

# Globalisation and the Church

All of Scripture resonates with God's absorbing interest in the whole earth. The church in the first century AD was born in a global environment. There was a universal currency, language, political system, road/communications network, religious culture and social climate. Therefore the New Testament speaks clearly to our new global context. We cannot be healthy Australian Christians today and ignore the world. A global concern is not optional. It comes from the heart of God.

## **Challenging Global Consumerism**

We need Christians to model that life “does not consist of what a man has.” Too, that even if one could gain the whole world yet lose one’s own soul, one has lost all. Joy does not reside in unhindered consumerism. “If we are not happy with what we have we will not be content with what we want” (Phil 4: 12).

## **The Church and Global economics**

Globalisation has done little or nothing to relieve poverty in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. People are increasingly subject to the whim of the market, for example, oil prices. Poverty levels in Asian countries have worsened as globalisation has bloomed. At present 34% of the children under age five in Southeast Asia are under weight.

## **Cross-cultural Evangelism and Church Planting in Australia**

Globalisation has not only created unprecedented opportunities to take the Gospel to all nations, tribes and tongues, but it has brought the peoples of the world to Australia. Overseas students attend our High Schools, Taff Colleges, Universities and specialized schools.

We can encourage small groups to pray through the world news section of the newspaper. Befriend new Australians who live in your suburb. Develop strong relationships with Assembly missionaries. Go to your local educational institutions and start a “Friends of International Students Group.” Invite them home and to church sponsored meals. Use Christianity Explained or similar tools with them.

## **The Impact of Global Religious Pluralism**

Christianity was born in a pluralistic, synchronistic religious environment and believes in absolute truth and authority as revealed by God in Scripture. The church needs to fearlessly teach that outside of Christ there is no salvation. That “there is no other name given among men whereby we can be saved.” “No-one comes to the Father but by Me.” The local church can unashamedly challenge religious pluralism.

## **Globalisation and Eternity**

The challenge to today is to ask if our vision, our worship is as multi-cultural as that of heaven? In heaven peoples from around the globe will stand shoulder-to-shoulder to jointly sing praises to the Lamb. Will we personally know anyone in that crowd outside our own sub-cultural group?

Let us be like God who so loved the world that He gave his one and only son. Love the world of people for Jesus sake and introduce them to the only Saviour.