

# The Omission of the Great Commission

by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

**To the question “Why is it that today’s church and Christians have so little impact?” the short answer is: the omission of the great commission that Christ gave us! (Matthew 28:19-20)**

You may have your own opinion and observations, but let me mention four reasons why today’s church has so little impact in the world:

1. There are too many spectators who don’t want to be involved.
2. People are more interested in methods and activities than in the message.
3. People are too concerned about public image and political correctness.
4. They are little, if at all, concerned for lost people.

What made the New Testament church effective was its passion for and efforts in outreach and evangelism. They were all witnessing and sharing the Good News as

commanded in Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Evangelism (*evangelismos* in Greek, which means spreading the good news) is generally forgotten now. Not too many are interested in witnessing and sharing the Good News (*evangelion*). The Bible in Greek is also called *Evangelion*.

We have settled for other causes. While the world needs to hear the Good News, the most important message, some Christians are busy doing things that are less important. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 we read: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures;...” Are we, the true believers in Jesus, responding to this need for evangelism? ☑

## God At Work

**A small band of dedicated Christians from a local church descended upon the Civic Centre in downtown Ottawa and handed out gospel tracts to over 1000 attendees of a public speech given by the visiting Dalai Lama.**

Among devout practicing Buddhist devotees of the Dalai Lama were also non-Buddhist folk of all stripes seeking spiritual truth. One such person was a fellow by the name of Chris. He drove a one hour’s drive to Ottawa hoping to hear a message from “His Holiness the Dalai Lama” that would give him a sense of hope, a sense of peace, a sense of being right with God. He sat through what the Dalai Lama had to offer and, as it turned out, drove home disappointed and discouraged.

But it didn’t end there. There was something in Chris’s pocket calling his attention. It was a gospel tract that he accepted on his way into the conference from one of our 5 member team.

He read the tract and was immediately convicted. So much so, Chris phoned the contact number on the back of the tract which eventually led to our pastor’s phone number being given to Chris. He called Pastor Bob Doble and poured his heart out to him on the phone. Pastor Bob kindly offered to meet with him at Chris’s home.

The following is Pastor Bob’s account of what took place written to the members of our congregation who, knowing they were going to meet, were all praying for Chris:

*Acts 16:14 says of Lydia that “the Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.” I had the great joy to see God do this sovereign work again today with Chris. Rarely have I experienced one so evidently prepared by the Spirit to receive Christ. I spent 2 1/2*

*hours today in his home, hearing his story and giving him the Gospel. He is intelligent, well-educated, and formerly successful in the eyes of the world (a six-figure salary, big house, plans to retire in the Grand Cayman Islands, etc.) but through an ugly divorce he lost pretty much everything, ended up living on the street in Toronto and in a mental institution including a series of shock treatments, tried to slit his wrists with a coke can and so on. He’s been at the top and he’s been at the bottom.*

*But now he’s saved!*

*The tract he received at the Dalai Lama event spoke powerfully to his heart, I believe it was entitled “Are You Ready to Meet God?,” especially about the final judgment and the lake of fire. He had not one objection to the Gospel, understood receiving Christ was not just a fire-escape but a life commitment, and in my presence trusted Christ to save him!*

*I gave him a Bible which he wanted me to write something in, he wanted his girlfriend to take a picture of him and me, me holding my Bible and Chris holding his, and I also gave him John MacArthur’s little book “Why One Way.” Some day Chris will be in church to tell you in his own words what God has done for him.*

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