

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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TOP NEWS STORY

Car Stolen During Sunday Services

A man had his car stolen from a church during a Sunday morning worship service. A woman and two men came into the church an hour before the church's chili bingo house was scheduled to start. One of the men went into an office and rifled through the pockets of a coat, taking car keys and a phone. He passed the keys on to the other man he was with with, who went outside and found the car that went with the key. All three people drove off together. The church posted photos of the theft on its Facebook page taken from security footage. The church stated that they are reviewing security practices to try and prevent similar thefts from happening again.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church

Slide Presentation: The slides are expertly designed to help you understand the basics involved with child protection, child protection procedures, and the risks children within the church face. It educates students on not only the need for awareness, but the signs and symptoms of abuse, and how to identify areas of vulnerability within church programs and ministries. It also helps your church develop procedures tailored to your unique needs that can be implemented quickly to protect at-risk children.

Instructor Guide: The guide is designed to help train Church Safety Team members on the signs and symptoms of sexual and physical abuse. The guide also includes essential information on protecting other at-risk members of the congregation, including aging adults. Students will complete in-built lessons and training scenarios, learn vital skills to help make identifying abusive situations simpler, and more.

Streaming Video: In addition to the downloadable files, you get online access to our course videos for one year. They are great way to prepare yourself to teach the material and they can even be used in a classroom setting until you are more comfortable teaching.

CLICK THE IMAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION



“

”TO ENSURE YOUR STAFF CAN IDENTIFY AND PREVENT CHILD ABUSE IN YOUR CHURCH”

WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Protecting Our Children:

May he ... give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72:4)

Protecting children in the church from abuse has been our theme for January. The four articles in this series were "Hear the Cries" (The Cries of Children being Abused), "On the Front End" (Preventing Child Abuse in the Church), "Riding Shotgun" (Guarding against Child Abuse), and "What Now?" (Dealing with and Follow-up to Child Abuse).

Abuse is not new, but has been going on for thousands of years and is going on now. To say it does not happen in churches and in Christian communities is denial. Just look at the headlines! You probably know someone who has been abused.

The officially recognized kinds of abuse are physical, sexual, emotional, mental, and neglect. To these we add spiritual abuse. Sexual abuse by spiritual authorities damages victims' trust in authority figures and in the God they represent. Jesus referred to this abuse as causing them to sin. He said the offenders would be better off if they died before committing the offense (Matthew 18:6).

There are measures we can take to prevent abuse in the church and ways to help children coming to church who are abused elsewhere. Following an effective Child Protection Policy and its procedures will protect children from abuse in the church and in its programs. We should always be on guard, alert to evidence of abuse. Many offenders are not in criminal records since they're not yet caught. Also, many churches do not disclose that a former volunteer or staffer was an abuser or suspected of it.

If abuse does occur, how we respond makes the difference. Listen to the victims. Report it. Inform families who have children or youth. Minister to victims and their families. Hold the abuser accountable.

Action Points for Safety Team Directors:
Get help with background checks by signing up with Protect My Ministry.

Get "A Code to Live By: A Childcare Giver's Code of Conduct for Your Church's Safety Ministry" and have all childcare workers sign it.

Action Points for all:
Listen to all the podcasts and read the articles.

Discuss with others protection against child abuse.

Take the Training Course "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church."



Hear the Cries: The Cries of Children Being Abused

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Can you hear the cries of children being abused? They are there, and the sound is now coming through as the muffling of their cries is being lifted. Like a rising crescendo come news accounts of child abuse, both physical and sexual, in churches and in their institutions and social services. In large part, this is exposing what has been going on for centuries. On the other hand, in a society which now accepts promiscuity and scoffs at abstinence, more people have grown up without setting personal boundaries. This is not just in one or a few denominations, but has been reported among many religious traditions, as a sample of news stories shows.[2][3][4][5][6]

The good news is that churches are hearing the cries. Several



denominations and denominational ministries have been taking steps to protect those children who are in their care. Just a sample of them includes Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Adventists, Mormons, and Mennonites.[7][8][9][10][11][12]

Special Resource

This month's series deals with how we prevent and deal with child abuse. In this article we consider these four questions:

What Is Child Abuse?

Who Are the Abusers?

Why Does Abuse Happen in Churches?

What Is the Impact of Child Abuse?

Right now, you should know about our free Child Protection download. Click this link to get it.[13]

"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more"

MATTHEW 2:18

HEAR THE CRIES CONTINUED...

What Is Child Abuse?

"To abuse" means to mistreat or take improper or unfair advantage of a person. An animal or an inanimate object can also be abused, but this is not on the same level as abusing persons made in the image of God. God told Noah, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image" (Genesis 9:6). Jesus applied this to child abuse when he said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea" (Mark 9:42).

By extension, abuse has also come to mean misusing authority, laws, and regulations. In the context of this series, it applies to those who abuse their positions of trust and authority to abuse children.

Federal law defines child abuse as:"

Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation"; or"An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." [13]

There are five basic kinds of child abuse: physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and neglect. We can add relational abuse to the mix, but these five can be considered as instances of relational abuse. These are not mutually exclusive. Cases of child abuse often consist of two or more kinds of abuse, such as sexual and physical. Not only that, but sexual abuse becomes emotional and mental abuse. Mental and emotional abuse are also used to groom the child for sexual abuse and for its cover-up.

Who Are the Abusers?

According to Federal law, they are parents or caretakers. To these we can add older children, older relatives and acquaintances, and strangers. For a long time, parents and teachers have been warning children about strangers trying to lure them away. This does happen, but most perpetrators of child abuse are persons the child knows. Often, this is someone who has authority over or responsibility for the child. Examples of these are parents, teachers, scout leaders, even pastors and youth leaders.

Why Does Child Abuse Happen in Churches?

There are a number of reasons why child abuse happens in churches - not just in the buildings, but in the churches' programs and activities, to participants in church activities, and by pastors, staff, and volunteers of the churches.

First, the church is made of fallible human beings, born with the sin nature. Some who have been "converted" or "saved" have never overcome sinful impulses. Hebrews 12:1b says, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely." Many have not set boundaries on themselves - Paul wrote, "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Some have relapsed into patterns from years before.

Then there are also wolves masquerading as sheep. Many sexual predators look for ways to be in contact with their preferred prey. Then there are others who may not actively seek children to abuse, but if placed in close contact yield to temptation. The first will volunteer to be a teacher, activity leader, etc. The second might be asked to help because of the need, and cannot bring themselves to say, "No. I have a problem."

There is a kind of naïveté among church members. "No one here is like that," they may say, or, "It can't happen here." We also hear, "He's such a nice young man," or, "He'd never do anything like that."

For whatever reason, many churches are reluctant to screen applicants for working with children. They may think it is unnecessary, or think it shows a lack of trust. Someone may say, "No one will volunteer if

HEAR THE CRIES CONTINUED...

they have to go through that." When I applied to be a substitute teacher in two school districts, each one had me fingerprinted for background checks. I had no fear of that, because my record was clean. Many churches say they can't afford to run a background check and additional screening. There is a service made for them, Protect My Ministry[14]. Sheepdog Church Security has partnered with them to help churches find an affordable and effective way to screen applicants for church positions, including working with children.

What Is the Impact of Child Abuse?

The victim, the family, and the church are negatively impacted by child abuse. So is the abuser, especially if it is someone put into a situation they cannot handle.

Victim

Many who were abused as children or youth are emotionally scarred for life, especially if it was sexual abuse. They may blame themselves and live with a sense of shame. It can lead them to promiscuous behavior. They may have trouble establishing a trusting and intimate relationship in marriage. Some become suicidal. It is common for an abuse victim to be distrustful of persons identified as in the same category as the offender, whether a teacher, a coach, a youth leader, a pastor. A victim may be traumatized by anything that reminds them of the abuser, such as a type of clothing, a certain color, etc. Children who were excelling in school may suddenly have trouble studying. They may resent and resist authority. Many criminals and child abusers were themselves abused as children. There's more.

Family

When a child is abused, it affects the family. The victim may become depressed, or uncooperative, or unruly. If the abuser is in the family, the abuse strains relationships, especially if it is a parent. Child abuse may lead to divorce. If both parents are involved and the authorities come in, it can break up the family and put the victim in foster care, which may result in more abuse. Even if the abuser is not a relative, the family may be shamed by those who quickly blame the family.

Church

The church is affected by child abuse. The church's reputation and effective witness among its members and attendees as well as in the community can be damaged by abuse. This is especially true if there has been a cover-up or if church leadership did not deal with it. Then there is civil and criminal liability. The church needs policies and procedures to prevent abuse and to deal with in case it does happen.

Many times a child attending Sunday School, a Bible club, or other church programs is being abused at home, in school, or somewhere else. If a teacher, activity leader, or childcare worker/volunteer becomes aware of the abuse or reasonably suspects it, there is a moral duty to report it. Most states have reporting requirements for child abuse. So here the church becomes involved.

Community

The community is also negatively affected by child abuse in the church. The child, the family, and the church are members of the community.

Abuser

The abuser is also negatively affected by the abuse, even if he or she is not caught. The longer it continues, the more it is ingrained in the offender, and the harder it is for that person to control the impulses. For almost all abusers, it takes interdiction and intervention to break the cycle. Getting caught can be a relief for some and can motivate them to change. However, they still need

HEAR THE CRIES CONTINUED...

intervention.

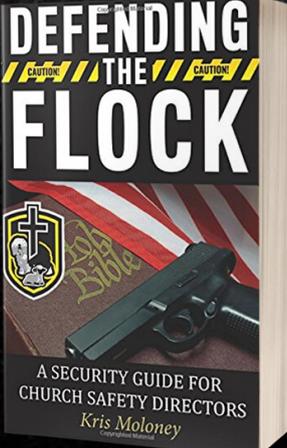
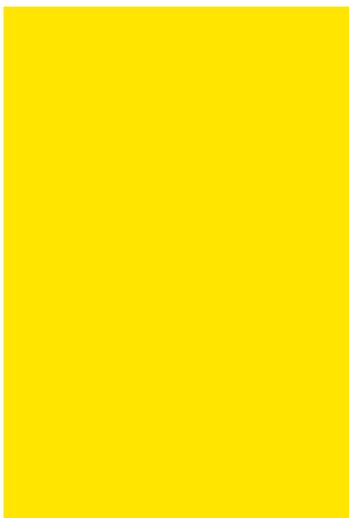
Conclusion

Child abuse is real. It does happen, even in the church or to those the church ministers to. Listen to the cries of children being abused. Find out how to help them in your church.

There Is More

Other articles in this series are "On the Front End" (Preventing Child Abuse in the Church), "Riding Shotgun" (Guarding against Child Abuse), and "What Now?" (Dealing with and Follow-up to Child Abuse).

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/hear-the-cries/>



DEFENDING THE FLOCK
A SECURITY GUIDE FOR CHURCH SAFETY DIRECTORS
Kris Moloney

The book cover features the title "DEFENDING THE FLOCK" in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, there is a graphic of a handgun and a cross. The author's name, "Kris Moloney", is at the bottom. The cover also includes the text "A SECURITY GUIDE FOR CHURCH SAFETY DIRECTORS" and "The Bible" in a stylized font.

"A must have book for your church safety ministry."

GET IT ON AMAZON

On the Front End: Steps to Prevent Child Abuse

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Dallas, Texas, July 29, 2019 - A young woman alleges that when she was 11 she was sexually assaulted by a youth minister at a 2012 youth camp. In 2019 she sued the megachurch which held the camp for more than a million dollars, claiming they did not take necessary precautions. The now former children's minister was indicted for indecency with a child in January 2019.[2]

North Carolina, USA, 1996 - The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church distributed sample child protection policies for small-membership churches. These were produced by the General Conference and contained this statement:"



The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in April 1996, adopted a resolution aimed at eliminating any potential for child sexual abuse in the church."[3]

Durham, North Carolina, July 2015 - The First Baptist Church of Durham made a digital version of the "Child Volunteer Protection Handbook" available online for downloading. The Handbook had been updated two years before.[4]

Annville, Pennsylvania, October 23, 2005 - The Annville Church of the Brethren adopted a Child Protection Policy and published it. This and other documents were posted online in June 2013.[5]

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 23, 2010 - The Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee issued this statement:

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation

PSALM 68:5

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world

JAMES 1:27

The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless

PSALM 146:9

You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child

EXODUS 22:22

ON THE FRONT END CONTINUED...

"Seventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible, they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, community of faith and society at large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the Church and to society. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important."

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms and extends its longstanding efforts to nurture and safeguard children and youth from persons - known and unknown - whose actions perpetrate any form of abuse and violence against them and/or sexually exploit them. Jesus modeled the kind of respect, nurture, and protection children should be able to expect from adults entrusted with their care. Some of His strongest words of reproof were directed toward those who would harm them. Because of the trusting nature and dependence of children upon older and wiser adults and the life-changing consequences when this trust is breached, children require vigilant protection."^[6]

Special Resource

The article series for January 2020 concerns how we prevent and deal with child abuse. In this article, we consider how to prevent child abuse in our church through -

Policies and Procedures

Selection and Screening

Training

Right now, you should know about our free Child Protection download. Click this link to get it.^[7]

Working on the Front End

The front end of protecting children in our churches is deciding the rules (policies) of protection and how to carry them out (procedures). Also at the front end is determining the necessary qualifications for staff and volunteers working with children in the church and its ministries, then selecting and screening these workers.

This is the task of church leadership, but the Church Safety Ministry encourages and advises the process. It may also lead in initiating the move for child protection, because they and others in the church have heard the cries of abused children.

Where the Safety Ministry has a more active role is in training. Safety Ministry members, along with teachers, youth leaders, and childcare workers, need training in how to best protect young persons in our care.

Policies and Procedures

Only 43% of churches have abuse-prevention policies in place. The first step to preventing abuse is to develop a policy.^[8] In the first news story, the lawsuit brought by the abuse victim and her family alleges that the megachurch's child protection policies were inadequate and that they were not properly followed. ^[2]

Each ministry in the church should have policies specific to its mission and operations. Each ministry then has procedures to follow in carrying out the policies, such as children and youth ministries and the Sunday/Sabbath School. Beyond that, the congregation itself needs a child protection policy which applies to all instances in the congregation where there are children and/or youth, and this becomes the policy in all ministries.

Formulate

The committee for drafting a Child Protection Policy should include the Church Safety Director, the Senior Pastor, leaders of youth and/or children's ministries, some teachers, some parents, and other

ON THE FRONT END CONTINUED...

elders and/or deacons deemed necessary. Expert members may include members of the congregation who work in insurance, law, or law enforcement. The aim of the policy is to prevent physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children in the church, in its programs, at its functions, or by its staff and volunteers. It also aims to prevent kidnapping, whether by strangers or by non-custodial parents/relatives. The policy also needs to meet or exceed the requirements of state laws.

The Child Protection Policy should mandate screening of all those who work with children and youth in the church. It should establish rules to restrict unaccompanied contact of any church staff or volunteers (whether an adult or older youth) with children and youths. It should also mandate reporting of known and reasonably suspected child abuse to superiors.

Adopt and Implement

When the Child Protection Policy Committee has finished the policy, it is to be adopted (or ratified) according to the church's bylaws or charter, whether by the governing board or by the congregation in a regular or special business meeting. Once it is adopted, ministries carry out procedures to implement the policy.

The elements of a protection policy are Screening Procedures, Supervision, Reporting, and Response.

[8] Here we are dealing with Screening Procedures.

Selection and Screening

There are several steps to follow in screening church workers dealing with children. These are Qualifications and Restrictions, Application, Interview, and Screening.

Qualifications and Restrictions

The Child Protection Policy should specify qualifications for persons authorized to work with children and youth, including those supervising off-site youth events.

Church affiliation. To be authorized to work with children and youth in the church, a person must have attended that church regularly for at least six months and be recognized as a member of that congregation. This gives people in the church a chance to know the person, to view his or her temperament, how they relate to other people, whether they may have any integrity issues, etc.

Of good character. This is what is called "blameless" and "above reproach" in the Apostle Paul's requirements for overseers, elders, and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9; 2:2-8).

If married, faithful to spouse.

If single, celibate.

Knowledge and aptitude for the position.

Sober. Not an abuser of alcohol or other substances.

No disqualifying record. This includes convictions for sexual abuse, domestic violence, assault and battery, indecent exposure, or child pornography.

Application

Each person working with children or youth must have filled out and submitted an application with references. Among other questions, applicants must say where they have worked with children and/or youth in churches, schools, day care centers, youth organizations (such as scouts, Big Brothers and Sisters, 4H), service clubs, etc. The applicant must agree to reference and background checks.

Each application will be reviewed by ministry leaders. Misrepresentation on an application will be cause for rejection, or if the applicant has already been accepted, for dismissal.

Interview

Each applicant will be interviewed. This will give the ministry leader(s) a chance to observe how the

ON THE FRONT END CONTINUED...

applicant responds and to ask follow-up questions.

Screening

The two kinds of screening are background checks and reference checks.

Background Check

Many positions now require criminal background checks. This is a search of federal and state databases for police and court records. These may use fingerprints or just a social security number. The responsibilities of the position can require a wider background. If the position involves driving, this will include driving records. Other positions may require a financial check.

The cost of a background check depends on (1) the extent of the check, and (2) the service providing the check. Frankly, most churches, especially smaller ones, cannot do a background check on their own. It can take a lot of time. Also, many background check services can be expensive, and it takes time to search for an affordable service which can do the depth of a check on a volunteer or staff member needed for child protection.

Fortunately, there is a service designed specifically for the needs of ministries. Sheepdog Church Security has partnered with Protect My Ministry.^[9] Their Basic Package search includes -

Social Security Number Verification

National Criminal Search

Sex Offender Registries Search

Re-verification of criminal records

Alias Names

They also have a Plus Package: The Basic Package plus a county or statewide criminal court search (plus mandatory fees) for each address in the address history.

Reference Follow-through

This is the part we have to do ourselves. On the application we have asked for the applicant's work history, especially in ministry, teaching, tutoring - anything involving working with children and youth. This includes volunteer work, such as nursery attendant, scout leader, camp counselor (the offender in the first news story was a camp counselor when the sexual assault took place), Little League coach, etc. Phoning the pastors and ministry leaders of the other churches where our applicant volunteered is better than just writing or texting. The voice can tell us more than the words in an answer. For instance, if the respondent hesitates, there might be a reason, so we can follow up with another question. Ask about the applicant's timeliness, diligence, and integrity. Was he or she evasive? Did he or she take responsibility for their actions? Did they keep proper boundaries? And so on.

Training

We want the new children's or youth workers to know what's expected of them, so we see that they are trained. This includes orientation, instruction, refreshers, and updating.

Orientation

This is the immediate training. It ranges from a tour ("This is here, and that goes there") to a brief on the job itself and introducing the new person to others in that ministry. Along the way, weave in the expectations of respect and propriety. This lets them know that this is part of the job. More of that will come in the actual training.

Instruction

As soon as you can, have the new volunteer or staff member take the Sheepdog Church Security

ON THE FRONT END CONTINUED...

training course "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church." [1] Since online training is available for this course, you do not have to wait until the time comes around for a class.

Refreshers

Several professions (such as certified school teachers) require ongoing training (continuing studies). This is for more than advancing one's knowledge in a specific field. These classes also serve as refreshers which reinforce the professionals' knowledge in the least-used areas of their practice so they are ready if they have to use it there.

In a Church Safety Ministry, we do not deal with every situation frequently. There are some situations we may not experience for years until suddenly we are in them. We need to be prepared for that time.

This applies to child protection. Children and youth workers in the church might not encounter certain aspects of child abuse, actual or attempted, for a long time. They and Safety Team members need to always be alert and ready for the unexpected. Refreshing training every two years keeps their knowledge in this area fresh.

Updating

There may be changes to laws or to the church's policy. Recent incidents may show the need for changes. Updating children and youth workers and Safety Ministry members on these cannot wait for the next training classes, since these people need to update their procedures.

Later, when it is time for new classes or refreshers, the changes can be incorporated into those. In effect, everyone is updated twice, first through notification, then in training.

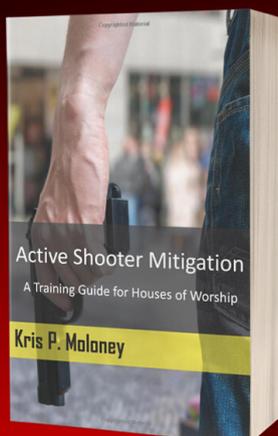
Conclusion

Psalm 146:9 says, "The Lord ... upholds the widow and the fatherless." Those are vulnerable persons of both that time and now. Furthermore, the Law in the Old Testament prohibited taking unfair advantage of vulnerable persons, such as the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the poor. Jesus extended that care and protection to children - all children. They are the vulnerable ones, and we should not take unfair advantage of them (abuse), nor allow others in our jurisdiction (the church) to do so. Therefore, we need to take measures for preventing, guarding against, and responding to child abuse in the church.

There Is More

This is one of four articles in a series on Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church. The others are "Hear the Cries" (The Cries of Children being Abused), "Riding Shotgun" (Guarding against Child Abuse), and "What Now?" (Dealing with and Follow-up to Child Abuse).

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/equip-the-mind-dress-to-serve/>



**SAFEGUARD YOUR CHURCH
FROM VIOLENCE**

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

Riding Shotgun: Guarding against Child Abuse

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Phoenix, Arizona, April 11, 2019 - An 11-year-old girl was walking to school when a man approached her from behind and grabbed her. A witness knocked the man down, pulled out a handgun, and told him to leave. The suspect fled.[2]

North Charleston, South Carolina, November 25, 2018 - A church volunteer in his late 20s was recorded on video surveillance tape sexually molesting preschool boys in the church 14 times. The tapes were reviewed after parents of one boy expressed concerns over their son's



changes in behavior. The volunteer was arrested after the church reported the incident to police. He is charged with multiple counts of child sexual abuse.[3]

At least 10 families of abused children are suing the church for negligence.[4] The church's surveillance tapes only cover 90 days, and no one had reviewed them until the inquiry. The volunteer had passed a criminal background check and interview. However, he had previously volunteered at another church. There he was transferred out of caring for preschool boys because some were "uneasy" about his relationships with the boys.[5]

Riding Shotgun

In the Old West, stage coaches and supply wagons with valuable cargo had a guard sitting next to the driver. Serving as a guard came to be called "riding shotgun," because this guard was often armed with a

The Crime - "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea"

MATTHEW 18:6

Defense of Children - May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

PSALM 72:4

Protecting the Young - How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings

LUKE 13:34

Saving Children - For thus says the Lord: "... I will save your children"

ISAIAH 49:25

RIDING SHOTGUN CONTINUED...

shotgun. It was hard enough to accurately aim from a bouncing seat at a still object, let alone at a bandit riding a horse. The spread of the shotgun's shot increased its firing effectiveness. Riding shotgun in child protection is guarding our young ones while we are in the process of ministering to them.

Special Resource

The January 2020 series of articles concerns preventing and dealing with child abuse. In this article we consider how to prevent child abuse in our church by:

Following Policies and Procedures

Watching

Listening

Right now, you should know about our free Child Protection download. Click this link to get it.[6]

Actively Guarding against Child Abuse

Once we have done our work on the front end - established policies and procedures for preventing child abuse and have screened and trained staff and volunteers who work with the children - now comes the week-to-week and day-to-day active part of guarding against child abuse in the church.

Following Policies and Procedures

The article "On the Front End" lists setting policies and procedures as a key to protecting children in the church from abuse. The Sheepdog Church Security Training Course "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church"[1] lists several items for a Child Protection Policy and some procedures for carrying them out. We'll take a look at a few of them.

Thorough Screening

Well-known screening procedures for applicants are criminal background checks and interviews. However, screening needs to go deeper than these for preventing child abuse.

As to background checks, the church needs a reliable and affordable service. Sheepdog Church Security has partnered with Protect My Ministry[7] which specializes in helping churches by checking the backgrounds of staff and volunteer applicants. They can also do regular updated background checks. Some cases might not have been in the databases yet the first time. Also, some cases may have originated after a person began working in the church.

The hiring process of most businesses includes checking work references for ten to a dozen years before the job application, maybe longer. The human resources office will ask previous employers and organizations about the applicant's work record, especially any problems or observed character issues.

In the second news story, the suspect made childcare leaders "uneasy" about how he related to children in his care at the church he'd attended before moving to Charleston.[5] That is why he had been transferred away from contact with children.

I do not know whether the church in Charleston contacted the previous church. If they had, I do not know what information was shared. If this had been shared with the second church, then it should have raised red flags.

Rule of Two

Simply stated, the Rule of Two is that two adults must be present with children and youth, whether in class, in activities, or at an event. What gave the Charleston offender opportunity to molest very young children was caring for them alone. The Rule of Two is two-fold protection. Having another adult

RIDING SHOTGUN CONTINUED...

present (1) raises the risk of getting caught while reducing the temptation for those who may not be looking for an opportunity but do have a weakness, and (2) protects innocent workers from false accusations.

Access Control

Controlling access to childcare areas of the church is to protect the kids from those who are not staff or volunteers. This includes non-custodial parents (and other relatives) as well as predators looking for victims.

Procedures for access control include signing children in and out of the nursery, pre-school, and primary class areas. Logins include the name(s) of the child or children, the person(s) bringing them in, and who checks them out. It includes also whether another (named) person is authorized to pick up the child and may include any who are expressly forbidden.

The logins are saved for future reference, such as an audit or an investigation. Consistency in access control not only protects the child, but also protects the church from criminal charges and civil suits.

Accountability

All persons working with children are to be held accountable for their actions. These include both actual wrongdoing and neglect (not following procedures). Without accountability, the church runs the risk of being held accountable in court. It can also lead to the loss of an effective witness in the community. Too many times what a church or Christian organization does to protect their image when they have not been accountable ends up damaging their image and corroding their witness.

All persons working with children and/or youth must know that they are accountable. This includes frequently being asked about their work and the actions of others in the department. This does not have to feel like an interrogation, but can be a friendly, concerned conversation with the welfare of children and youth as the main focus. For example, the Children's Department Director can ask the Nursery Leader about the new attendant. Specific questions will show more than a casual interest.

While pastors and section leaders will naturally be conducting these conversations, the Church Safety Director or a designated Safety Team member can also do so.

Watching

Observation can tell us many things. It can raise questions that need answers. Even if a Safety Team member is not also a childcare worker, she or he can take note of what is seen. While on patrol, Team members can peer through windows in classroom doors or walls. If there are no windows, they may look through the door.

What Is Happening?

This is a place for situational awareness. See what is happening wherever you are. If a Safety Team member sees something wrong going on, he or she may interrupt it. Most often, this happens by making one's presence known. Depending on what was happening, it should be reported to the Team Leader or Safety Director who should contact the Section Leader in the Children's department or Youth Ministry.

On the other hand, this may call for being an active witness. The first news story did not happen in a church setting, but on the street.[2] However, the principle of a witness intervening applies in the church, when "See something, speak up" becomes "See something, step in."

Ways of Watching

If your church records surveillance images, monitor them regularly. Knowing that you do may be a deterrent for would-be child abusers. Surveillance cameras are much more affordable than they used

RIDING SHOTGUN CONTINUED...

to be, and many churches now have several in place outside and inside the church. The church in Charleston had a camera where the suspect molested the boys. However, no one looked at the surveillance images until parents reported abuse. The tape only covered 90 days, so there are potentially many more instances of abuse which had been recorded over. Surveillance cameras could have been an effective detection tool if they had been monitored often, especially weekly. Failure to monitor the cameras is one of the reasons for the negligence lawsuits.

Signs of Abuse

More than actions are seen. All members of the church leadership, Children's Department, Youth Ministry, and Safety Ministry should know and be alert for signs of abuse. Whether the young person is being abused in church, in school, at home, or in some other place, there are often symptoms of the abuse which may be seen. There are 26 signs of abuse listed in the Training Course.[1] A few of these are:

Fearful of particular people

Destructive behavior by child towards self, others, property

Repeated inexplicable injuries

Exhibits severe depression or withdrawal

Suicide threats

Ill-fitting or inappropriate clothing

Difficulty walking or sitting

Unexplained hostility towards worker or another youth

Fear of ministers, people in robes, or uniforms

Here we include some of the more readily visible signs - this is less than half the list in the training course. Those who work with children and youth may see the other ones. Some of these indicate sexual abuse or physical abuse. They may suggest emotional abuse or neglect.

Listening

We not only watch, but also listen to what others say, to what the children say, and to what the parents say. If indications or concerns about abuse are not the topic of discussion, they may come out in the course of conversation.

Listen to What Others Say

We do not see everything. Most of what we know often comes through others who have seen or know about abuse - or perhaps have just seen some of the signs. Of course, hearing about something from someone else, especially if just overheard, is not in itself the evidence, but it can be enough to call for investigating. However, since we are in the Safety Ministry, someone with knowledge may seek us out to tell us what is happening. Use discretion.

Listen to What the Children Say

Children who are being abused often do not tell adults about it, but they might. If they know you are on the Safety Team, maybe they'll tell you, especially if they want help. Admittedly, children do have imaginations, and some may exaggerate. However, even children who exaggerate can tell the truth, so do not automatically dismiss what they say. Even an exaggeration can have a kernel of truth. If you hear it from more than one child, it is more likely to be true, especially if differences in accounts indicate more than one instance of abuse.

Abuse reported by a child is not always in the church or a church program. It can be at school or in the home, but telling you is safer for them than telling it where the abuse occurs. It is their way of getting

RIDING SHOTGUN CONTINUED...

outside help, so listen.

Listen to What the Parents Say

In Charleston, parents noticed behavioral changes in their preschool son. They went to the church leadership, who listened to them and investigated. In spite of its faults, at least they listened and took action.

If child abuse involves a pastor or a ministry leader in the church, the parents may come to the Safety Ministry to report it. Many times, deacons or elders have confronted a pastor or ministry leader about abuse. It could be the Safety Director who takes it to the elders. If parents come to you about child abuse, listen and take them seriously. If their child has been or is being abused, help them.

Conclusion

Riding shotgun in protecting children from child abuse in the church means actively guarding them against child abuse. We do this by Following Policies and Procedures, Watching, and Listening.

Following Policies and Procedures includes thoroughly screening applicants for working with children, practicing the Rule of Two, access control, and accountability.

Watching involves observing what is happening in childcare and youth programs and being alert for signs of abuse. This includes monitoring surveillance cameras and recordings.

Listening - We can learn about suspected child abuse in the church and to children and youth attending church by listening to what others are saying, to the children, and to the parents.

There Is More

There are three other articles in this series on Child Protection: "Hear the Cries" (The Cries of Children being Abused), "On the Front End" (Preventing Child Abuse in the Church), and "What Now?" (Dealing with and Follow-up to Child Abuse).

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/riding-shotgun/>



RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY MINISTRIES

VISIT THE SDCS ONLINE STORE

What Now?: Dealing with and Follow-up to Child Abuse

BY WESLEY VAUGHN

In the News

Across the nation - While the cover-up of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church has been making headlines for over a decade, the same thing has been happening in evangelical churches - liberal and conservative, large and small. Joshua Pease wrote in "The sin of silence - The epidemic of denial about sexual abuse in the evangelical church" that Christians' compassion for sinners also leads them to not take accusations seriously when dealing with abuse in the church. Add to this concern for the church's public image - this leads to silence and denial, especially when the abusers are pastors and elders.[2]



Washington, D.C., 1968-1971 - Baptist pastor Fred Taylor, co-founder of For Love of Children, worked with a counselor at a public orphanage to expose physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. This led to the closing of the institution and the prosecution of offending officials.[3]

Special Resource

The January 2020 series of articles concerns preventing and dealing with child abuse. In this article we consider how to respond to child abuse in our church by:

Reporting and Investigation

Ministering to Persons

Improving Policies and Procedures

Right now, you should know about our free Child Protection download - "A Code to Live By: A Childcare Giver's Code of Conduct for Your Church's Safety Ministry." Click this link to get it.[4]

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged

COLOSSIANS 3:21

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world

JAMES 1:27

"... then hear from heaven and act and judge your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness"

2 CHRONICLES 6:23

Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil

ECCLESIASTES 8:11

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy

PROVERBS 28:13

WHAT NOW CONTINUED...

Responding to Abuse in the Church

Even when we establish policies and procedures in the church to protect our children from abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, and neglect), even when we diligently carry out these policies and procedures, and even though we are ever watchful and alert, abuse can still happen. So, what now? How do we handle this? How do we respond?

Our response to abuse in the church - or to children and youth in the church - involves three stages: Reporting and Investigation, Ministering to Persons, and Improving Policies and Procedures. If anything, we do not want an unfortunate and embarrassing incident to become a scandal. On the other hand, we want to come out of the situation better than we went in with effective ministry, and with our children, youth, and vulnerable adults better protected.

The Sheepdog Church Security training course "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse in the Church" guides us in what to do if we find out that children and youth or vulnerable adults in our church are being or have been abused.

Reporting and Investigation

Reporting is the mandated part of this stage. Investigation will contribute to a final report, inform us in ministering to those involved, and show us where our policies and procedures can be improved or better followed.

Reporting

There are two primary ways of learning about abuse. One is to witness it. The other is to hear about it. Either way, we have an obligation to properly report it. Federal and state laws require reporting of child abuse - all kinds. The laws may vary from state-to-state as to who the mandated reporters are and to whom they report. Also at issue is when the confidentiality of privileged communication is protected.

Any person working in the church or at a church function or event, whether staff or volunteer, who observes abuse must report it. If it is physical abuse which results in immediate great bodily harm or death, we are justified in defending the abused person. Many times, calling attention to our presence will cause the abuser to stop, but if not we may intervene physically.

We report the abuse to a leader, such as the Safety Team Leader, the Safety Director, one of the pastors, or an active elder. Physical defense will require reporting not only the abuse, but the use of force. The person in leadership is required to report the abuse to the authorities, whether law enforcement, social services, or the health department.

If a witness tells us about abuse, we are required to report it. This does not mean every "I wonder if ..." type of speculation, but knowledge of or reasonable evidence of abuse. This includes a child or youth telling the witness that they have been abused in a manner defined by law. For instance, keeping a child from seeing a movie is not legally abuse, but deliberately burning them is.

If a child tells you about abuse - even if the child does not recognize it as abuse - you are to report it. Do not assume the child is lying or mistaken - Report it. Let the investigation determine the facts. Our goal is to protect the child and end the abuse. Rachael Denhollander told about being sexually abused by Dr. Nassar 16 years later.[5] She had been molested in a church group at age 7, and learned to keep silent after her parents were told they were overreacting and nothing meaningful was done about it.[2] File a written report for each instance of abuse you discover. Documentation helps the investigation,

WHAT NOW CONTINUED...

both internally and by the local authorities. It will also help counsellors know what happened as they minister to the victims.

Ministering to Persons

There are several persons to minister after a child abuse incident.

The first and most important person is the victim. This child or youth has been harmed. Innocent people need to be assured that they are not to blame, even if the abuser told them, "It is your fault, because ..." Treat the victim with compassion and understanding.

The second most important persons are the victim's family. If the offender was not a member of their family, then they all need compassion. If the offender was a family member, the rest of the family needs compassion as well as wise counselling.

Teachers and groups leaders of the child or youth (if they are not the offender) need counselling to deal with the situation. Then too, the congregation needs healing.

Finally, the offender needs help beyond repentance and forgiveness. Being held personally and legally fully accountable, even if forgiven, is necessary for personal transformation. Then the offender needs counselling and guidance within an accountability relationship.

Some churches will put a sexual offender into a monitoring program which sets boundaries around them in church activities. For instance, the offender may come to a worship service but must leave immediately afterward. If he leaves the sanctuary to go to the restroom, he is followed by an appointed monitor or a member of the Safety Team. While these and other restrictions protect the offender from himself, the primary purpose is protecting the children.

Improving Policies and Procedures

The investigation will show how well the church's Child Protection Policy and the related procedures are working:

Were the procedures faithfully followed?

Screening - Was the volunteer or staff member properly vetted? This includes both background checks^[6] and checking all employment and volunteer work references. Was there an annual or biennial updating of the background check?

Safeguards - Was the Rule of Two followed? Was access control used?

Have all childcare workers read and signed the Childcare Giver's Code of Conduct?^[4]

Does the Child Protection Policy need revision or updating?

Do procedures need to be revised or updated?

Was the incident properly reported?

Conclusion

Child abuse wounds the church as well as the child. If abuse occurs, we must respond in a lawful and effective way.

There Is More

This series on Protecting Children from Abuse has four articles. The other three are "Hear the Cries" (The Cries of Children being Abused), "On the Front End" (Preventing Child Abuse in the Church), and "Riding Shotgun" (Guarding against Child Abuse).

See link for references: <https://sheepdogchurchsecurity.net/articles/what-now/>

CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS BASED ON THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE OF KRIS MOLONEY AND THE SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY TEAM. HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY.



CSRC187: HEAR THE CRIES

Child abuse is real. It does happen, even in the church or to those the church ministers to. Listen to the cries of children being abused. Find out how to help them in your church.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC188: ON THE FRONT END

Jesus extended care and protection to children – all children. They are the vulnerable ones, and we should not take unfair advantage of them, nor allow others in our jurisdiction to do so. Therefore, we need to take measures for preventing, guarding against, and responding to child abuse in the church.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC189: RIDING SHOTGUN

In the Old West, stage coaches and supply wagons with valuable cargo had a guard sitting next to the driver. Serving as a guard came to be called “riding shotgun,” because this guard was often armed with a shotgun. Riding shotgun in child protection is guarding our young ones while we are in the process of ministering to them.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



CSRC190: WHAT NOW

Even when we establish policies and procedures in the church to protect our children from abuse, even when we diligently carry out these policies and procedures, and even though we are ever watchful and alert, abuse can still happen. So, what now?

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)

A Code to Live By

A Childcare Giver's Code of Conduct for Your Church's Safety Ministry

Kris P. Moloney



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Sheepdog Church Security

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FREE MONTHLY DOWNLOAD

A Code to Live By: A Childcare Giver's Code of Conduct for your Church's Safety Ministry

Both the church and secular worlds are regularly rocked with allegations of abuse towards children. In light of this unfortunate situation, your Safety Ministry must lead the way, or support an ongoing effort, to develop, implement, and administer a policy that spells out how caregivers will act towards children and young adults.

Protect God's People with Our Church Safety Resource [Free Download] To Get this Resource, Click the Picture (Link) and enter your Email Address. You will receive an email with a Download Button. Click the Button in the Email to Download the Safety Ministry Resource. (The Download is in PDF format.)

Kris

MAIL CALL

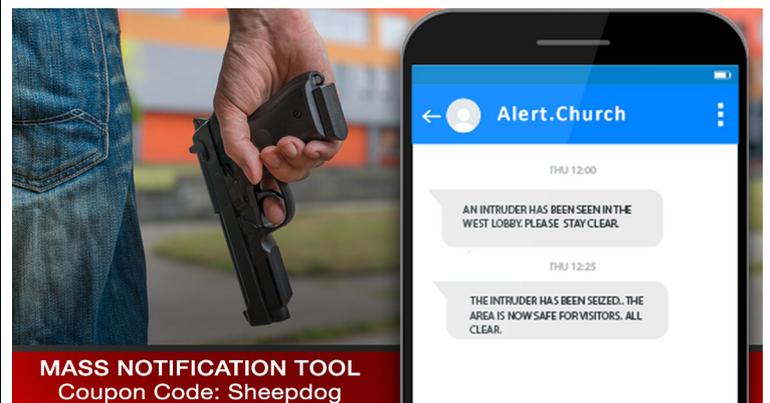
Messages from Sheepdogs across the country

JP S.

I believe churches NEED security and even armed security. I have been on security teams (unarmed) and during a revival an intoxicated man came in. We watched him from a distance to make sure he didn't get out of line. When the church shootings started, that made us realize we were on the right track. In the Garden of Gethsemane, even the disciples had swords.

DARREN R.

Well worth your time and investment to learn about keeping God's house and congregations as safe and secure as possible. I highly recommend Sheepdog Church Security as the quality of their materials and training are second to none.



MASS NOTIFICATION TOOL
Coupon Code: Sheepdog

SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

WHY I CAN'T RUN

BY CURT SCHLOSSER, US ARMY CHAPLAIN , (LTC) RET.

Last fall I attended an all day workshop on church safety and security. Since then, I have done a lot of thinking and refining of my own position on the matter. I have read a lot of bible references to the concept of the church community as a flock and the Good Shepherd as the guardian and nurturing agent. My current thinking which is not much different from where I saw myself during over 30 years of active duty military. I see myself somewhere between a sheep dog and a shepherd. Thus the title at the top of this reflection.

The Apostle John's Gospel records Jesus's words about the Good Shepherd in chapter 10 verses 11–15 as a contrast. Jesus describes the Good Shepherd who knows and loves the sheep as standing and protecting them to the point of laying down his life for the sheep. He contrasts this image with that of the hired hand who sees the wolf coming and abandons the flock while the wolf attacks the sheep. In verse 13 Jesus says the man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. In verses 14 and 15 he again restates that he is the Good Shepherd who knows the sheep and the sheep know him, and he lays down his life for the sheep. Then paired with this is the mantra verse in John 15 verses 12 and 13 where Jesus says his command is to love each other as I have loved you. He follows this with "Greater Love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

"Greater Love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

During the workshop, the instructor, Captain Joe, a retired State Trooper, said when you go to church you should have a plan if God forbid an "active shooter" came in the door. You should plan on what door you would run out or locate fire extinguishers to throw through a window in order to crawl out. I thought of our situation at Shady Cove with our flock of sheep who are mostly gray haired and move slow, some on canes and others on walkers. I thought of how I would feel if I threw a fire extinguisher through the stained glass window and ran outside while the Wolf was inside killing the sheep I have come to love.

On the next break I went up to Captain Joe and said that that plan would not work for me. I told him that if that scenario happened and I ran that I would need a lot more than confession to heal me. The guilt would be overwhelming. I heard John's gospel pounding in my head. I also reflected on the words of Zechariah 11:17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock."

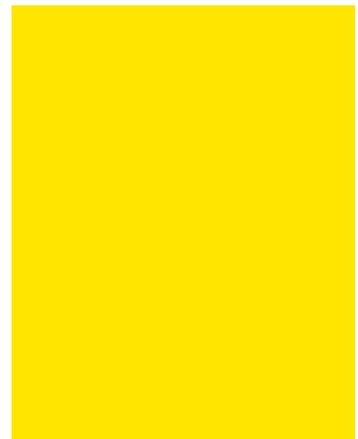
I am usually very mild and easy going but when I look around our flock at church and see beautiful people like Scotty Fleetwood and Dorothy Bordner. I think I would quickly transform into a vicious pitbull if someone wanted to harm them. I have lived a long and blessed life and believe I could be content going to the pearly gates knowing I had laid down my earthly portion of life in defense of God's flock.



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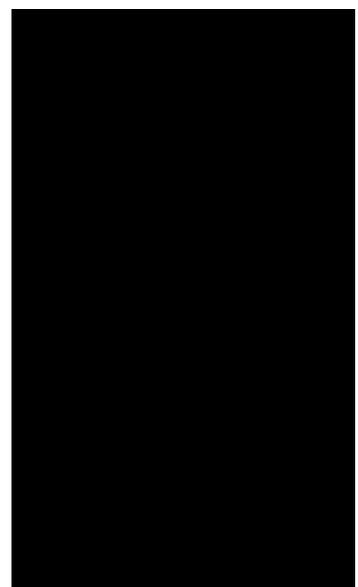
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WISCONSIN

JEFFREY TOEPPE

My name is Jeffrey Toeppe, Chief Instructor and Owner of Personal Defense Training, LLC in Wisconsin. I'm a Certified NRA Instructor (Basics of Pistol Shooting, Personal Protection In the Home, Personal Protection Outside the Home), NRA Range Safety Officer, a Certified USCCA Instructor (Concealed Carry and Home Defense Fundamentals, Defensive Shooting Fundamentals Levels 1 & 2, Countering the Mass Shooter Threat, and Emergency First Aid Fundamentals), and a SABRE Certified Civilian Safety Awareness Academy and College Safety Awareness Instructor for OC (pepper) defensive spray. I've also had extensive training in Church safety and security from Sheepdog Church Security, Strategos, FEMA, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, and other organizations. I'm a member and trainer of the Grace Church Safety Ministry Team and Racine Area Church Security Network (RACSN). I'm blessed to serve individuals, families, groups and Houses of Worship to equip them to protect what they love.

Website: <https://www.personal-defense-training.com/>

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Select the Right People for Your Ministry

Protect your flock with a proven church volunteer screening service. Sheepdogs [click here](#) for special access.



Sheepdog Seminars

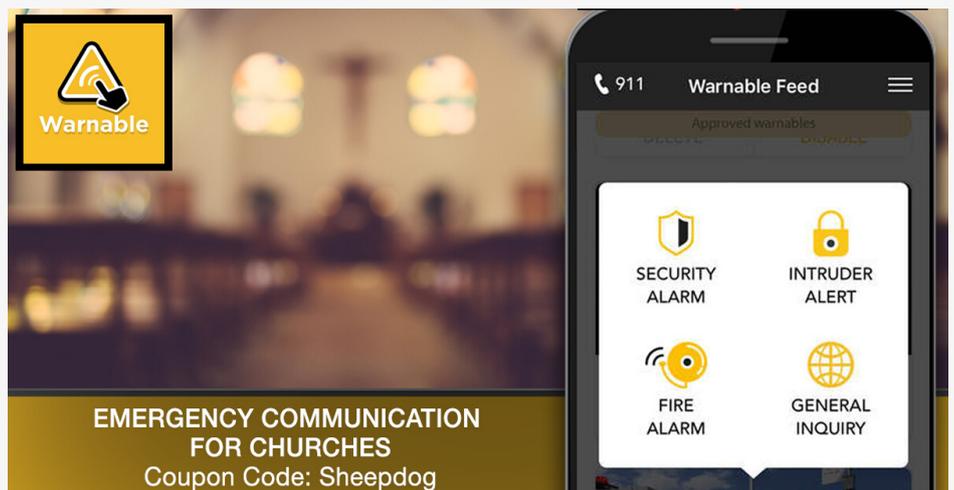
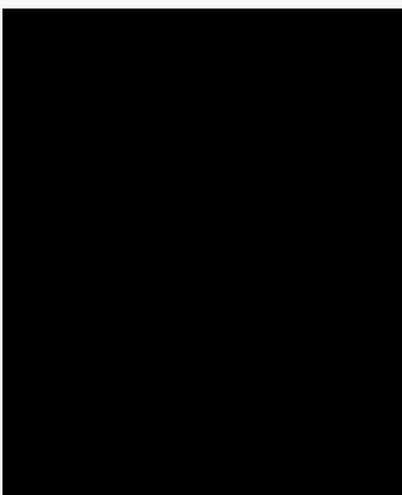
The Sheepdog Seminar is a response to the violence that reeks havoc in our world. It calls upon the defenders to take their stand. In a one day seminar it is impossible to impart all of the information that churches - and society as a whole - need in order to create a safe atmosphere for their communities. However, when you leave the Sheepdog Seminar, you will know exactly what you need to start doing.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Church Safety and Security Events

- **WICHITA FALLS, TX - FEBRUARY 8**
- **BURLESON, TX - FEBRUARY 10**
- **EL PASO, TX - FEBRUARY 20**
- **LORDSBURG, NM - FEBRUARY 22**
- **TUCSON, AZ - FEBRUARY 24**
- **DALLAS, TX - FEBRUARY 29**

We are building a community of leaders who are called to protect the flock.





FREE FAITH-BASED EXERCISE VIRGINIA BEACH VA

The Virginia Fusion Center's SHIELD Program is collaborating with the FB-ISAO to educate participants on the Hostile Events Attack Cycle and challenge them to consider their preparedness and ability to respond to an enduring threat challenge facing all organizations – to include places of worship and charities.

2020 Workshop Series objectives include:

- Provide a one-day forum for faith-based and charity organizations to enhance their threat awareness and preparedness relating to potential physical attacks at their facilities.
- Use a hostile events scenario to provide participants an opportunity to interact with one another and discuss issues, concerns, best practices and other salient points regarding physical security preparedness, coordination and response among participants.
- Use a hostile events scenario to provide participants with greater awareness of U.S. Government and local government resources, guidance and best practices relating to hostile events and physical security to help inform organizational preparedness, security and resilience.

Date: April 14, 2020 | 0800 - 1600hrs

Location: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 3201 Edinburgh Drive VA Beach, VA 23452

Register: <https://2020faithbasedvabeach.eventbrite.com>

More Info: For more information on the Faith Based Information Sharing & Analysis Organization go to <http://faithbased-isao.org>



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SHEEPDOG CORNER

Hi Sheepdog,

The best way to honor a Fallen Sheepdog is for other Sheepdogs to learn from the tragedy. With that said, I want to bring up one lesson learned from the White Settlement Church murders.

If a person within six feet pulls a gun on you, pulling your own gun will not likely stop the threat. Action is faster than reaction. Your best option is physically attacking the Bad Guy.

Move in on the Bad Guy. Grab the gun/hand/arm, direct the gun away and fight for your life.

Let's get practical. When you train with the team, add a scenario like this... A suspicious person is discovered somewhere in the church. Their suspicious activity warrants an approach. Two Safety Team members must make contact in a Contact-Cover Team.

Review: The Contact person should maintain a 6-foot reactionary gap. The Cover person is farther away based on the environment and perceived threat level.

Allow the Contact to practice Verbal De-escalation skills. The Bad Guy should be verbally uncooperative. Have the Bad Guy take one step toward the Contact while pulling a concealed weapon. The Bad Guy should try to shoot both Contact and Cover. (Vary the Time to Action)

Possible Outcomes: (Judge Results Fairly, but these are the likely outcomes.)

-Contact and Cover pull guns. Bad Guy shoots both.

-Contact pulls gun and Cover goes hands-on. Contact shot. Cover stops attack.

-Contact goes hands-on. Cover pulls gun. Contact stops attack. Cover joins fight. (Don't assume the attack ends because the Cover is pointing a gun at the Bad Guy.) (Is Deadly Force authorized?)

-Contact and Cover go hands-on. The attack is stopped.

-OR, something completely unexpected.

WARNING: All actual firearms are locked away. Only practice weapons in training area. This type of scenario has a high risk of injury and it is argument prone. Ask questions to guide their learning.

Finally, as with all scenario-based training, the Good Guys NEVER Die. Even when shot, encourage them to keep going. They Will Survive Their Wounds.

*Your Loyal Companion in Christ,
Kris*



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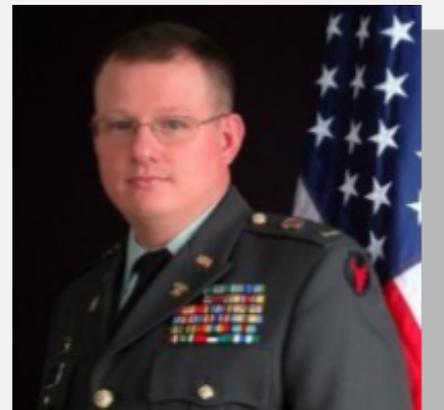
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A Police Officer with over 15 years of experience and a retired Army Captain and Company Commander. He has certifications in Crime Prevention, Security Assessments, and the Crime Free Program. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Ministry and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.
Kris P. Moloney