

Cat.3 # 3 A Christian State of the World Forum?

By Helene Bos

In 1995 Gorbachev called a thousand leaders in the world together in San Francisco to discuss the "State of the World", regarding a certain problem. (At that time: how to control the growth of the world-population). They were political leaders. Left and right, some (hardly) conservatives and many (very) liberals. Political, religious leaders (Dalai Lama, of course and Hinduists, liberal Christians), environmentalists, New Agers, philosophers, leaders in business, media, (Turner, Murdoch, Gates) and so on. It was an elitist gathering, but it were people who were leaders in their fields. Also, in the following years the State of the World Forum's came together.

In 2000 Gorbachev organised this Forum in New York in September, at the time of the United Nations Millennium Summit for Heads of State. Of course, many Heads of State's visited also the Forum.

I was in New York, and took part in a prayer gathering, called together because of these gatherings. (I had applied for a press pass for the UN but was denied access with the argument that they had not received my application. Later, the argument was that I should have applied as an NGO, because they knew that I was an NGO, revealing that they *had* received my application. This kind of experiences is also revealing for the policies of the UN.)

I was able to read the Program for the State of the World Forum. The topic that year was: Globalization. Many plenary speakers, many workshops, on many related problems. There were, of course, many New Age workshops. But the workshops on the many, many problems in the world, related to Globalization, were very impressive!

I wept, when I read that Program. I felt: here are many leaders, seeing which problems there are in the world for so many people. People that are hopeless, that have few chances, very few possibilities, that "will not make it" in their life.

And, I realized, most of the Christians have no idea whatsoever of all these, often gigantic, problems. And what is worse: many Christians in the western world are also not interested in these things.

I know that Christians cannot solve all or many of these problems. But, should we not be much more aware of them? Can the Bride of Christ, the "Global end-time Church" allow herself to be ignorant of the problems, and needs, of the many, many millions? I believe we cannot permit ourselves to ignore these matters, without grieving the Lord deeply. Can we ever have a CHRISTIAN State of the World Forum?