



Around the Coffee Table with Dale Jodoin

ARE CHRISTIANS BECOMING THE RELIGION NOBODY WANTS TO DEFEND?

By Dale Jodoin
Columnist

People went to church to pray. They never came home. In parts of Africa, Christians are being murdered for their faith. In the West, the danger is very different. Hate crimes against Christians are documented, churches are closing and fewer people identify as Christian. Yet something unexpected is happening. Some young people, especially young men, appear to be looking toward Christianity again. So what is happening?

Is Christianity disappearing, changing to survive, or beginning another chapter? Hatred against anyone because of religion is wrong. Attacking any place of worship is wrong. This column is about Christians.

In July 2025, militants attacked a Catholic night vigil in Komanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dozens were killed. They went to pray. Their families expected them home. Instead, they became another statistic. Open Doors reports that 4,849 Christians were killed for faith related reasons during its latest reporting period. Of those, 4,491 were killed in sub Saharan Africa. Nigeria alone accounted for 3,490. The violence has many causes. Terrorism, crime, land disputes, ethnic conflict and weak governments can overlap. But Christians are also deliberately targeted because they are Christian. In one part of the world, people are dying to keep their faith.

A Different West England and Wales recorded 502 hate crimes targeting Christians in the year ending March 2025. Canada also records hate crimes against Christian groups, although its categories make a complete number for all Christian denominations difficult to isolate. Then there are the incidents police never hear about. Someone wearing a cross is threatened and walks away. Someone is harassed because of Christian beliefs and decides reporting it isn't worth the trouble. Nobody knows how often that happens.

An incident nobody reports becomes a victim nobody counts. That leaves something worth investigating. Do Christian victims believe hostility toward their faith will be taken seriously?
Look at the Buildings The next part of the story can be seen from the street. The cross is still on the roof. The FOR SALE sign is on the lawn. Churches that stood for generations are closing, merging or being sold. Others have burned to the ground, but that is a discussion for another article.

In 2001, 77.1 per cent of Canadians identified as Christian.
By 2021, it was 53.3 per cent. That is a major change in 20 years. The churches still open are trying to find their place in a society that has changed around them. Some have changed their music and language.
Others have changed how they approach modern social issues. This is not about deciding which church is right. It is about observing what is happening. Some Christians call these changes renewal.

Others worry Christianity is being changed to fit modern society. That brings the argument back to its centre. Is Christianity disappearing, or adapting?
The Weight of the Past Christianity has a long history containing great good and terrible wrongs. Both should be taught honestly. But today's Christian child didn't create that history.
A teenager wearing a cross is responsible for how that teenager behaves today, not for something done generations ago.
If young Christians begin seeing their faith as something embarrassing to admit, the decline becomes about more than empty buildings. But just when the numbers appear to point in one direction, something else is happening.
Young people may be coming back.

Recent American research from Barna found increased church engagement among younger adults. In 2026, 40 per cent of Protestant pastors surveyed reported increased engagement among men aged 18 to 35.
That does not prove a revival.
But it makes Christianity's future much harder to predict. Some may be searching for faith. Others may be looking for belonging, discipline or meaning.
Nobody knows where it leads. And that leaves two images. On one street, an old church stands nearly empty.

The cross is still on the roof. The FOR SALE sign is on the lawn. Somewhere else, a young man walks into a church for the first time and sits down.
One looks like an ending.
The other could be a beginning.



The Art of Finding Work
WHERE'S THE DISCUSSION THAT CHALLENGES THE PREVAILING NARRATIVE

By Nick Kossovian

Where's the discussion that challenges the prevailing narrative that employers are solely responsible for the dumpster fire the current job market has become? Job seekers are failing—or not wanting to—recognize their influence on the many nuances of the job market, including how employers hire. Employers have no choice but to constantly modify their hiring processes in response to job seekers' job search behaviour, such as exaggerating their skills and experience, spraying and praying their resume or ghosting (Ghosting isn't a hiring issue; it's a societal issue.), to name a few ways job seekers are negatively influencing the job market. Thanks to the ease with which technology enables mass application (e.g., AI auto-applying), employers are now dealing with more bad actors and resume spam than ever, because job seekers have the misguided belief that the idiom "Throwing spaghetti at the wall until something sticks" is an effective job search strategy. If the rage against today's job market is ever going to lessen, job seekers need to acknowledge four things:

- 1. There's growing frustration on both sides of the hiring desk.
- 2. Job candidates can only control their own actions.
- 3. The employer-employee relationship is asymmetrical.
- 4. Two wrongs don't make a right. (Just because a hiring manager does it, doesn't mean a job seeker should follow suit as an act of revenge.)

Rightfully, employers are frustrated by their hiring funnel being clogged with AI bot applications, irrelevant resumes (Applying to 300 jobs in a month isn't a flex; it's spray-and-pray desperation), scammers, and the lack of professional effort in applications, and unrealistic expectations and demands.

Today's job market is characterized by scarcity. Growing job scarcity is driving job seekers to approach their search out of desperation, often leading to irrational, emotional decisions. Job scarcity has made job seekers irritable and impatient. Empathy for employers, if it ever existed, has all but disappeared. However, neither a person's job search experiences, no matter how frustrating, nor their feelings can excuse or justify actions that fuel the job market dumpster fire.

As a job seeker, your conduct is entirely your responsibility. Expressing emotional reactions or seeking revenge, especially on a public platform like LinkedIn, makes you unhirable. Carefully consider what you're revealing, on social media—which is permanent—about your personality, professionalism, maturity, and what employers might expect if they hire you. Employers are justified in considering online behaviour as part of their hiring process.

As a job seeker, never adopt the mindset of retaliating against an employer because another employer did it to you. Your values, if they're genuinely a part of who you are, shouldn't be affected by other people's behaviour. It's childish to say, "Well, if they can do it, then so can I!" Employers don't hire people who show immaturity.
A significant part of being a professional is managing your reaction to someone else's actions. How you conduct yourself during your job search reflects your professionalism and character. In the digital age, your reputation follows you—explaining why many job seekers don't receive responses to their applications.

Few, if any, job seekers realize that employers only matter because they choose to make them matter. The importance you assign to an employer is your choice. Employers only have influence over you because you allow it, rather than understanding that an employer-employee relationship is transactional and not personal. As an employee, you're renting your job until you decide to leave, or your employer asks you to leave
Employers don't owe you a job, feedback, or even closure to your interview. They only owe their business, current employees, investors, and shareholders. Therefore, when hiring, employers prioritize their own interests by using ATS and AI alongside knockout questions to reduce the number of applications to a manageable level. Conversely, job seekers are only responsible for their careers and earning an income. As a job seeker, by staying true to your values and not contributing to the rising discourse of the job market, you're not only looking after your interests; you're also looking after your fellow job seekers' interests, if that matters to you

Mind you, as I pointed out, job seekers can only control on their side of the hiring desk, which is half of the job market "experience." When job seekers let the feelings and actions of hiring managers and recruiters dictate their own, it produces counterproductive consequences that contribute to today's dysfunctional job market.

It's common today for job seekers to utter the unsubstantiated assertion, "When an employer treats candidates poorly, it hurts their brand." I've yet to see anyone provide empirical data showing that a company's profitability has suffered due to their hiring process or ghosting. Employers create and maintain jobs; job seekers sell their value-add; and employees, to minimize the possibility of being let go, need to consistently and visibly maintain their value-add to their employer.

Even an asymmetrical relationship, such as the employer-employee relationship, has two sides. Job seekers own and control their side of the hiring process and therefore play a significant role in shaping the job market, which they can influence by following Mahatma Gandhi's words: Be the change that you wish to see in the world.

VOTE TOM DINGWALL

FOR MAYOR OF CLARINGTON

DISCIPLINED • ACCOUNTABLE • READY

905-926-3517

TomDingwall.ca

CAST YOUR VOTE AT

Vote2026.ca

October 20-26, 2026

Paid for by the Tom Dingwall Campaign