

## A GREAT CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Copyright Matthew Verschuur. Originally published in The Protector, 28/3/2005.

*Christians must be prepared, not for an evil world religion, but for a good world religion.*

Many Christians have spoken fearfully of a coming one world religion. The signs of it are everywhere: the apostasy, the compromise, the lukewarmness, and the apathy concerning the real meaning of Easter.

True Christianity is destined to be a major religion in the world, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14). This is not referring to any old "Christianity" as has been known. If this were true, then Roman Catholicism should be increasing, along with the multitude of other groups calling themselves "Churches". The overall trend in Australia is that these false forms of Christianity are diminishing. Neither is this prophecy ("the earth shall be filled") merely referring to the way off time of the Millennial reign of Christ. If it is only in the Millennium where righteousness is to have a great witness, then God was lying when He commanded the Church, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15b). If the Church is not going to fulfil His commandment, He would not have built it up in the first place.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14). Believers may think that Christianity has gone backwards in Australia, after all, there was a massively greater Christian witness in the past. However, there are major benefits that are manifesting themselves. Firstly, that the groups which compromised earliest have reaped a greatest diminishing to the present. Secondly, that the once strong divisions and reactions among people have been dulled to nothing. (A hundred years ago, there were literally fistfights between Australian Irish Catholics and Australian Protestants.) Thirdly, that many groups are joining together in the ecumenical agenda, which makes their error easily identifiable, and puts them in a position where God can hold them in check. "For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because *there was* no shepherd." (Zechariah 10:2). Therefore, Australia is come to a position of being ripe for harvest, where "word of God is not bound." (2 Timothy 2:9).

The hearts of believers may be parched and dry, but there must be a complete death to selfishness, and a receiving of God's refreshing, "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; *so* the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field." (Zechariah 10:1). This refreshing does not come by accident. It does not come by wishful thinking. (There are many so-called Pentecostals who have spoken big about the rain and blessing, and the only rain they see is what they are able to artificially sprinkle.)

Unless a Christian has a sound heart, there will not be life: "A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh" (Proverbs 14:30a). It is when righteousness abounds in individuals that it affects the nation for good, "Righteousness exalteth a nation" (Proverbs 14:34a).