



OPINION PIECE
14th May 2020

Destiny Churches have decided to **STAND** for all that represents our freedoms and rights as a democracy. In light of the passing of The Covid-19 Public Health Response Bill yesterday, we firmly stand our ground on what we see as a threat to all New Zealander's personal freedoms and democratic rights.

After leading much of the protest to the unfair and discriminatory restrictions on funerals, tangihanga and churches, we witnessed the government relent to public opinion (more concerned with votes no doubt) and adjust the restrictive 10 people limit at these events and raised it to 50 people at their briefing yesterday.

The fact that they can change the limit from 10 to 50 people so easily just shows that the rules aren't based on much more than how well the public accepts it, not evidence or proof of danger or risk!

However, the heartbreak to many Christians and Church leaders across the nation is the complete heartlessness and unfairness to the Churches of New Zealand when Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Health Authorities decided to raise the limit of funerals and tangihanga but not the limits for places of worship. The NZ Herald reported on the Hawkes Bay Churches who state "We joined the team of 5 million, now we're left out." Either the government doesn't trust the hundreds of thousands of Christians across the nation, or they simply don't value us as being essential services at all! We are at the bottom of the heap, so to speak, when it comes to any considerations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Church has been completely ostracised and left out in the cold.

Actions speak louder than words, Prime Minister, and its obviously very clear that New Zealand churches may suffer again discriminative actions against us through the newly rushed through Bill yesterday. With Executive Powers in a professed Atheist's hands, with sweeping powers given to enforcement squads, I suspect Christianity will suffer further persecution!

With recent moves of removing the name of Jesus Christ out of Parliamentary Prayer, this Government's promotion of Islam over Christianity, attempts to change the National Anthem and our Flag, the Islamic Prayer requested by PM Jacinda Ardern and prayed over our national airwaves and in opening Parliament, denying our religious freedoms under The Bill of Rights etc, it's hard for us not to feel very vulnerable and devalued at this time.

Destiny Church will therefore hold a public meeting this Sunday 10 am at 25 Druces Rd, Manukau.

This meeting will be open to all members of the public. This will be in protest of:

- The Personal Freedoms of All New Zealanders
- The Right To Worship and Religious Freedom

The Declaration of 'Let's Keep New Zealand...New Zealand' will be broadcast live online @ www.destinychurch.org.nz/watch

Additional information:

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503462&objectid=12331677