

April 2022

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY

happy

EASTER

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TOP NEWS STORY

'BLESSED TO KNOW THAT I KNEW THEM' | THREE CHILDREN IN ARDEN-ARCADE CHURCH SHOOTING IDENTIFIED

The Natomas Unified School District (NUSD) said Tuesday three of its students were victims killed in Monday's church shooting. The Sacramento County Coroner's Office identified the father and suspect as David Mora Rojas, 39. They also identified the victims as Samantha Mora Gutierrez, 10; Samarah Mora Gutierrez, 9; Samia Mora Gutierrez, 13; and Nathaniel Kong, 59.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Active Shooter Neutralization and Lock Down Drills

We live in troubled times – the rise in gun-related violence, particularly violence directed against churches and their congregations across the nation, is proof of this. There were 147 shootings in Christian churches between 2006 and 2016, more than there were in the entire 25 years that came before. It has become imperative that churches be prepared (and able) to protect those worshipping within their walls.

Today, churches must be prepared to combat violence from all corners. It's not just about stopping lone-gunmen with their own agendas targeting church members, or anti-Christian sentiment bubbling over. Church members themselves and their loved ones can bring violence into the church. If you are not prepared, that can spell disaster, as it has for too many churches across the nation.

To ensure that you are prepared for any eventuality and able to curb violent acts, we offer the Active Shooter Neutralization and Lock Down Drills module. This course combines essential information, training, drills and more to help you create a comprehensive solution tailored to your church.



Take all 7 Modules
and be Certified
with Sheepdog
Church Security
for two years!

[Click Here](#) to
Learn More!

WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Killers Invade Sanctuaries

Responding to Active Shooters

March's articles are based on the [Safety Member Certification](#) training module "Active Shooter Response v4."

There are three articles on this subject: "Violation of Sanctity" (Killers Invade Sanctuaries), "Building the Wall" (Preparing for an Active Killer), and "Facing Evil" (Responding to an Active Killer). The month ends with a special article, "Strengthen the Gate" (Harden Church Doors and Windows), a topic which plays a role in preparing for an active killer.

The featured resources for the month are [Active Shooter Situation Checklist](#) (a free download), "Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training" (a [Church Security Guide](#) article), "Active Shooter Response v4" (a [Safety Member Certification](#) program training module), and "[Special Interview with Simon Osamoh](#)" (a [Church Security Roll Call](#) video). Featured in one article are another Roll Call video, "Stress Inoculation" – Kris's interview with Carl Chinn – and Chinn's book [Evil Invades Sanctuary](#).

Loss of Sanctuary

This is a violent world. For some time, places of worship were generally considered off limits for many criminals. They may have been raised with some respect for religion, and also with some superstition about "bad luck" coming on those who violate sacred places.

Not anymore. The church is no longer a sanctuary from violent crime. Armed attacks have become more frequent, with 2017 being an especially bad year. It has now become necessary to protect churches and congregants from killers.

*And [armed forces]
shall stand on his
part, and they shall
pollute the
sanctuary of
strength ...
(Daniel 11:31a).*

WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Active Killer Defense

Defending the church begins with recognizing the threat. It continues with preparing the facilities and the people for the possibility of an active killer. Hardening the building, implementing safety & security procedures, and training the Safety Team, greeters, and ushers to detect a threat and respond are key preparations. Also educate the congregation on what to do, such as [Run, Hide, Fight](#). Police usually arrive after the shooting stops.

Action Points

For Safety Directors –

- ◆ Conduct a church safety & security assessment.
- ◆ Work with church leadership in hardening the facilities, including surveillance and communications.
- ◆ Get all Safety Team members trained and certified, including in Active Shooter Response.

For Safety Team Members –

- ◆ Get trained and certified and participate in drills.



2015 Emanuel AME Church Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

From the Bible

But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah (2 Kings 25:25)

*Note: Ishmael pretended fellowship to get close enough to kill Gedaliah and others.

Introduction

This shooting was motivated by racism and enacted through treachery.

Ishmael used treachery to get close enough to kill Gedaliah, taking unfair advantage of his victim's good will. To his peril, Gedaliah had dismissed warnings.

Featured Resources

Responding to an active killer in a church is the topic of "[Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training](#)," (an article in the [Church Security Guide](#)) [1], "Active Shooter Response v4" (a training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program) [2], and [Active Shooter Situation Checklist](#) (a free downloadable resource) [3].

More specific to each article, including this one, are the Weekly Show Notes (Article Summary). Found in the Comments section under the [videocast](#), they are available for one week after the show goes live [4]. You can also download [Church Shooting Lessons Learned](#) (this changes each month) [5].

In History

Historically, bias has motivated murder in places of worship. Here are two examples recorded by Flavius Josephus.

Jerusalem, Judea, AD 58 - Felix, the Roman Procurator of Judea and Samaria, arranged for Jonathan, the high priest, to be assassinated in the Temple. This was a personal grudge and was done by stealth.[8]

Later, in AD 68, Zealots and Idumeans stormed the Temple. There the Idumeans killed many priests and worshipers.[9] Even though the Idumeans (Edomites) were now accepted as Jews, there was still mutual animosity (tribalism) going back about 1,900 years.

Background

Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, is a historic congregation. Established in 1817 for free Blacks, this church saw the institutionalization of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow laws. It was an activity center for the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and '60s.

The pastor of Emanuel AME in 2015 was the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a winsome man respected by all. He was not only a teacher, preacher, and shepherd of the flock, but a South Carolina State Senator and a promoter and protector of civil rights.

Death Came through the Door

It was a Wednesday evening, June 17, 2015. The early evening activities with dinner and fellowship had ended. Prayer services and the Pastor's Bible study began at 8:00.

A young white male came through a side entrance about this time. He asked the first person he met to see the pastor. Rev. Pinckney came, greeted the visitor warmly, and took him into the classroom. The young man sat down next to him.

At the end of the study, they began prayer. As they bowed their heads and closed their eyes, the young man pulled a .45 pistol from beneath his fanny pack. He first shot Pastor Pinckney, then others. One young man tried to reason with him, but he said, "I have to do this," claiming that Blacks were raping and murdering Whites. That young man and his great aunt were killed. His mother pretended to be dead, lying in her son's blood.

Nine people were shot and killed. The killer told one survivor that she was left to tell others what happened, because he was going to kill himself. Well, his gun jammed, something that has happened to some other church killers (this may be evidence that they don't take care of their weapons), so he left the church and drove away.

About the Killer

As with other mass killers, the assailant at Emanuel AME was a troubled person. Throughout his childhood he shuttled between two divorced parents. He had trouble studying in school along with behavioral and attendance issues, eventually dropping out. He was a drinker and a user of marijuana and hard drugs. His record included arrests for drug use.

Somewhere along the line, he was influenced by White supremacist ideas, especially following the 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin in Florida. He had a web page promoting a return to racial segregation. Considering his record, this has the appearance of assuming significance in a radical cause to compensate for failure in life. He must have had some semblance of a conscience left. He said he had considered changing his mind about the shooting because they had been so kind to him. However, he still went through with it.

After the Gunsmoke Cleared

The killer drove to North Carolina. The next day, someone in Shelby saw a car like the one in news bulletins and noticed the appearance of the driver. She called 911, and Shelby police made the arrest. The suspect was tried and convicted for first degree murder. He was sentenced to death, but this was later changed to life in prison without parole. Through all this, he remains unapologetic.

The killer's stated motive was to provoke a race war, but the massacre had the opposite effect. There was an outpouring of grief for the slain and sympathy for the bereaved, both in South Carolina and across the nation, from all races and political parties.

This mass killing also brought more attention to church security with the question, "How can we keep our people safe when they gather together?" Emanuel AME wanted to remain an open and welcoming community, but they did become more watchful and observant. This highlights the issue of balancing conflicting values.

A negative result of the shooting was racial resentment by some. Two-and-a-quarter years later, on Sunday, September 24, 2017, a church in Antioch, Tennessee, was attacked. The shooter killed one person in the parking lot but was wrestled to the floor by an usher after entering the sanctuary and wounding a few more. A note in his vehicle claimed revenge for the Emanuel AME killings, expecting 10 White people to be killed.

Lesson Learned

Always be watchful. Keep an eye open - literally. That is the primary lesson learned from this tragedy. During the discussion of the Bible lesson, the young visitor was argumentative. This indication of hostility should have alerted a watcher.

In the classroom, the shooter was seated next to the pastor in the front row of circled chairs. Someone else was sitting behind one shoulder. If this person had kept his eyes open when others closed their eyes for prayer, watching the young visitor, he would have seen the gun being pulled out and could have knocked it away before it could have been raised to fire.

Conclusion

Always have someone who is watchful and alert. This is especially true when the situation changes, such as a likely hostile visitor.

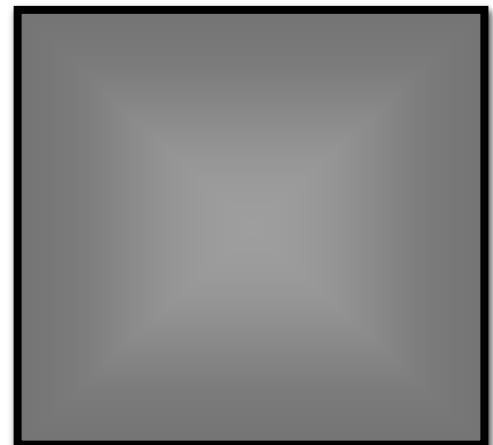
There Is More

The theme for April is Emergency Medical and Mass Trauma Events, and the featured affiliate is Mountain Man Medical (M3). The featured M3 products are the Sheepdog Belt IFAK and the Mass Casualty Trauma Kit, both created in consultation with Kris Moloney.

Kris records podcasts and videocasts based on the weekly articles. Subscribe to our YouTube channel, Sheepdog Church Security Academy [6].

Get your Safety Team members trained and certified in the Safety Member Certification program [7].

[Article References](#)



And they conspired against [Zechariah the son of Jehoiada] and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the Lord (2Chronicles 24:21).

And I took unto me faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah* (Isaiah 8:2). [*in the Septuagint, it is "son of Berechiah"]

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices (Luke 13:1).

VIOLATION OF SANCTITY

Killers Invade Sanctuaries

In the News

For this article, we'll refer to benchmark killings in places of worship. Note that there were different motives.

Daingerfield, Texas, June 28, 1980 - The Sunday before his trial for incest, a former school teacher armed with two rifles and two pistols burst into the First Baptist Church during the morning service and yelled, "This is war!" He then began firing at random. Five died and ten more were wounded.

Three men stopped the rampage. One rushed the killer, knocking the rifles loose. Then two ushers grabbed him in a double bear hug and moved him out the door while he fired a pistol several times, fatally wounding both. The shooter ran across the street to a fire station, where he shot himself in the head. He later hanged himself in jail.[4]

Fort Worth, Texas, September 15, 1999 -At Wedgwood Baptist Church, youth were celebrating that morning's See You at the Pole Day events at their high schools. A mentally ill and anti-religious man entered the church. He shot people in the lobby and in the sanctuary before committing suicide. Besides himself, the shooter killed seven persons and wounded seven more, three seriously.[5][6][7]

Knoxville, Tennessee, July 27, 2008 - An unemployed truck driver attacked the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. He objected to their liberalism and support of liberal politics. Church members rushed him and took him down, but not until he'd killed two and wounded six.[8]

Arvada and Colorado Springs, Colorado, December 9, 2007 - About 12:30 am at the Youth With A Mission training center in Arvada, two persons were killed and two others wounded by a young man who had been dismissed from the program five years earlier. Twelve hours later he killed two and wounded three in the parking lot of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, then entered the church building. He killed himself after being wounded in an encounter with a security team member.[9]

Charleston, South Carolina, June 17, 2015 - A racially-motivated young white man entered a side door of Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Emanuel AME). There he entered and sat down in a Bible study led by the pastor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was a state senator and a prominent civil rights activist. At the end of the study, while those present were praying, the young man pulled out a handgun and began firing. He killed nine, including the pastor, before running out of ammo, then fled. He was later arrested and tried for murder.[10]

Antioch, Tennessee, September 24, 2017 - Two years later, the shooter at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ allegedly tried to avenge the Emanuel AME killings.[11]

Sutherland Springs, Texas, November 5, 2017 - Domestic violence led to the most deadly U.S. church assault. After sending threats to his mother-in-law, a man whose domestic violence resulted in a court marshal and a dishonorable discharge from the Air Force invaded her church during the Sunday morning service and killed 26 persons. He committed suicide after his truck ran off the road during a high-speed chase.[12]

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 27, 2018 - A man with anti-Semitic motives attacked a synagogue during Sabbath services, killing eleven. "Stop the Bleed" training enabled members and first responders to save lives.[13]

Besides churches and synagogues, targeted places of worship in North America also included mosques and a Sikh temple.

Introduction

In *Evil Invades Sanctuary*,[2] Carl Chinn tells about several incidents where deadly force was used in faith-based organizations. He was personally involved in two such incidents. He and three other persons were hostages when a gunman came into Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs, where he was the building manager.



Eleven years later, the security team he formed at New Life Church stopped an active killer who had already killed two at a mission in Arvada and two more in the New Life parking lot. After this Chinn began keeping track of incidents where deadly force was used in religious institutions and founded the Faith Based Security Network (FBSN).

In its description of *Evil Invades Sanctuary*, FBSN says, "Active shooters, mass killers, workplace violence, domestic violence and other deadly encounters affect not only schools, theaters and malls but churches as well. All such sites are captive concentrations of typically unprepared victims." [3]

There were more active killer fatalities in American churches in 2017 than in any previous year, a steady increase since the Wedgewood Baptist Church shooting in 1999.

Featured Resources

This month's featured resources are [Active Shooter Situation Checklist](#) (a free downloadable resource), "Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training" (a [Church Security Guide](#) article), and "Active Shooter Response v4" (a training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program).

Active Shooter Situation Checklist

Would the teacher in a classroom know what to do during an active killer incident? What if the notification called for an evacuation? What if a lockdown was called? The Active Shooter Situation Checklist can be printed and posted in each classroom. The PDF has a one-page brief for the Safety Team on what an active shooter is and how to respond. The next page is the checklist. Click [*HERE*](#) to get it.[14]

Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training

This article in the [Church Security Guide](#) provides an overview of how a Church Safety Team and the congregation should respond to an active shooter. "[Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training](#)" begins with Important Terms. It goes on with

- ◆ Active Shooter Training: First Steps,
- ◆ The Truth about Active Killers,
- ◆ During an Attack, and
- ◆ Planning for the Future.

This overview can prepare the reader to take the full course in the training module. [15]

Active Shooter Response v4

The second training module/course in the Safety Member Certification program is "Active Shooter Response v4." This module begins with explaining why we prefer "active killer" to "active shooter" for describing an armed assailant. The objective of the training is to enable you to:

- ◆ Identify Key Terms Associated with Violent Intruder Scenarios
- ◆ Conduct a Facility Assessment
- ◆ List Components of Lockout and Lockdown Plans
- ◆ Describe Actions to take in an Emergency Situation
- ◆ List Actions of Engagement Team
- ◆ List Actions of Containment Team
- ◆ Identify Appropriate Interactions with Law Enforcement Following an Attack by an Active Shooter

Church Safety Ministries are encouraged to have all their members fully trained and certified through the Safety Member Certification program. A team member who has taken each module and passed its certification test will be certified for two years as a Safety Member.[1]

The seven training modules in the program are:

- ◆ Safety Team Fundamentals
- ◆ Active Shooter Response
- ◆ Deescalating Disruptive Persons
- ◆ Protecting Children from Abuse
- ◆ Basic Use of Force Laws
- ◆ Arson and Fire Safety
- ◆ Storms and Disasters

There are three modes of training: Team Training (classroom), Individual Training (online), and Online Training Events (Zoom).

Team Training

When you are starting a Church Safety Team, it helps to get everyone trained as soon as possible. In a classroom setting, several team members can be trained at once. Added to this is the benefit of interaction among students and with the instructor. Questions can be asked and answered in real time, and the instructor can sense what the team knows and how they are learning.

Two years later, the team can refresh their learning together. Those who joined the team after the initial training can get in sync with the rest of the team in refresher training.

Individual Training

This mode is ideal for new members who join after the team has had their training. It can also train those who cannot attend classes. One advantage for a student is the ability to back up a video and see or hear something again. At least you don't have to raise your hand in class and ask, "How's that again?"

Online Training Events

This format is relatively new to Sheepdog Church Security. Originally a means of class training during pandemic restrictions, it has been gaining in popularity. It combines advantages of in-person and online training. The 2022 Spring Semester is now in progress. The Fall Semester will begin this summer. The classes are two to three weeks apart.

"That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar"

(Matthew 23:35).

**Note: all three Zechariahs are the same martyred person.*

The Not-so-Sacrosanct Place

"Sacrosanct" means "doubly sacred," literally (from Latin) made sacred by a sacred rite. In everyday use, it means "untouchable" and/or "unchangeable." [16]

How Sacrosanct Is Our Sanctuary?

In answer to this question, our sanctuaries (churches) are likely not as sacrosanct as we may think they are or wish they were. In fact, the sanctity of sanctuaries has been violated many times for thousands of years, and measures have been taken to protect holy places. For example,

- ◆ Markers were placed between the camp of Israel and the foot of Mount Sinai to warn against going up the mountain.
- ◆ Levites were appointed as guards for the Tabernacle, and later for the Temple.
- ◆ Churches in the Middle Ages had large, heavy doors which could be locked against robbers and raiders.

Violations of Sanctity

In spite of precautions, sanctuaries have still been violated:

- ◆ About 1100 BC: Eli's sons sexually abused women in the Tabernacle at Shiloh.
- ◆ 795 BC: Zechariah was murdered in the court of the First Temple.
- ◆ 168 BC: Antiochus Epiphanes murdered priests and desecrated the Second Temple, and it had to be cleansed and rededicated.
- ◆ About AD 30-32: Pilate had soldiers kill Jewish worshipers in the courtyard of the Temple.
- ◆ December 29, 1170: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered at the altar.
- ◆ September 15, 1963: An African American church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed by Klan members, killing three girls.

Violence in American Churches

From the 1999 shooting in Wedgewood Baptist Church to the end of 2017, the frequency of deadly violence in American places of worship increased. The closing of in-person services in 2020 contributed to a decline in church killings, but as they resumed, so did the threat. On Sunday, January 3, 2021 a pastor found a fugitive hiding in a restroom and held him at gunpoint while waiting for police. When he was distracted, the fugitive grabbed the gun, killed the pastor, and wounded another person.[17]

Correspondingly, more churches are taking security measures, from locking the doors when no one is there, to installing surveillance cameras, to establishing security and safety teams. More church safety team members (pastors too) are armed as churches take security seriously.

And [armed forces] shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength ... (Daniel 11:31a).

**Note: Daniel prophesied armed enemies in the sanctuary of the Second Temple.*

Protecting Churches from Violent Intruders

The mission of Sheepdog Church Security is to teach churches how to protect themselves against various threats. This means making the church a harder target than it would otherwise be:

- ◆ Make the building resistant to forced entry.
- ◆ Enact and practice access control procedures.
- ◆ Train people to be watchful and observant.
- ◆ Pay attention to potential threats in the area and within the church community.
- ◆ Then know how to respond to suspicious persons and active threats, from verbal de-escalation (when possible) to evacuation, lockdowns, and engagement.

Besides armed assailants, threats also include severe weather, thieves, fire, arson, vandalism, child abuse, and medical emergencies.

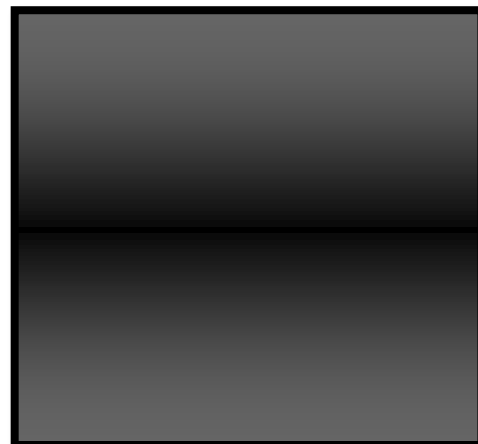
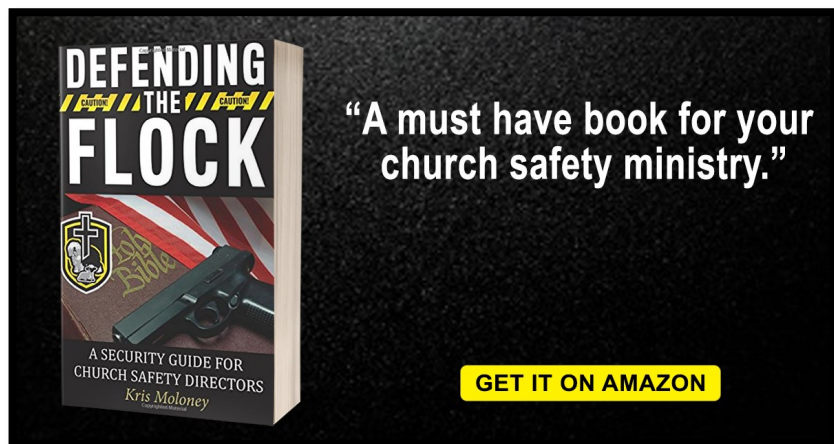
Conclusion

We are not totally immune to violence. The potential of an armed assailant is real. Do what you can to reduce the chances, but be ready to respond in case it happens.

There Is More

There are four articles for this month. The other three are "2012 World Changers Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned from a Church Shooting), "Building the Wall" (Preparing for an Active Killer), and "Facing Evil" (Responding to an Active Killer).

[Article References](#)



BUILDING THE WALL

Preparing for an Active Killer

In the News

Aztec, New Mexico, November 1, 2021 - One church in Aztec had been vandalized three times since September 1 with no clue as to the identity of the vandal. The fourth time was different. Cameras had been installed and recorded images of someone painting "EVIL" on the side of the building. After finishing the deed, the culprit went to a convenience store across the street. The same night, the same word was spray-painted on another church. A clerk at the convenience store identified the suspect from video footage.[2][3]

** Note: The surveillance cameras would also reveal suspicious activity leading to a violent incursion.*

Rocky Mount, Virginia, March 25, 2020 - A Rocky Mount Church of Christ elder who is a retired Roanoke police officer now focuses on making churches safe. He begins with evaluating the factors which put a church at risk of a shooter, whether it is a robbery or a shooting event. He said, "I am adamant that we can protect the assembly through planning, procedures, training and implementation of a safety team." His three points are (1) appoint a safety team leader, (2) monitor the parking lot, and (3) secure the building (physically and actively).[4]

** Note the role of evaluation (assessment).*

Griffin, Georgia, January 7-8, 2020 - The shooting at West Freeway Church of Christ in Texas and the stabbing attack at a Hanukkah celebration in New York during the previous two weeks highlighted the reasons members of a Griffin church would be trained in church security. The active shooter training includes ushers and greeters as part of church security.

Also in the Atlanta area, a 16-year-old girl was arrested and charged with plotting an attack on a local AME church in imitation of the 2015 killings at Emanuel AME in Charleston. [5]

** Note: More than Safety Team members are being trained for active shooter response.*

Therefore [Asa] said unto Judah, "Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the Lord our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered (2 Chronicles 14:7).

Then said I unto them, "Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach" (Nehemiah 2:17).

Viera, Florida, July 7, 2013 - While mothers watched their children and worshipers lifted hands in prayer, a man in the back of the sanctuary watched everything in the room. He was a member of the congregation's safety & security team. The man protecting his own church also trained members of other churches.

This was about a month after the federal government released guidelines for security at places of worship. A few days before that, a man was shot during mass in Salt Lake City.[6]

** Note: The safety team member practiced situational awareness.*

Culver City, California, 2016 - OpenPath was started by several electronics engineers to design, make, and sell keyless entry systems. Now a part of Motorola, they have posted a [Church security systems and safety planning guide](#). Their risk assessment for churches covers:

- ◆ Access control (Features to look for in synagogue and church access control systems)
 - ◆ Unobtrusive design for door readers
 - ◆ Easy-to-manage credentials
 - ◆ Attendance reporting and tracking
 - ◆ Adaptable, future-proof technology
- ◆ Emergency system lockdown
- ◆ Video surveillance
- ◆ Security management platforms
- ◆ Two-way radios and communication tools[7]

** Note: This describes some of the current technological components available for a church's security wall.*

Featured Resources

The featured resources for this month are "Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training" (a [Church Security Guide](#) article), "Active Shooter Response v4" (a training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program), and [Active Shooter Situation Checklist](#) (a free downloadable resource). An additional special resource is Kris's interview with Simon Osamoh about Situational Awareness.

Situational Awareness

A key brick in the mental wall of protection is situational awareness. It is not just *being* aware, but also *knowing what* to be aware of. Simon draws on his training and experience of security in various kinds of places as he discusses this topic with Kris.[8]

Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training

This article in the [Church Security Guide](#) provides an overview of the role of a Church Safety Team in an active killer situation. This ranges from prevention and preparation to training, watchfulness, and response. This article will prepare the reader to better understand the "Active Shooter Response" training module.[9]

Active Shooter Response

The second training module in the Safety Member Certification program - after "Security Team Fundamentals" - is "Active Shooter Response v4." The objective of this course is to enable the student to

- ◆ Identify Key Terms Associated with Violent Intruder Scenarios
- ◆ Conduct a Facility Assessment
- ◆ List Components of Lockout and Lockdown Plans
- ◆ Describe Actions to take in an Emergency Situation
- ◆ List Actions of Engagement Team
- ◆ List Actions of Containment Team
- ◆ Identify Appropriate Interactions with Law Enforcement Following an Attack by an Active Shooter

A student taking all of the Safety Member Certification modules and passing each certification test will be certified as a Sheepdog Church Security Safety Member for two years. Three modes of training are available: Team Training (in-person classroom), Individual Training (online), and Online Events (live Zoom classes).

Team Training - This is ideal for training a new team and for refresher classes every two years.

Individual Training - This is perfect for training a new member of an established team and for members who cannot attend in-person classes.

Online Events - Both individuals and groups can sign up for these live Zoom classes. The 2022 Spring Semester is already in progress, and the Fall Semester begins in October:

Online Events		
Live Zoom Classes		
2022 Schedule		
Class	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Safety Team Fundamentals	February 6, 2022	October 6, 2022
Active Shooter	February 20, 2022	October 23, 2022
Deescalating Disruptive Persons	March 6, 2022	November 6, 2022
Protecting Children from Abuse	March 20, 2022	November 20, 2022
Basic Use of Force Laws	April 3, 2022	December 4, 2022
Arson and Fire Safety	April 24, 2022	December 18, 2022
Storms and Disasters	May 15, 2022	January 8, 2023

Church Safety Teams are encouraged to have all their members trained and certified. [1]

Active Shooter Situation Checklist

If your team is trained, drilled, and ready and an intentional killer begins a violent attack, team members will know how to respond. But what about teachers and group leaders? When they hear shooting or are notified either to evacuate or to lock down, would they know how? The Active Shooter Situation Checklist can be printed and posted in every classroom and assembly area. This PDF also has a brief description of active shooter situations. Click [*HERE*](#) to get this resource.[10]

Introduction

Walls are for definition and for protection. A low stone wall will define a yard, but a high one provides a degree of protection, at least from casual observers and those who can't quickly jump over it. The walls around a building should protect its occupants from the weather and keep unwanted critters out.

Figuratively, a wall is a separator or barrier. Security procedures are intended to be walls against intruders, thieves, abusers, and violent violators. So also are any technological or mechanical security measures.

In the context of this series, we build both physical and non-physical barriers against active killers.



Building Walls against Active Killers

The walls we build for protection from active killers are both physical and non-physical. We decide how to build, based on a security assessment. Then we make changes where needed and keep doing what is right. An assessment should be made every year or two since things can change in that time.

Security Assessment

A security assessment tells you how prepared your church is to prevent or respond to several situations, including active killers. The free download for last August, *Practical Steps to Start a Safety Ministry*, included a do-it-yourself Church Safety / Security Ministry Security Assessment. This 27-page form leads you through several features of the church's physical facilities, its policies and procedures, and its people. Here is a sample from the first page of the form:

Location:

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

Does the Church have?

- Day Care
- Gymnasium
- School or classrooms

Electronic Security Alarm System:

- Yes
- No

Safety/Security Team:

- Yes
- No

Electronic Access Control System:

- Yes
- No

Staff Safety Training Program:

- Yes
- No

Video Surveillance System:

- Yes
- No

Volunteer Safety Training Program:

- Yes
- No

These first few questions include both physical and non-physical features. Do you already have this resource? If so, have you used it?[11]

Physical Walls

In relation to active killers, physical defenses are for access control, detection, and communication.

Access Control

If we can keep a violent intruder out, we protect everyone inside. If the intruder comes in shooting or begins the violence once inside, lockdowns should protect persons in classrooms, offices, and other lockable inside spaces.

An assault-resistant door is the first-line physical barrier to an active killer. Next are break-in-resistant windows. The doors should be sturdy, hard to break. Doors made with solid, heavy wood or heavy-gauge steel best resist forced entry. All-glass and mostly-glass doors, which have the advantage of seeing who is outside, need strong, tempered glass. These glass doors and side windows need security glazing. This is a coating which keeps the glass from shattering. That way, if an attacker tries to shoot out the glass, it will take a while, giving the Safety Team time to respond. However, these are only as good as the door's casing, hinges, and locks.

Detection

Surveillance cameras will help monitor the grounds and the exterior of the building. In some church shootings the attacker parked where he could not be seen from the front door and/or entered through a side or back door. Inside cameras may allow the engagement and containment teams to know where the assailant is.

Alarms on doors and windows will alert monitors to forced-entry attempts. The Safety Director, a designated team member, and a church leader should receive alarms on their mobile devices. That way if one of them is away from the phone, out of range, etc. the alert will be received and someone could check it out or call 911.

Lighting helps monitor the outside at night. Some may be activated by motion detectors.

Communication

Timely communication is essential for immediate action and coordination. Radios keep team members in contact with each other. Public address systems, intercoms, and radios can be used to notify classrooms, activity leaders, and platform persons of what is happening and what to do.

Non-Physical Walls

Bricks in a non-physical defensive wall include policies and procedures, forewarning (intelligence), a security mindset, situational awareness, and training.

Policies and Procedures

There are some policies and procedures which directly apply to stopping an active killer. The first is an access control policy.

- ◆ All exterior doors with no safety team member or security-trained greeter present should be exit only (locked). This is not just during services and classes, but all the time. This will force an attacker to either take time to force entry (thereby risking detection) or to use a guarded entrance.
- ◆ Lock all doors after the service starts. Latecomers can be let in by the greeter/usher or safety team member. If there are multiple doors in the main entry and you want people to be able to just come in, lock all but one at the end so it can be more easily monitored and defended.
- ◆ Doors should not be blocked open when someone goes out. An intruder can come in behind them unnoticed.
- ◆ Key control is an important access control policy.

- ◆ All physical keys should be logged out so you know who has one. If a person is to no longer have keyed access, ask to have the key returned and log it back in.
- ◆ Keys can be duplicated, meaning someone could return a key and keep a copy. More secure than physical keys are electronic keys (keyless entry). This can be a coded card (like a hotel room key). There is a different code for each authorized user. If someone's key is lost or stolen, their code is changed so that a bad actor cannot use a stolen or found key to get in.

An important procedure is patrolling. A Safety Team member on patrol may notice something out of the ordinary indicating suspicious activity. Related to this is monitoring the parking lot, either in-person or via cameras.

Forewarning (Intelligence)

Threat assessment is important in stopping an armed attack. Most church assailants have had some kind of connection to the church. This is especially true when it is a domestic abuse spillover. Also, several attackers with no direct connection to a church often indicate their intent in some way. Notify the Safety Director of any threats made against the church or one of its members, attenders, pastor(s), or staff. Pay special attention if notified by law enforcement.

Security Mindset

Thinking in terms of safety keeps a person mentally ready to respond. This is a kind of alertness. In Cooper's Colors this would be "Condition Yellow" - thinking, "This could be the day."

No matter how well a person is trained, a live violent attack can be overwhelming. Conflict simulation during drills can help the safety team member function amid the sounds, sights, and smells of a mass casualty event. Carl Chinn describes this in his conversation with Kris Moloney on the videocast "Stress Inoculation." [12]

Situational Awareness

A Safety Team member or greeter needs to be alert to potential indications of violent intent. This could be mannerisms, perceived demeanor, or signs of a concealed weapon. In his interview with Kris, Simon Osamoh brought up "breaking social norms." One example is going straight up to the platform during the service. Another is interrupting the service by standing, speaking, yelling out, etc. There are others. [8]

Training

Training prepares people how to respond in an active shooter incident. Sheepdog Church Security has the training module "Active Shooter Response v4" in its Safety Member Certification program. [1] Teachers, ushers, and greeters should also be trained (at least informed) of their roles. The Active Shooter Situation Checklist is to be posted in the classroom or office as a reminder of what to do. [10]

Conclusion

Nehemiah urged the people of Jerusalem to help him build the wall to protect the city from its enemies. There are walls of security we can erect to protect the church from an active killer. Some are physical; some are not.

There Is More

This is one of four articles for the month. The others are "2012 World Changers Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned from a Church Shooting), "Violation of Sanctity" (Killers Invade Sanctuaries), and "Facing Evil" (Responding to an Active Killer).

[Article References](#)



The advertisement features a circular logo at the top center with the text "FAITH BASED SECURITY NETWORK" around the perimeter and "FBSN" in the center. Below the logo is a photograph of a man in profile, wearing a black quilted jacket with the word "SECURITY" visible on the back, holding a red and black walkie-talkie to his mouth. The background of the photo is a blurred church interior. At the bottom of the ad, there is a red button with the text "BECOME A MEMBER".

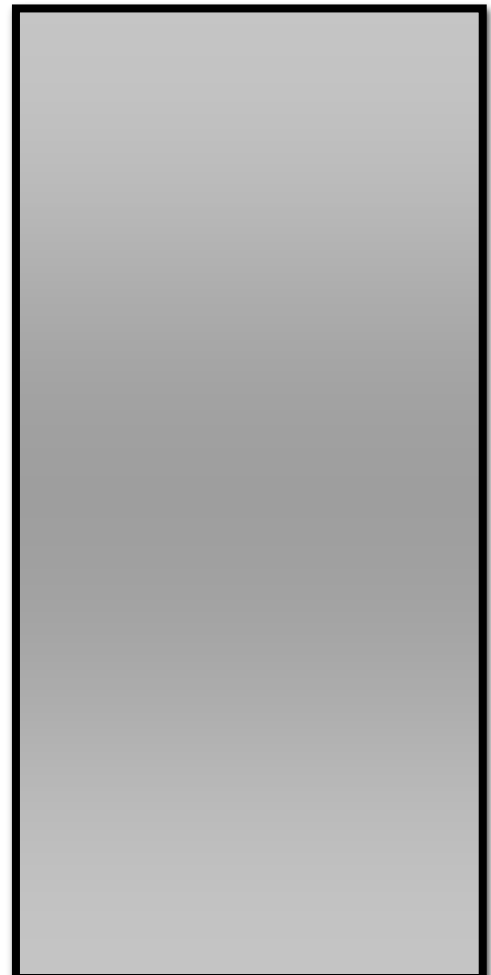
FAITH BASED
SECURITY NETWORK

FBSN

SECURITY

FBSN is a network of security and law enforcement professionals dedicated to continuously improving security of faith-based organizations.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



FACING EVIL

Responding to an Active Killer

Introduction

In *Evil Invades Sanctuary*, Carl Chinn tells about evil killers bringing violent death into places dedicated to peace and life.[2] We need to be ready to respond in case someone comes to our church intending to kill. Be alert, discern signs of trouble, be ready to lock out the killer, to evacuate people, and to lock down occupied rooms, and to confront the killer - whatever is called for.



In the News

Not all the assailants in the stories used guns. Two used knives.

San Jose, California, November 22, 2020 - In a San Jose church providing sleeping space for 40-50 homeless persons, one of them stabbed four others, killing two. A fifth wounded person was a staff member trying to stop the violence. The suspect, who often slept at the church, sometimes helped with serving the others. He also had a long criminal history, including three deportations and arrests for assault. News stories had no mentions of security measures for the sheltered homeless persons.[3][4]

**Note: This makes a case for using security measures with risky persons.*

Nashville, Tennessee, November 7, 2021 - Man who was an occasional attender but not a member, pulled out a handgun near the end of the Sunday morning service, went to the front, and waved it threateningly at the congregation. The pastor tackled him from behind and was joined by others in holding him down and releasing his weapon.[5]

**Note: Someone acted decisively.*

Papillion, Nebraska, November 18, 2021 - On a Thursday afternoon, a man wielded a knife in a church. The pastor and the secretary locked themselves in the office and called 911. Police called for lockdowns at three nearby schools as officers were on their way. The man was arrested as he left the church.[6]

** Note: This was during weekday office hours. How did the armed man get in? At least the staff knew about lockdowns.*

Aurora, Colorado, February 4, 2022 - About 8 pm at a Friday night event in an Aurora church, a man shot three adults. A 36-year-old woman was killed, and two pastors, aged 40 and 43, were wounded. According to police, he knew at least one of the victims. The shooter then fled.

The following Wednesday, police responded to reports of gunfire in a parking lot. The suspect left the scene and carjacked two vehicles. The officers caught up with him, and he died in a shootout. He was the church killer.[7][8]

**Note: The news stories do not say, but it appears that the pastors were either intervening in a dispute or trying to disarm the man.*

Featured Resources

March's featured resources are a special interview (Kris with Simon), a free downloadable resource (Active Shooter Situation Checklist), a Church Security Guide article ("Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training"), and a training module in the Safety Member Certification program ("Active Shooter Response v4").

Kris's Interview with Simon Osamoh

On November 11, 2021, Sheepdog Church Security posted Kris Moloney's "Special Interview with Simon Osamoh."

British-born Simon had almost 13 years of law enforcement experience in the United Kingdom before moving to the United States in 2011. His experience here includes being head of security at the nation's largest mall and a security executive for two major banks. He founded Kingswood Security Consulting in 2014 to help non-profits and churches with security. In 2017 he started Worship Security Association to educate churches on security issues.[9]

In their videoed interview, Kris and Simon discussed the application of situational awareness to active killer incidents. Situational awareness alerts the safety team member to a developing violent situation. Clues include indications of a concealed weapon, clothing suggestive of an assailant, and behavioral clues. One highlighted behavioral warning sign is violation of social norms.[10]

Active Shooter Situation Checklist

This PDF has a printable checklist which can be posted inside classrooms, offices, and small assembly areas. Following information about active shooters, it tells teachers, activity leaders, and office staff what to do in case of an active shooter incident: "If you hear **gunshots, firecracker-like sounds**, or the **prearranged phrase**, quickly determine the best alternative to protect your life and those of people with you" (evacuation or lockdown). After this are specific guides for evacuation and for a lockdown.[11]

Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training

The [Church Security Guide](#) has a tab on the Sheepdog Church Security menu bar. In it are nine articles, including "Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training." This is a deep overview of an essential topic, which would be helpful to someone about to take the training module "Active Shooter Response v4." [12]

Active Shooter Response

This is the second of seven training modules in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program. Church Safety Teams are encouraged to have all their members trained and certified. When a person goes through all the training modules and passes the certification test for each one, he or she will be certified as a Safety Member for two years.

Why for two years? It is beneficial to refresh training. Continuing education is required of all or most certified professionals. First, it refreshes what they've already learned. Second, it advances their knowledge and skills. Third, it updates their training with new information and skills.

There are three available modes of instruction. Each mode has its own advantages.

Team training (classroom)

This is ideal for training the entire Safety Team together, whether for the team startup or for refresher courses. One advantage is the interaction with the instructor and other students.

Individual Training (online courses)

When a new member joins the Safety Team, immediate training is needed. With online courses, the new member does not have to wait several months or over a year for a class. This is also an option for a member who cannot attend a class in person.

Online Events (live Zoom classes)

Sheepdog Church now has live Zoom classes (Online Events) with Kris Moloney as the instructor. This combines some of the advantages of Team Training and Individual Training. A team can enroll several members at one time. An individual can enroll. There is some interaction.

There are two semesters a year of Online Events with a class every two or three weeks. When this article is posted, the fourth module of the 2022 Spring Semester will be finished. The 2022 Fall Semester begins October 6. [1]

From the Bible

If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him (Exodus 22:2).

*Note: Using deadly force to defend one's home is permitted in the Law.

Then said Eliakim ... unto Rabshakeh, "... talk not with us in the Jews' language in the ears of the people that are on the wall." (2 Chronicles 18:26).

*Armed defenders were on the wall when the city was threatened.

"Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people ..." (Ezekiel 33:2-3).

*Note: Watchmen in a tower or on a wall should warn of attacks.

And I said unto them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house" (Nehemiah 7:3). Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews ... (John 20:19).

*Note: Shutting and locking gates and doors is a security measure.

And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple (2 Kings 11:11).

*Note: Levites stood guard in the Temple against a known threat.

Responding to an Active Killer

To respond to an active killer, we must first know that one is there. Then there are different responses for the Safety Team, the Medical Response Team (if you have one), and non-team persons. Roles change when emergency responders arrive, beginning with law enforcement.

Knowing What's Going on

Rarely - very rarely - are violent church assaults announced ahead of time. However, many times a threat is made, and it's not always sent to the church. Several times, one or a few individuals were killed or wounded, but it can be a general massacre as happened in Sutherland Springs, Texas in 2017.[13] Therefore, it is critical that people in the church have enough confidence in church leadership that if they receive a threat they will share it immediately with a pastor or elder. Then the church leader should pass the knowledge of a threat to the Safety Ministry and the Safety Team could be alerted to the probability of an attack, even if there is no specific day.

Know your city, neighborhood, and people. Be aware of the kinds of violent activity in the local population. This is especially true of mental illness and domestic violence, the two leading causes of church shootings.

Real care for the mentally ill within the church community (its members, attenders, and their families) means getting them the help they need, at least through referral - with follow-up. Watch these people for signs of trouble and be ready to de-escalate problem situations. Sometimes you may have to summon serious help, even from social services or law enforcement.

Be aware of domestic violence and build enough of a trust relationship that the abused person can confide in you. Be alert for the offender who comes in.

Watch for signs that someone is a likely threat. Are there signs of a weapon? Are there behavioral indicators? The shooter at West Freeway Church of Christ caught the attention of the security team and was closely watched.[14]

Watch the parking lot and the campus. Several church shootings begin in the parking lot, a back alley, a side street, or the grounds. Outdoor monitoring may include parking lot attendants. There should be outdoor cameras. Have the Safety Team member in the foyer frequently look out the windows. Is someone trying to sneak up to the church? Is a person dressed for battle approaching with a weapon at the ready? The New Life Church shooter shot several people in the parking lot, killing two, before going into the building.[15] The Antioch church shooter's lone fatality was in the parking lot.[16] The Sutherland Springs shooter first fired at the church from outside. [17]

Lockout and Lockdown

If an active killer is detected outside, the first objective is to keep him out. Lock all outside doors. This is easier done if the only unlocked doors are those attended by a Safety Team member or a trained greeter/usher. Electronic access control makes this easier. One push of a button and all outside doors are locked. This bypasses the risk of one unlocked door.

Locking the doors is not an absolute guarantee that the shooter is kept outside. A heavily armed individual with a high-powered weapon may be able to shoot his way in, especially if he can keep armed safety team members at bay. However, the locked doors and security coating on glass can delay him long enough to evacuate most of the church through exits on the opposite side of the church.

If the attack (whether a firearm or an edged weapon) begins inside, call for a lockdown. All classroom, nursery, childcare, and office doors will be locked, barricaded if possible. Occupants take cover within the room. Silence all phones. Turn off the lights. Be quiet. Stay out of line from windows, especially one on the door. If there are two doors, try to be between them. If the killer breaks in one door, go out the other.

If in a lockdown, stay in the room until the police let you out. They'll do that when they are satisfied that there is no more threat. This avoids confusion. What may happen if you pop into the hall while cops are approaching with guns drawn?

Run, Hide, Fight

There is something the intended victims of an active killer can do: Run, Hide, Fight. The phrase was picked up by the Office of Emergency Management in Houston, Texas. They had a video made dramatizing an active shooter situation in a busy office building. For those in the building, the options were Run or Hide or Fight. Run means escape, evacuate if you can. Hide means get out of sight, preferably behind cover (something to stop or deflect bullets). If you are trapped and have to face the shooter, Fight.

This video is made available by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is required watching in many workplaces, schools, and government offices around the country.[18]

Contain and Engage

When alerted to an active killer, the Safety Team separates into an Engagement Team and a Containment Team. The Containment Team keeps the killer out of certain areas, such as the children's section and the sanctuary (the team can set up an ambush to neutralize the killer coming in). The Engagement Team focuses on neutralizing the killer one way or another.

Drills are key to effectively responding to a mass killer. For one thing, you actively train your senses and responses through action. For another thing, no amount of classroom or online instruction can totally prepare you for "the blood, the gore, the sounds of war." Kris discussed this issue with Carl Chinn in "Stress Inoculation." Carl told of how the sensory input of a battle can overwhelm a person - the noise, the blood, the smells. He said simulating the stimuli in drills will prepare team members to deal with the reality of a mass casualty event.[19]

The Law Is Here

Most mass shooting incidents are over before law enforcement arrives, but sometimes they come to an active scene. Either way, when the police get there, they're in charge.

When police arrive, have someone at the door to meet them and brief them on the current situation. Among things they should know are:

- ◆ Whether the killer is active or neutralized.
- ◆ Where the killer is.
- ◆ Where the Safety Team is.
- ◆ Whether anyone is armed.

Obey the officers' commands. Drop all weapons. Do not make sudden movements. Keep your hands visible. Don't yell or scream. Answer their questions.

Let the police do the investigation. You may make some notes, but don't fill out your incident report until you come off your high.

Conclusion

Are you ready to respond if and when Evil (an active shooter) invades your sanctuary?

There Is More

March has four articles, this one and three others: "The 2012 World Changers Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned from a Church Shooting), "Violation of Sanctity" (Killers Invade Sanctuaries), and "Building the Wall" (Preparing for an Active Killer).

[Article References](#)

STRENGTHEN THE GATE

Harden Church Doors and Windows

Introduction

A high stone wall is only as strong as its gate. The wall of a house is only as strong as its doors and windows. When a would-be intruder tries to break in, the first target is a door or window.

In the News

Sometimes, church doors don't let intruders in. Sometimes they do.

Henderson, Nevada, July 21, 2021 – Between 12:30 and 1:00 am, two suspects tried to break in to a Henderson church through the back door. That attempt failed. At 5:30 they came back with pellet guns and tried to get in by shooting through windows near the front door.[1]

Muskegon, Michigan, October 12, 2013 – Shortly after midnight, a neighbor saw a man trying to pry open the door of a church. The would-be burglar was unsuccessful. When responding police arrived, he fled on foot, but was caught. Besides the pry bar, he had a hammer, a chisel, and a piece of wire.[2]

Chicago, Illinois, October 24, 2014 – Motivated by political opposition, vandals broke into the church of an activist pastor late on a Friday night. Damage included shattering glass, breaking a donation box, and stealing about \$8,000. The rampage was preceded by hate messages and threatening calls.[3]

Queens, New York City, New York, December 5, 2021 – A church treasurer arrived at the church early Sunday morning to find the glass-paneled front doors shattered. Apparently a large rock from the landscaping was used. No larceny was discovered and no hate messages were received, so the motive is unknown.[4]

... And they ...
came near
to break the
door (Genesis
19:9).

For he
hath strengthe
ned the bars of
thy gates ...
(Psalm
147:13).

... who also
laid the beams
thereof,
and set up the
doors thereof,
the
locks thereof,
and the
bars thereof
(Nehemiah 3:3;
see also Neh.
3:6, 13, 14).

Therefore
[Asa] said unto
Judah, "Let us
build these
cities, and
make about
them walls,
and
towers, gates,
and bars, while
the land is yet
before
us ..." (2
Chronicles
14:7).

Walsall, West Midlands County, England, September 1, 2020 – A historic church in the market town of Walsall was the target of an attempted break-in. The would-be burglar couldn't pry the door open or break it in, so a blowtorch was used to try to penetrate the thick, heavy wood. It started the wood burning, but it only smoldered. It was still smoldering the next morning when the church warden arrived. He quickly quenched the burning wood.*[5]

* Burglars in the United Kingdom are increasingly using blowtorches to break in by weakening locks so they will snap off. They also use them on hinges.[6] The use of blowtorches has come to North America.

Featured Resources

The featured resources for March are for responding to active shooters. In addition to preventing burglaries and vandalism, secure doors and windows will stop a lightly-armed assailant and at least slow down a heavily-armed killer, buying time for an effective response and for law enforcement to arrive.

Active Shooter Response

Sheepdog Church Security encourages Church Safety Teams to have all their members trained and certified through the [Safety Member Certification](#) program. The second of the seven training modules (courses) is "Active Shooter Response v4." Three modes of training are available: Team Training (Classroom), Individual Training (Online), and Online Events (Live Zoom Classes for both individuals and groups). The 2022 Spring Semester of Online Events is already halfway through. The Fall Semester starts in October.[7]

Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training

This is an article in the [Church Security Guide](#). "[Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training](#)" is a deep overview of responding to an active shooter, a good preview to the training module.[8]

Active Shooter Situation Checklist

This is a free downloadable resource. It has a brief coverage of active killers in churches. This is followed by a checklist for teachers, activity leaders, and office personnel on what to do in case of an active killer, whether it is evacuation or a lockdown. Click [*HERE*](#) to get it.[9]

Doors and Windows for Access Control

Most burglars, vandals, and active shooters come into churches through doors or windows. The best defense is to close and lock these openings. But this procedure is of little effect if the intruders can easily break the door or window or force it open. Therefore, a secure window or door must be able to resist forced entry. The elements for consideration are the panel itself, the frame/casing, the hinges, and the latches and locks. All this needs to be balanced with its use as an emergency exit.

The Door

We naturally think of a sturdy entry door stopping intruders, and we are right. An exterior door should be able to resist forced-entry. However, in an office building, a school, or a church, so should interior doors. Luan doors (hollow with a thin wood layer on each side) are no better than paper or cardboard as a defense against an armed killer. Many men can punch a hole in one with their fists, so they're no match for a firearm or a machete.

Recommended doors are steel (especially with a wood core), solid wood, and tempered glass.

For wood doors, hardwoods, such as oak, are best. Soft woods, such as cedar or pine, are not as good. Painted wood is nice, but stained and oiled wood is easier to maintain against weathering.

Heavy-gauge steel on both sides makes a very tough door. A wood core gives it more resistance to gunshots and battering. It also holds the hardware more securely.

All-glass and metal-framed glass doors are commonly used for entry to public-access buildings such as churches and stores. They provide visibility and light. Tempered glass is available for entry doors and for windows in opaque doors. They resist both intentional and accidental impacts. An additional security consideration is security glazing, especially if the glass is not highly tempered – and even if it is. This is a coating that keeps the glass from shattering if it is broken. The same treatment is used for vehicle windshields. This means that a vandal, burglar, or assailant cannot get a hole big enough to come through with one blow or shot. This also applies to side windows by the door.

The Window

Just because a window is locked does not mean an intruder can't use it to come in. If the window is where neighbors cannot hear it, a burglar will just break it to get in. If safety glazing is on ground-floor windows, the chance of neighbors hearing glass breaking is increased since it will take several attempts. Even better, is to have break-alert glass. Breaking the glass breaks wires in the glass. This triggers an alarm.

Casings

For both windows and doors, the casing is often the weak point. What good is it to have an unbreakable door if the intruder can kick it in by breaking the casing or tearing it from the wall? Most door and window openings are framed by double studs. Fasten the casings to the wall with screws that go into the second stud.

Hardware

Many times intruders break hinges and strike plates from the door casing. Most often this is because the screws are too short. Use screws that go into or through the stud.

An old trick to unlock a door without a key is to push the latch bolt aside with a plastic card. This is especially true for a self-latching door that opens to the inside, because the slanting part of the bolt faces the outside. But an intruder can use something to pull the latch on an out-swinging door. Have latch-guards on your doors to make them card-proof. Also use deadbolts when the building is unoccupied. They cannot be carded.

Fire codes specify that exit doors in public-access buildings should be openable from the inside without a key. One way to do this is to have door handles that can operate from the inside when the latch is locked. Also, have inside turn knobs on deadbolts. Doors without doorknobs should have panic bars – just push to open.

Online Resources

There are online resources which may help you with access control in general and doors and windows in particular. A few of these are “Securing Houses of Worship Around the World” by ASIS International (pages 2-3),[10] “Access Control: Churches and Religious Facilities” by VIZpin,[11] “Exterior Doors” in Whole Building Design Guide,[12] “6 Simple and Effective Ways To Strengthen Your Doors” on SafeWise,[13] and “Accessible Entrance” from the U.S. Small Business Administration.[14]

Conclusion

We like to feel secure, but that feeling should be based on reality. Doors and windows resistant to forced entry are a necessary step to securing that security.

[Article References](#)

CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS
HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY



WCCI Church Shooting

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Evil Invades Sanctuary

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

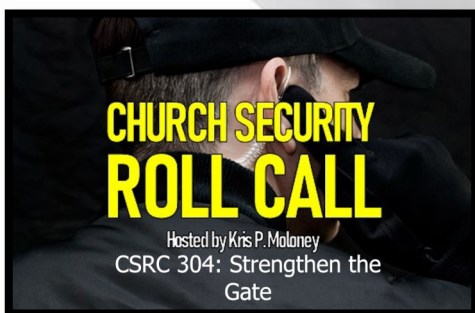
[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Preparing for an Active Killer

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

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Strengthen the Gate

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SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

Umbrella Teams. The What and Why.

BY: TERRY BERRINGER

Set up


During the time that I was employed as the “SPaM” Director overseeing the Security, Parking, and Medical teams, at what was at the time the largest congregation in South Western Pennsylvania, I had about 174 volunteers that reported to me. Other than those scheduled 174, Some great people often told me that they could not guarantee a scheduled time that they would be available to serve but if I ever needed them while they were there that they would gladly help out if needed.

These are the people that I was able to gather together as an Umbrella team. Understanding that there is no way to schedule weather, and that the local weather forecasters were only right 50% of the time, the team consisted of who was available At The Time. If there was no one available from that list of people, I could always head into the High school area and grab a few willing semi responsible older teens and voluntell them they were now on the Umbrella Team. Or I would simply ask, “Who wants something special?” And when they rose their hands, I would put an umbrella in it. And off they would go to serve on the Umbrella Ministry. Interesting aspect of this ploy was that many of the kids did very well and then went on to volunteer in several other ministries. They got “hooked” on serving!

So what is the Umbrella team?

The umbrella team is a simple concept. When it’s raining, have some people stationed at each door that people come in with umbrellas. When a car is parked in the lot, they then go to that car with the umbrella and escort them from their car door to the front door of the church.

Such a simple idea! But surprising how effective to show people that even though the weather is less than ideal, we are glad that you made the effort to come out to gather with us to worship and fellowship together.



The process is simple, the results are evident.

Members of the team told great stories of some of the situation that they incurred.

One of the greatest stories was of a young single lady that was escorted into the church from her car into the church during a severe downpour. She had been running late and forgot her umbrella, she had spent a significant time fixing her hair and being late had to park at the far end of the parking lot. Upon greeting her at her car door, she began to weep when the door was opened for her. While walking under the umbrella towards the entrance, the gentleman asked if there was anything they could do to help her, she said no, that helping her with the umbrella was all she needed. She added that had they not had the umbrella ministry, she was sure she would not have been able to concentrate on the teaching pastor that morning. She said that without the umbrella team's assistance, she would have been concentrating all morning on how she "looked like a drowned rat" and she then said that everything coming from the pulpit that morning would have sounded "like Charlie Browns teacher!".

It was because of a simple task done with a servant heart that this young lady was able to attend the service and be taught by the pastor a possibly life changing message.

What's needed for an Umbrella Ministry?

Well, if I have to tell you what the first thing is needed, I guess there are more pressing issues for you.

But what kind of umbrellas?? The best umbrellas to use are large golf umbrellas. You can even have the name of the church printed on them to lessen the chance of them "walking away". Get Enough to have at least a couple or three at each door used.

Once you have the umbrellas, get your team together or task the youth to take on this unique ministry.

Serve with a smile! We are children of the king! Act like it!



Terry Berringer is the owner/operator of Church Emergency Consulting. He was the founder, developer, trainer and director of the security, parking and medical teams of one of the largest congregations in south-west Pennsylvania for over 20 years.

To learn more, click on the image below:



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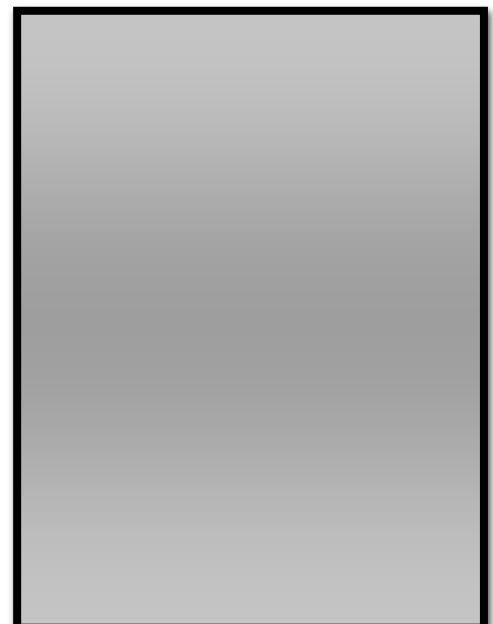
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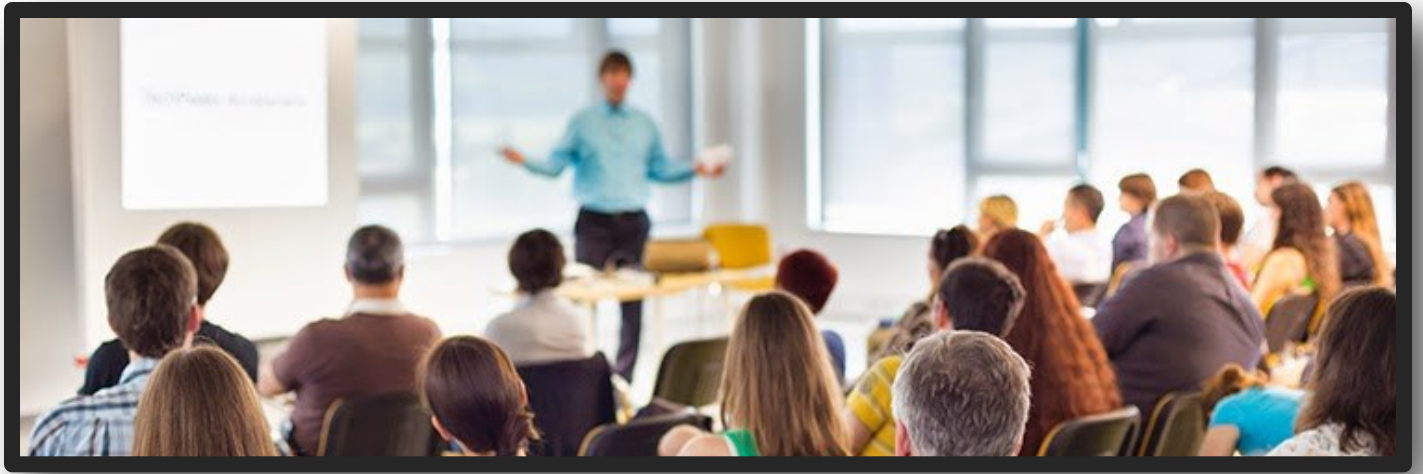
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SHEEPDOG SEMINAR FOR CHURCHES

Jimmy Meeks is a 35-year retired police officer and has been a minister since 1973. Jimmy was pastor of a church in the Ft. Worth area for over 11 years, while also serving as a police officer. Jimmy has a B.A. in Religion from Oklahoma Baptist University and a Certificate of Ministry from Emmaus Road Ministry School.

He has conducted over 350 seminars for churches since 2009, at which over thousands of churches have been represented. It has been said of his presentation, "...there has never been a stronger call to action..."

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Pastors, All church staff personnel, church safety teams, first responders, youth and children's workers.

DATE

Saturday morning, May 14, 2022

TIME

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. noon

LOCATION

Valley Church of Christ - 121 E. College St - Gunter, Texas 75058

COST

FREE ADMISSION - JUST SHOW UP! NO NEED TO PRE-REGISTER!

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SHEEPDOG CORNER



Hi Sheepdog,

Is it just me or have things gotten a little crazy lately?!? Russia invading Ukraine, Will Smith slapping Chris Rock, Gas Prices and Inflation crippling the economy, Riot Season is just around the corner and anecdotal evidence suggests crimes against the Church are Increasing. At times like these, we need to turn to God's Word.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Matthew 24:6

This passage has a Good News, Bad News message. On the one hand, we know who wins and enduring in our faith is the way through this. (I interpret this to mean: Study Frequently, Pray Continuously, Worship Constantly and Love God Eternally.) On the other hand, it sounds like the job of a Sheepdog is going to get a lot harder. We need to do whatever we can to prepare ourselves. One of the things I learned in the Army was I can do a lot more than I originally thought. It's amazing how the mind and body can adapt to difficult situations and harsh conditions (with God's grace and mercy, of course). The question I ask myself and you should be asking, "Are we preparing ourselves now, so we are ready when we are tested?"

There are several threats that I know with certainty are coming.

- ◆ Active Killer events are increasing
- ◆ Felonious Assaults are as rampant as ever
- ◆ A child is being molested in a church
- ◆ A church will be burglarized, burned and vandalized
- ◆ The list goes on and on...

These are known and undeniable facts. There is no excuse for not preparing and/or preventing these threats from effecting our Church. Here is a snippet of a prayer, I say regularly...

Sanctifying Lord, wake up all the Christian Sheepdogs and call them to serve and protect the Church. Guide us to live temperate and self-controlled lives. To honor others above ourselves. Teach us to be representatives of Christ and protectors of the flock, relying on your protection while taking responsibility for our preparedness.

Join Me in praying for the "workers (if you will) of the harvest."

Your Loyal Companion in Christ,

Kris P. Moloney