

# 09 | Mission Evangelism



**BOOTCAMP**  
Basic training for new and growing Christians

## Introduction

*“Good morning Mister Phelps. Your mission, should you choose to accept it is to save the world from the clutches of the mad-scientist Dr Death. As always, should you be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck, Jim.”*

Almost everyone recognizes the theme music from the hugely popular 60’s television series ‘Mission Impossible’. The series was about a team of secret agents sent on seemingly impossible missions, equipped with an arsenal of weird and wonderful gadgets at their disposal. At the end of each show, the IMF team somehow always succeeded in their missions and saved the day. The impossible missions weren’t impossible after all, or else the series wouldn’t have lasted very long at all.

As Christians we can become discouraged when we think of the state of moral decay in the cities and nations we live in. Even the thought of seeing our friends and families saved and walking in the plans and purposes of God seems literally impossible, an impossible mission. This study takes a new look at the greatest mission on earth, the Great Commission, and will show us that it isn’t an impossibility at all. That the Great Commission is, in fact, mission possible! (Theme music starts now.)

## The mission

The dictionary defines the word ‘mission’ as:

- **A special assignment given to a person or group.**

The following verses are known as ‘the Great Commission’, Jesus’ mission given to His disciples:

*<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)**

*<sup>15</sup> And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.<sup>17</sup> These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. <sup>18</sup> They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”*

*<sup>19</sup> When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. <sup>20</sup> And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs. **Mark 16:15-20 (NLT)***

You may be thinking that the Great Commission doesn’t apply to you. You may think that it only applies to the twelve disciples. You may be thinking that a disciple of Jesus is an elite breed of super-spiritual Christian...

*The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. **Acts 11:26b (NIV)***

Scripture makes no distinction. Disciple of Jesus = Christian. They are the same thing. If you are a Christian, you are a Disciple of Christ and the Great Commission applies to you.

The Great Commission is the mission that Jesus has given to all believers everywhere. We are on a mission from God, but how do we fulfil our mission? The answer is simply to be Jesus’ hands and feet.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. **Matthew 5:14-15 (NLT)**

So many people know about the Gospel. This world needs to see Christians actually living the Gospel!

## Missionary

We usually think of a missionary as someone who travels into the deepest darkest part of Africa to live in a mud hut and tell the natives about Jesus, or someone who risks life and limb smuggling backpacks full of Bibles into Communist countries. Yes, these people are definitely missionaries, but the true definition of a missionary is:

- **One who is sent on a mission.**

It is a very common misunderstanding to believe that the Great Commission applies to only those who are called to full-time ministry, like pastors, travelling evangelists, overseas missionaries etc. The truth is...

**If you are Christian, you are a missionary, and if you are a Christian, you are in full-time ministry!**

There is no such thing as a part-time Christian. You either give your whole life to Jesus, or you don't. There is no such thing as part-time ministry. You are either in full-time ministry or you're not. Let me explain. Regardless of who you are, where you live, or what you do, you are living to fulfil the Great Commission, to be Jesus' hands and feet to your sphere of influence, and lifestyle.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)**

*The story is told about some Christians who were travelling in the Middle East. They heard about a wise, devout, beloved, old believer, so they went out of their way to visit him. When they finally found him, they discovered that he was living in a simple hut. All he had inside was a simple bed, a chair, a table, and a battered stove for heating and cooking. The visitors were shocked to see how few possessions the man had, and one of them blurted out, “Well, where is your furniture?” The aged saint replied by gently asking: “Where is yours?” The visitor, spluttering a little, responded, “Why, at home, of course. I don't carry it with me, I'm just passing through here.” “So am I,” the godly Christian replied. “So am I.” <sup>1</sup>*

## Mission-field

We often think of the mission-field as someplace overseas, someplace away from where we live. Someplace far away, remote and primitive like the Amazon basin. In reality, the mission-field is not just overseas, it's anywhere where people need saving and discipling. That makes your school, workplace, the beach, and your home... a mission-field! The mission-field is:

- **Anywhere people need saving and discipling.**

God in His infinite wisdom has pre-destined us to have different occupations, to live in different locations, to come from different backgrounds and cultures so that His Church can effectively fulfil the Great Commission. If every Christian worked in church buildings, most people would never be exposed to the Gospel. If every Christian isolated himself completely from the un-saved, Satan would be dancing with joy. You may be the only Christian that the people in your classroom, neighbourhood or workplace come into contact with and can be influenced by. God has placed you there to expose them to the love of God and the Good News of the Gospel. I wonder how many Christians are failing their mission?

## Summary

Let's review what we've learned so far...

- **A mission is a special assignment or task given to an individual or group of people.**

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<sup>1</sup> Our Daily Bread, July 26, 1993

- Jesus gave His disciples the greatest mission of all time, the Great Commission, to fulfil.
- A disciple of Christ is a Christian.
- We live to fulfil the mission by being Jesus' hands and feet.
- A missionary is one who is sent on a mission.
- We are all missionaries.
- If we call ourselves a Christian, we are in full-time ministry regardless of what we do or who we are.
- The mission-field is any place people need saving and discipling.
- God has placed us in different occupations and locations to fulfil the Great Commission.

## How to be a missionary, fulfilling the mission, in your mission-field

### 1. Remember the mission!

It's tragic that so many Christians have forgotten the mission. Consider the following...

*Martin Luther had a parable or dream of an occasion when the devil sat on his throne listening to the reports of his agents and ambassadors and what progress they had made in opposing the truth of Christ and destroying the souls of men. One demon said there had been a company of Christians crossing the desert. "I loosed the lions upon them, and soon the sands of the desert were strewn with their mangled corpses."*

*"So what?" answered Satan. "The lions destroyed their bodies, but their souls were saved. It is there souls I am after."*

*Then another demon made his report. He said: "There was a company of Christian pilgrims sailing through the sea on a vessel. I sent a great wind against the ship which drove the ship on the rocks, and every Christian aboard the ship was drowned."*

*"So what?" said Satan. "Their bodies were drowned in the sea, but their souls were saved. It is their souls I am after."*

*Then a third demon came forward to give his report, and he said: "For ten long years I have been trying cast a Christian into a deep spiritual sleep, and at last I have succeeded." And with that the corridors of hell rang with shouts of malignant triumph.<sup>2</sup>*

Please, never forget the mission. Don't just tack Jesus onto your life as an insurance policy against hell. Live to fulfil the Great Commission. That's why you're alive.

### 2. Think of the honour and privilege!

If an earthly king chose you for a special mission, you would feel deeply honoured and privileged. The King of Kings has chosen you to be a part of the greatest mission! To partner with Him in seeing His Kingdom come and His will be done is an amazing honour. You have been chosen by God to be His hands and feet in your sphere of influence. If you weren't the best person for the task, God would have chosen someone else.

### 3. Preach with your life!

*Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words. Francis of Assisi*

Witnessing is so much more than just telling people about Jesus. Witnessing is telling people about Jesus with your words, and more importantly with your life.

*The single greatest cause of Atheism in the world today is Christians, who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, and walk out the door, but deny it by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving*

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Chariots of Fire, by Clarence E. McCartney, Nashville: Abingdon, 1951, pp 50, 51

*world simply finds unbelievable. DC Talk*

Don't disqualify with your actions, what you say with your mouth.

#### 4. Pray for opportunities

<sup>10</sup>*Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. Galatians 6:10 (NLT)*

<sup>16</sup>*Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Ephesians 5:16 (NLT)*

<sup>5</sup>*Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5 (NLT)*

Pray for opportunities to be Jesus' hands and feet at your work, school, and home. And be ready when your prayer is answered!

#### 5. Be available now

Some common excuses for not being serious about living the Great Commission...

- "My time hasn't come yet to walk into God's calling for my life."
- "I don't know enough about God."
- "I haven't been to Bible College."
- "I'm too young/old"
- "I'm only a new Christian."
- "I'm just not ready."

Be ready and available now. Tomorrow may never come.

#### 6. Take up the cross daily

<sup>23</sup>*Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup>If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>25</sup>And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? <sup>26</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels. Luke 9:23-26 (NLT)*

How many of us really take the above verses seriously?

*I have found that the casual Christian has little or no influence upon others. I am finding that it is only the Christian who refuses to compromise in matters of honesty, integrity and morality who is bearing an effective witness for Christ. The worldly Christian is prepared to do as the world does because he is afraid of the world's displeasure. Only by a life of obedience to the voice of the Spirit, by daily dying to self, by a full dedication to Christ and constant fellowship with Him, are we able to live a godly life and have a positive influence in this present ungodly world.<sup>3</sup>*

## Conclusion

I have no doubt in my mind that if every Christian truly lived to fulfil the Great Commission, if they saw themselves as missionaries, and their workplace, schools, and homes as mission-fields, this world would be a very different place. Think about it, and make the following song lyrics (by Audio Adrenaline) your fervent prayer...

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<sup>3</sup> Unto the Hills, by Billy Graham

*I want to be Your hands  
I want to be Your feet  
I'll go where You send me  
I'll be Your hands  
I'll be Your feet  
I'll go where You send me  
And I'll try to touch the world  
Like You touched my life  
And I'll find my way  
To be Your hands...*

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Copyright © 2014 Symon Drake. Symon and Kristy Drake have been on staff at [Christian Renewal Church](#) since 1998. They became the senior pastors in February 2012. Symon and Kristy are forever young at heart and they are desperately passionate about encouraging and equipping people to reach their full potential in God. They have four children and a whole lot of pets.

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