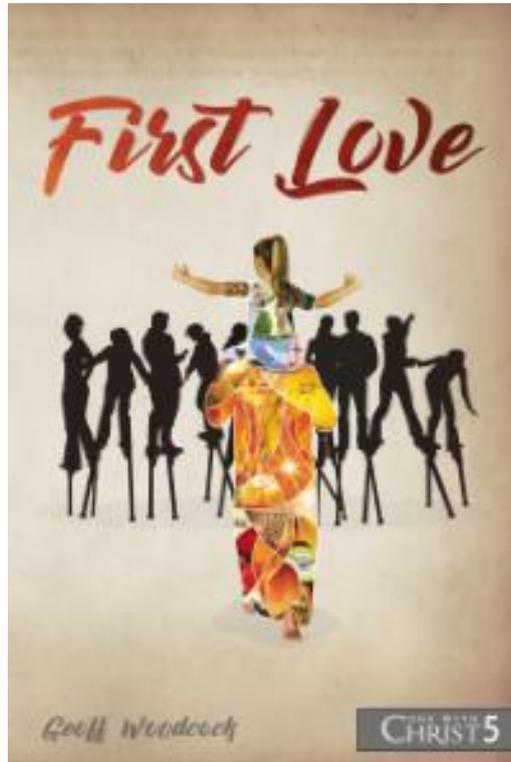
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## First Love – A book review

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Every now and then a book, in this case a devotional bible study, comes along that draws us closer to God and helps us to hear and recognise His voice, challenges us and assists us to love others more. The National Board, Graham Eagle, Graham Simpson, Hugh August, John Speirs, Noel Spiers and Mike Bunt all have a copy of “**First Love**” by **Geoff Woodcock** and have been reading it and all agree it is a book that does all that it says it can.

In a simple and easily understood way this book has many short stories, backed up with appropriate bible verses to ponder on individually or discuss in a small group. It is not a quick read, for it captures your imagination to want to reread many parts so you can you can fully digest the information and to check out the matching scripture verses.



The National Board, unanimously endorse “**First Love**” and will have a supply at our Invercargill National Convention for your purchase. If you cannot wait until Queens Birthday you can obtain a copy from Geoff at [onewithchrist.org](http://onewithchrist.org), either a hard copy or download one.

Let me finish with Geoff’s own words, “God created us to find life in loving Him, hearing His voice and living in union with Him”. This is our design. But how do we love God? How can we hear His voice? And what does it mean to live in union with Him?

This book is written to help you to encounter the Living God. It is written to help you love Him more deeply. Hear His voice more clearly and to grow in unity with Jesus. If you are hungry for God this book is for you.

**Mike Bunt, National Director**

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## Prayer Answered

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Erick and Amy Saunders wish to thank everyone who have been praying concerning the disappearance of their herd of cows.

The herd has not been recovered, but with most of the information now on the table surrounding the disappearance, they are satisfied with where the investigation has ended. They are now able to move forward and put it all behind them.

With things now disclosed, they wish for this event in their lives to draw to a close. They would

appreciate that people now stop asking for further details

Erick and Amy thank Jesus for his peace, comfort and love that they have experienced, knowing that he was with them all of the way. They also wish to thank you all for your prayers and concern.

God Bless You.

**Erick & Amy Saunders**

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## FGBMFI Australian Convention

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FGBMFI Australia have informed us that they will be holding their annual convention over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> till the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. The location is North Lakes, about 25km north of the Brisbane CBD.

Mario Garcia the International President of FGBMFI will be attending and speaking at the convention.

Graham Eagle has indicated an interest in leading a New Zealand delegation. If you are interested in joining Graham please let the National Office know.

Once we receive a brochure for the convention we will circulate it.

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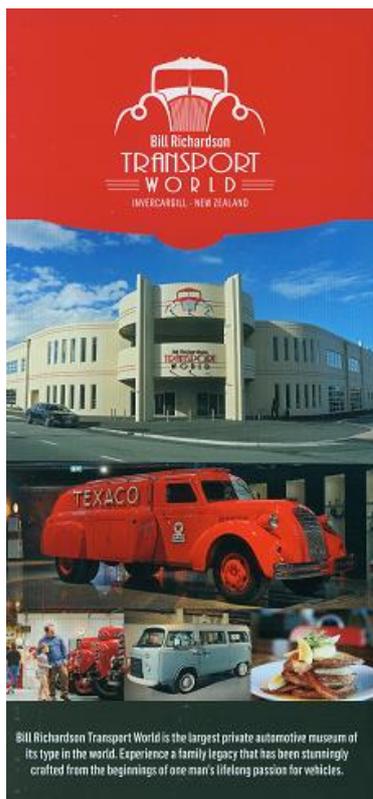
## Invercargill Convention 2019

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Convention is coming around fast, commencing on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. Register now at [www.fgbmfi.org.nz](http://www.fgbmfi.org.nz) and be part of another great convention. It's wonderful to see how God moves at these events and many people have experienced healing and restoration in addition to the great teaching and fellowship.

One kilometre from the Ascot Park Hotel is the Bill Richardson Transport World. This is the largest museum of its type in the world with over 300 vehicles and well worth a visit. Attached is the Classic Motorcycle Mecca, Australasia's leading motorcycle museum. So if you are a petrol head there is plenty to see.

While the Basin Reserve in Wellington is being upgraded the NZ Cricket Museum



has been relocated to the Bill Richardson Transport World and is also available for a visit.

During convention the board will speak at one of the Men's seminars about where we see FGBMFI going in the future. We will explain work that is following on from a series of workshops held at recent Dominion Council meetings. We are excited about the future and believe we need to be preparing for what God is going to do next.

Hope to see you in Invercargill.

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## Colin & Anita Pownall

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Colin & Anita are back in the UK now after a full and at times tiring tour around the country.

They spoke at fifteen organised meetings and in addition at several impromptu meetings. At times they were travelling for up to four hours between meeting locations, so they covered a lot of kilometres.

They were once again very well received by chapters throughout the country. There were

many responses from people wanting to know more about Jesus or for prayer.

Ngongotaha, our newest chapter, were delighted that two people responding to an invitation to know Jesus.

So thanks to all those that assisted by hosting Colin & Anita and organising meetings.

