

January 2023

# THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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## TOP NEWS STORY

**HOUSTON WOMAN ACCUSED OF STEALING MAIL, CHECKS FROM TEXAS CHURCHES ARRESTED, POLICE SAY**

A Houston woman was recently arrested in connection to several reported mail thefts at churches in North Texas, according to police.

The Flower Mound Police Department said Graciela Carolina Munoz-Paz, 30, is accused of stealing numerous checks from area churches.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

# TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

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## Church Safety

Safety has become one of the most paramount concerns for churches across the United States. In truth, churches have been targets for violence and threats as long as they have existed, but the trend is increasing. Couple that with the potential for damage or loss of life due to natural disasters, through fire, or even at the hands of church members themselves, and you begin to see the need to have a Church Safety Team. This is a group of individuals dedicated to safeguarding not just the physical building and grounds, but the individuals that actually make up the church.

A Church Safety Team protects children, at-risk adults, and all other church members from threats, while playing additional roles in church security and safety. Our Church Safety/Security Volunteer Academy bundle includes essential information and training tools to help you develop a robust Church Safety Team, vet individuals, and then train them to ensure your congregation enjoys protection at all times.



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and be Certified  
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# WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

## Equipped for Safety - December 2022

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).*

The mission of Sheepdog Church Security is to equip church sheepdogs with training, knowledge, and advice to help them protect the flock. Weekly articles cover several aspects of this, such as lessons learned from deadly incidents, use-of-force, protecting children from abuse, fire and severe weather safety, verbal de-escalation, and medical emergency response. Sometimes we cover needed equipment and supplies.

### *Weekly Articles*

The four weekly articles in December were

2022 Tulsa Cathedral Stabbing and Arson Attempt (Lesson Learned) – A man with a sword threatened students outside a Catholic school. The students were brought in safely. One man defending them was cut. The lesson learned is what was done right.

Wrestling with Danger (Unarmed Defense and Control) – There are ways to protect yourself and others without resorting to weapons.

2005 Sash, Texas, Assembly of God Shooting (Lesson Learned) – An angry neighbor shot at church members conversing outside, killing two. Then he killed two women in a pickup. He shot himself after a night-long siege by a SWAT team. Lesson learned: Know your neighbors and assess threats.

Gearing Up for Safety (Equipping the Safety Team and the Church) – It's time to inventory the equipment and supplies used to keep the flock safe. Add, replenish, and/or update if needed.

# Weekly Team Briefing Continued

## Action Points

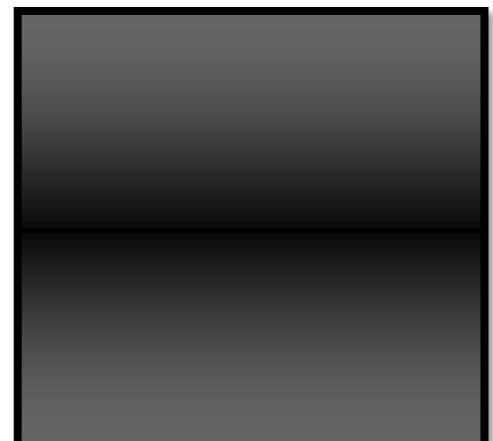
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### For Safety Directors –

- ◆ Be sure all Safety Team members are trained and certified.
- ◆ Inventory equipment and supplies for the church, the Safety Ministry, and Safety Team members.

### For Safety Team Members –

- ◆ Be trained and certified.
- ◆ Learn unarmed self-defense and control moves.
- ◆ Inventory and refresh your own personal safety gear.



# 2005 Sash, Texas, Assembly of God Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

## From the Bible

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him (Genesis 4:8).

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob" (Genesis 27:41).

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, "I will smite David even to the wall with it." And David avoided out of his presence twice. And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul (1 Samuel 18:9-12).

And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13:22).

"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment ..." (Matthew 5:22).

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19).

## Introduction

Hatred is the leading cause of murder, including murders at churches. This is true even when we do not know the roots of that hatred.

Sometimes we can identify racial hatred, as in the [Emanuel AME Church in 2015](#), domestic discord as at [Sutherland Springs in 2017](#), revenge for rejection as at [YWAM Arvada and New Life Church in 2007](#), or hatred of religion in general as at [Wedgewood Baptist in 1999](#). Many times this hatred is fueled by mental illness, as at [Turner Monumental AME Church in 2003](#). In Sash, Texas, a hateful disposition was seen, but the roots are unclear.[2][3][4][5][6]

## Videocast and Lesson Learned Show Notes

This church shooting incident is discussed by Kris in a videocast on the YouTube channel [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) (the audio is in a [Church Security Roll Call](#) podcast). The link to the Church Shooting Lessons Learned Download, a PDF that can be printed and/or attached to a message to share with others, is available until the next Lessons Learned article. It is in the Comments section.[7]

## A Sad Sash Sunday Evening

Sash is an unincorporated community in northern Texas, close to the Oklahoma state line and not too far from Texarkana. In 2005, the population was just over 300. It is centered on Farm-to-Market Road FM100 south of Texas Hwy 409, close to Lake Crockett. About 650 feet from TX409 is Sash Assembly of God. Just south of the church are two houses on either side of the road.

On Sunday, August 28, 2005, several members of the church were outside talking after the evening service, not long before sunset. Among them were James and Diane Armstrong (he was the pastor), Deacon Wes Brown, and Ken and Debbie Wolfe. They were standing in front of the mobile home where the Armstrongs lived.

Their chatter was interrupted by the man who lived across the road. He walked into the parking lot shouting about the church's "persecution." His speech was laced with profanity. The pastor and the deacon asked him to please omit the profanity, since women were present. He continued, so they asked him to leave.

The man did leave, walking back to his house. There he picked up two handguns. Getting into his truck, he drove back to the church, got out and began shooting with a .38, killing the pastor and the deacon. The others scattered as he shot at them. He chased the Wolfes into the trees. Someone called 911.

Back in the truck, the killer drove to TX409, which turned north at the intersection with FM100. A pickup pulling a horse trailer came to the corner and stopped. Two women were returning to their homes from horseback riding. The man pulled up behind and shot at the trailer with his 7mm. The women exited the pickup on the passenger side trying to escape, but he ran to that side and shot them fatally.

## The Troubled Son

The Sash shooter was the youngest of five children. His parents were 32 when he was born in Los Angeles, California. The first sister was 12 years older. His brother, three years older, was the father's namesake, and likely the favored one. Web pages about his parents show them remarrying when the boy was 17, but do not disclose when they were first married or divorced. However, considering the age of the oldest child, this may have actually been a retaking of vows on their 30th anniversary, being mistaken by entertainment media as the wedding itself – the father had become a movie actor in Hollywood. The marriage lasted only 4½ years after that, but the parents are buried together, indicating the separation might not have been hostile.

Little is actually made public about the shooter's life. He had a prosthetic lower right arm. When and how, I don't know. He became an adult during the Vietnam War, and may have served there as did many others his age. Many service members came back missing limbs; however, whether he served did not come up in an online search.

He apparently made a good living rebuilding antique automobile radios. In fact, he had a good reputation for his rebuilds, receiving referrals from customers on car collector websites. He also posted ads to buy radio parts in classifieds for antique autos and auto parts. This activity began before 1995 and continued until the time of the shooting.

The killer lived with his mother in Garland, TX, for some time before she died in 2001. He may have resided in the Los Angeles area before that, since that is where he was born and is where he is buried. In late 2002 or early 2003 he moved to Sash.

In Sash, he had a reputation for being disagreeable. He argued with his next-door neighbor, using obscene language, making threats, and even firing his gun. This neighbor had called police several times and began carrying a handgun while mowing his yard. He believed that if he and his wife had been home at the time of the shooting, they would have been killed. The shooter's disposition was the exact opposite of his father's, who was known for being mild-mannered. We do not know about encounters he may have had with the church before August 28, 2005.

News stories do not relate any disputes he had with the church. Where his property was in relation to the church (his house can be seen from the church parking lot), he may have been able to hear church members talking outside. The way he confronted them on the evening of the shootings indicates that he was offended by whatever he heard. He may have also heard from others what was said inside the church. In any case, it is evident that he had built-up resentment and hatred for Sash Assembly of God. One thing we do not know is what his relationships with other churches was before moving to Sash. What we do know is that in the Sash community he was known for his anger.

## Going on

The killer's father died four months later and is buried next to his wife, whom he divorced 31 years earlier. The killer is buried in his native city of Los Angeles.

As in most other places, life goes on in Sash, Texas. Sash Assembly of God is still active, but it does not have a website or a Facebook page. This is really not odd for a small-to-medium size church in a mostly rural area where almost everyone knows everyone else. The sign in front of the church lists Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening services, and a Wednesday night service. The slain deacon is buried in Sash, the pastor in the next county. The pastor's wife died ten years later. Kenneth Wolfe, a survivor of the shooting, is now the pastor.

There is not a word in news stories about security measures. The street view of the church building does not show cameras, which would be prudent for churches in rural settings, but would not have made a difference in this incident.

In an August 29 news photo of the killer's house, the windows and door facing the road were boarded up with strand board, and a big hole was punched through the board over the door. Since then, the front of the house has been repaired, and in the latest street view it appears to be inhabited. As seen in the street view, the café the killer shot at is about a quarter mile south of the church.

The neighbors who had confrontations with the shooter have since moved elsewhere in Texas.


## Lesson Learned: Know Your Neighbors

First, a disclaimer. The intention of this section is not to put down the church and its pastor. Consider that attacks on churches were not as much a national concern in 2005 as they are now. Here we are using hindsight to inform our foresight.

"Know your neighbors" seems like too simple a lesson for a church. In a large city, it is not strange to know fewer than half of your neighbors. This is mostly because there are many more people than in a rural setting, and they move in and out more frequently. In small and medium sized cities, you may know more of the neighbors. In lightly-populated rural communities, such as Sash, you may know almost everyone, especially those living close to you.

Knowing your neighbors goes beyond knowing who they are. It pays to know about them and to know their character. For a church, this makes sense in evangelism. Ask the question, "How can we minister to him or her to show the love of Christ in word and deed?" Also ask, "Is there any way we can help this person?" Be aware of any indications of hostility and take necessary precautions. Be willing to conduct a threat assessment if there are any concerns that a neighbor may be a threat.





Knowing the church's neighbors means being open to them, ready to listen. Then they can share their concerns. In Sash, what did the church know about their neighbor across the road? Did the other neighbor tell them about the man's threats and anger? If they did know this, then his outburst when he walked over to the church parking lot would have been a warning.

What could have been done when the angry man walked back to his house? Here are suggestions (these can be applied to someone heading back to his vehicle).

1. Watch him when he goes to his house (it can be seen). This is especially important if you know that he has previously brandished a gun when angry, even firing shots into the ground or into the air.
2. If he comes out soon and he is carrying something, get everyone inside the church, lock the doors, and keep watching. Call 911, if you haven't already. If he heads another direction, away from the church, you can relay this info to the 911 operator, but it is important to start the response as soon as possible.
3. If the subject comes back, keep doors locked and get people away from windows. If there is an intercom to the front door, you may be able to talk with him, trying to de-escalate. At the least, this may buy time until law enforcement arrives.

### **Summarize it this way:**

Practice threat assessment. Know the character and temperaments of the church's neighbors. If there is any indication that hostility may lead to violence, exercise due caution.[8]

## **Conclusion**

Knowing the church's neighbors and other persons in the community helps evangelism, recognition of community service opportunities, and security. Sometimes you will need a threat assessment.

## [Article References](#)

# 2022 TULSA CATHEDRAL STABBING AND ARSON ATTEMPT

## Lesson Learned from a Deadly Force Church Attack

### From the Bible

- ◆ Jeremiah laments the fate of those who were slain when Jerusalem fell:

Behold, O Lord, and consider to whom thou hast done this... Shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord? (Lamentations 2:20).

- ◆ Because of enemy threats, Shemiah tells Nehemiah to take refuge in the Temple:

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah ... and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee" (Nehemiah 6:10).

- ◆ Paul told King Agrippa how he was attacked in the Temple:

"For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me" (Acts 26:21).

### Introduction

Not all deadly force attacks at churches are with firearms or explosives. This one was with a sword. Intentional killers who can't get guns will use whatever they can get.

Churches and church-operated schools opening onto city streets are attractive targets for attackers, especially those who want to be in the news. The recent attack on a Catholic cathedral and school in Tulsa is an example of this.

### Videocast and Lessons Learned Download

Kris Moloney discusses this story in a videocast on the YouTube channel [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) - the audio is in a [Church Security Roll Call](#) podcast. Beneath the video screen is a link to the [Church Shooting Lessons Learned Download](#). This is essentially an article summary, a PDF which can be printed (or attached to a message) and shared.

## Off the Street

It was about 4 o'clock on a sunny Wednesday afternoon in Tulsa. Classes had let out at the Holy Family Classical School, which was next to the Holy Family Cathedral, but after-school activities were going on. Several students with teachers and staff were on the cathedral steps taking pictures. The front desk attendant was watching.

A middle-aged man carrying a cooler and a long object walked across the street. He set the cooler down and approached some of the adults as he talked threateningly. The long object was a two-foot sword.

A bell sounded, and the students and staff went into the school and locked the door. The desk attendant came down to calm the man. There was a struggle. The attendant was cut in the hand. He went inside and locked the door, awaiting the police, who had already been called.

The attacker tried to get in, but all doors were locked. He walked into the space between the church and the school, opened the cooler, took out two glass bottles, and put rags in the necks. He lit the rags and threw the bottles at cathedral windows. They burst into flame, but did not go through the windows. Damage was limited to some broken glass. The man then ran to his car and drove away. The entire event was recorded by the church's security cameras.

While police were at the cathedral, a call came in of a bomb threat at a store a few miles southeast, not far from Broken Arrow. About 1½ hours after the stabbing and arson attempt at Holy Family, they found the suspect's car in the store's parking lot. The suspect, who was carrying a Bible, did not obey police orders, so he was Tased and arrested. In his car were the sword and the cooler.

## Aftermath

The Holy Family Cathedral held a mass of thanksgiving for safety and honored the Front Desk Attendant for his role in protecting the children of the school.

The suspect was charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, possession of unregistered incendiary devices (Molotov cocktails), and attempted first degree arson (of an occupied structure). The charges are federal for two reasons: the arson attack on a church (Molotov cocktails are explosive devices), and his membership in a native tribe. Therefore, his trial will be in the U.S. District Court in Tulsa.

## Lesson Learned

In most of these Lesson Learned articles, we acknowledge what was done right, then look for what else should have been done. In this case, we focus on what was done right, because that in itself saved many students and staff from potential injury.

At Holy Family Cathedral, what was done right? Since these things all fit together, we'll list what we see chronologically:

*School fenced.* All around the Holy Family Classical School is a wrought iron fence. Notable is that the fence extends between the front of the school building and the sidewalk. You can see this in the Google Maps street view of the school.

*Surveillance cameras outside, good coverage.* The entire incident was captured by the church's and school's surveillance cameras. They show everything from the man crossing the street to his throwing the firebombs at the church windows. The videos enabled police to accurately identify the bomb-threat suspect at the store as the assailant at the cathedral.

*Watcher on duty.* In many Catholic churches, it's greeters and ushers who fulfill the roles of a safety team. In this case, the greeter was the front desk attendant. While staff and children were on the church steps for taking school pictures, the attendant was watching. He saw the man with a sword crossing the street. He alerted someone to call 911 and activated the signal for everyone to go inside. By engaging the assailant, he gave others time to get inside.

*Called 911.* Whether it was the front desk attendant or a person inside, someone called 911 right away.

*Lockout/lockdown plan.* The school and the cathedral had a plan for lockouts and lockdowns.

*Outside evacuation to inside (O2I) plan.* This is a step that may be overlooked by many. The reality is that churches and schools do have outdoor activities, and in this urban setting, this means they are accessible to (or on) the sidewalk and street. This school has a plan for bringing students inside in the case of an outside threat.

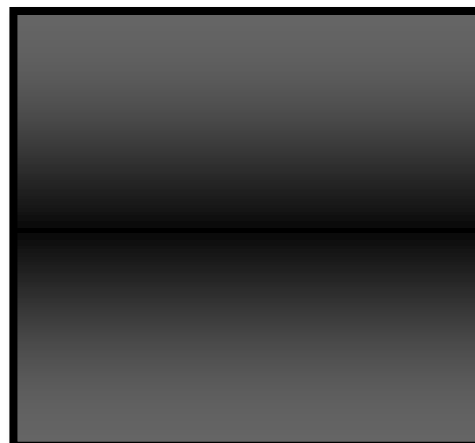
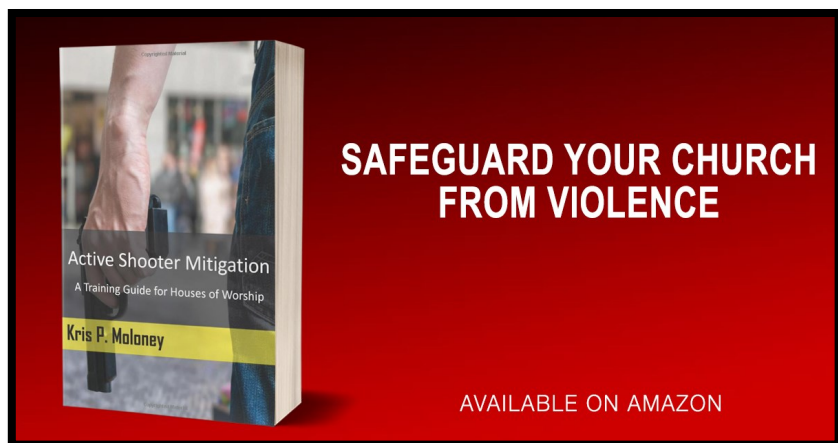
*O2I/lockout/lockdown enacted.* When a threat was identified, the alert was sounded and everyone came inside, locked the outside doors, and went to an inside lockdown.

*Active engagement.* The Front Desk Attendant came out and confronted the attacker, buying time for others to get inside to safety. It is the duty of a Church Safety Team to keep an attacker from advancing if they can. An effective sheepdog keeps the wolf or bear from the sheep.

## Conclusion

Persons ready to do violence can literally come off the street. If and when they do, we must already be ready.

## Article References



# WRESTLING WITH DANGER

## Unarmed Defense and Control

### Introduction

In most disruptive incidents, there is no need or justification for using lethal force. The middle level of the Use-of-Force Continuum is Empty-Handed Control. Learning unarmed moves for self-defense and control gives us the option of stopping disruption without a weapon. Also, when facing deadly force in close quarters, an unarmed move is usually quicker than pulling out a gun, knife, or spray.

### In the News

Not all of these unarmed responses were in church. Defenses against deadly force are more likely to get in the news than lower level encounters, but non-lethal physical violence has been stopped with empty-handed defense-and-control moves. What these news stories do have in common, with one tragic exception, is weapons were not used in the defense.

\* When it worked:

*Daingerfield, Texas, June 22, 1980* - A former school teacher dressed in combat gear, carrying two pistols and a rifle, burst into the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church and shouted, "This is war!" He began firing at people. One usher tackled the shooter, knocking the rifle loose. Two others rushed him, carrying him out through the door, while the shooter fired the .38 with the point of the barrel in one usher's belly, killing him. Released, the attacker fled across the street.[2]

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city

(Genesis 19:16).

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day

(Genesis 32:24).

Antioch, Tennessee, September 24, 2017 - When a masked man firing a handgun came into the church - after killing a member in the parking lot - an usher rushed him, grabbing the hand with the weapon. The shooter went down when wounded by his own gun. When the usher went out to his vehicle to bring in his own weapon, he had already stopped the attacker.[3]

Boston, Massachusetts, October 11, 2022 - A 91-year-old woman was attacked by a knife-wielding assailant while walking her dog in a park. Having been trained in self-defense, she fought the attacker and he ran away.[4]

Perinton, New York, July 21, 2022 - A candidate was attacked on the stage at a campaign event by a man wielding a knife. The candidate, who held a martial arts Black Belt, stopped the attack, holding the assailant's wrist and arm.[5]

\* In this case, tackling the shooter would have been quicker and safer than taking time to pull out a gun:

White Settlement, Texas, December 29, 2019 - A man wearing a wig, a fake mustache & beard, and a long coat stood up during communion in a church service. He approached and spoke to a communion server, and pulled a short shotgun out from his coat. A security team member sitting nearby stood up and reached for his handgun. The man with the shotgun turned and fatally shot him, then shot the server, before being downed by another security team member.[6]

## Videocast and Show Notes

Kris discusses the topic of this article in a [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) videocast on YouTube (The audio is on a [podcast](#)). You can subscribe to the videocast.[7][8]

Below the video, in the comments section is a link to the Weekly Show Notes (article summary). The downloadable Show Notes for this article are available until the next article and videocast are posted a week later. This PDF can be printed and/or attached to a message for sharing with others.

## "Look, Mom - No Weapon!"

There are several competitive sports derived from unarmed combat. The oldest are boxing and wrestling. Competitions in Judo and Karate were popularized in this country after World War II. Now several martial arts have become popular sports. Alongside these competitions, the teaching of martial arts as self-defense skills has grown. A major advantage is that this provides a weaponless self-defense option. One martial art, Krav Maga (an Israeli military skill), is better-known as defense-and-control than as a sport.

## The Safer Option

More churches now are allowing members of their safety teams to be armed. While this means being better able to stop a deadly assault, we must admit that most disruptive incidents do not require that level of force. Deadly weapons are an "only if" option, and care is still needed when using less-than-lethal weapons. We need other means when engaging non-lethal threats. We also need to be able to respond when we don't have a weapon at the moment, such as the usher in Antioch.[3]

The safer option does not mean jumping in with wrestling holds, Judo throws, and Karate chops unless the subject is already acting violently, endangering others. Begin with presence (Force Level 1), then voice (Level 2). Try verbal de-escalation (Level 2) before getting physical (Level 3). Sometimes, hopefully rarely, an uncooperative person may need to be escorted out with a firm grip. Legally, it is safer to call the police if a person refuses to leave as long as they don't endanger others. People physically escorted out may sue for wrongful arrest or excessive force - even if you win, there are legal costs to pay.

## When Push Comes to Shove

When facing deadly force, many people have acted instinctively with no training in how to use body force. It becomes a combination of wrestling, boxing, and football tackles, whatever comes to mind. However, training in self-defense can help us to be more effective in our response. If the violence is on the level of a minor scuffle, we need to know how to control the person(s) with the least necessary injury - in other words, we want to avoid excessive force.

There are a few holds and moves that are most useful, such as armbars, wristlocks, escort holds, and takedowns. We're not trying to teach them in this article. They are learned better through in-person self-defense training. Here, we'll just give brief descriptions of four common moves.

### *Armbars*

In an armbar, an arm is forced behind the subject's back, rotating the elbow, sometimes also the shoulder. This is primarily a control move, but can result in serious injury if misused.

### *Wristlocks*

A wristlock is a hold grasping and rotating the subject's hand. It can be both a defensive move and a control (submission) move. As with the armbar, there is a risk of injury to the subject.



## *Escort Holds*

Also known as the escort position, the escort hold is used on subjects who are not strongly resisting. It usually involves holding a wrist with one hand and the elbow with the other. Since the subject can still walk, it is used to "escort" a non-compliant person off the premises.


## *Takedowns*

A takedown is getting the subject off balance and forcing him to the floor or ground. Position of the feet is the key to a successful takedown, because then you can apply thrust across his stance. Tackling is a common takedown means, using body momentum.

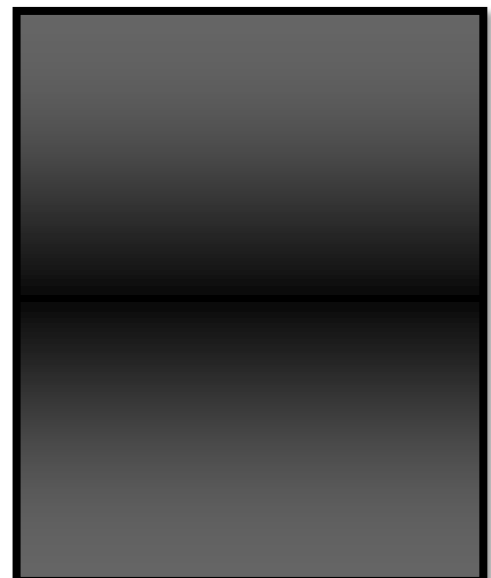
## Conclusion

Weapons, whether lethal or non-lethal, are not always the right option. We need to be able to use unarmed self-defense and control moves for wrestling with disruptors.

## [Article References](#)



The advertisement features a photograph of a police officer in profile, wearing a dark uniform with a "POLICE" patch on the shoulder. In the background, other officers and vehicles are visible on a street. Overlaid on the bottom left is a silver police badge with "THE CORNELIUS PROJECT POLICE" inscribed on it. To the right of the badge, the text reads "SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS" in bold, followed by "PTSD • Mental Health • Spiritual Guidance • Training • Legal Protection" in a smaller font. At the bottom center, there is a yellow button with the text "LEARN MORE".



# GEARING UP FOR SAFETY

## Equipping the Safety Team and the Church

### Introduction: Taking Inventory

At the end of the old year or the beginning of the new, many businesses take inventory. The incentive for this is reporting what they have for inventory tax. However, inventorying serves another purpose. The business knows what they have. From this, they know what they need, what is out-of-date, etc. This applies not only to parts for manufacturing and items waiting to be sold, but also to equipment, tools, and general supplies used by the business. This also informs planning and decision-making.

It is appropriate for churches to inventory their equipment and supplies related to safety and security. From this they can plan to resupply, repair or replace, add, and upgrade.

### In the News

Equipment plays a role in each of these news stories.

#### *Security Cameras and Locks*

Fairfield, California, October 22-24, 2018 - About 1:30 AM a thief entered the church parking lot on a bicycle. He tried to grab one security camera, but couldn't get it. Then he went to others, pulling down three of them. The entire incident was captured on video before the cameras went blank. The gates were unlocked. The pastor said that after this, the gates will be locked.[1]

Morris County, New Jersey, November 26, 2017 - A man was arrested on Sunday for breaking windows at four churches in the City of Morristown and at one in Morris Township on a Saturday night. He was identified from surveillance camera footage and outside lighting at each of the churches.[2]

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:17).

Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war ... (1 Chronicles 12:33).

## *Medical Equipment*

Hilliard, Ohio, undated - The United Methodist Church in Hilliard is offering the use of used medical equipment, such as crutches and a wheelchair, to those who need them.[3]

Blue Springs, Kansas, February 2014 - A retired minister had a heart attack while preaching. A nurse in the congregation attached an AED, which advised her to "push harder." It then advised shock, which she applied. EMTs arrived and took the pastor to the hospital, where he received a pacemaker.[4]

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 27, 2018 - When an active shooter wounded several persons in a synagogue during Sabbath services, killing eleven, volunteers and police saved lives by using tourniquets. Many citizens and emergency responders in the Pittsburgh area had received "Stop the Bleed" training, including how to use tourniquets. That kept the death count from being higher.[5]

## *Weapons*

Chicago, Illinois, March 28, 2018 - The Wednesday evening service in a church was interrupted by a man with a gun who came in announcing it was a robbery. A man sitting in the back pew had a licensed conceal-carry handgun. He pulled it out and challenged the robber. They exchanged fire. The defender had minor wounds, but the robber was taken to the hospital in critical condition.[6]

## *Evacuation Cribs*

Nashville, Tennessee, April 6, 2011 - The Southern Baptist Convention, through the Baptist Press, notified SBC churches and institutions of a revision of safety rules by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The items of concern were cribs used in nurseries in churches and day care facilities. They needed to be made with sturdier materials, and the drop sides needed to be redesigned to prevent injuries to infants and younger toddlers.[7] \* Note: This standard has now been in place for over eleven years.

Columbia, South Carolina, March 28, 2017 - A Child Care Licensing Expert from the South Carolina Program for Infant/Toddler Care answered a question about using evacuation cribs for sleeping infants. The expert said that, according to the Chief of Fire and Life Safety in the South Carolina Department of Social Services, evacuation cribs can be used as regular cribs. This means that a church nursery does not need to keep evacuation cribs separate, but can include them among those being used regularly.[8]

## Videocast and Show Notes

This article is the subject of a [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) videocast on YouTube (the audio is in a [Church Security Roll Call](#) podcast on Sound Cloud). Kris discusses the topic, drawing on his experience in the military, law enforcement, and church security. In all these areas, he knows the importance of having the right equipment, keeping it in good condition, and knowing how to use it.

In the comments section below the video screen is a link to the Show Notes (an article summary). The link is for this article until the next videocast is posted a week later.[9]  
[10]

## Equipped and Trained: A Key Distinction

The war in Ukraine has highlighted an important detail: readiness in equipment and training. Ukrainian armed forces were well equipped and supplied, and there were enough weapons to equip civilians for defense. Both the military and civilians were well trained. On the other side, when Russian troops entered Ukraine, they were not well supplied. Added to this, many of the Russian soldiers sent in were not adequately trained to fight an armed population trained in defensive warfare. The presumed "quick fix" has turned into a costly, drawn-out campaign for the superpower.

The lesson here for a Church Safety Ministry is that the church, its Safety Ministry, and Safety Team members need the right equipment and supplies for keeping the flock safe and secure. Having the right tools is not enough. People need to learn how to properly use them. Then, equipped, supplied, and trained, they will be able to meet the challenges as they come.

## What Do We Need for Safety & Security?

There are some items that are essential for a Church Safety Ministry. The featured Sheepdog Church Security resource is "[Equipped for Success: Recommended Essential Equipment](#)." This is a good start for considering how to equip your church for safety. This 2018 PDF is only two-pages long, and there are now more items considered essential.[11]

Let's begin our list with the church, then move on to the Safety Team and the team members. \* Note: This list is not comprehensive, but representative.

## *Equipping the Church*

Some safety items will be attached to the church building and property, and must be approved by the congregation's governing board. All church safety equipment and fixtures should be inspected regularly - at least annually.

- ◆ Surveillance cameras are now considered essential safety/security equipment. They played a role in two of the above news stories. Beyond identifying criminals, a monitored camera can also warn of danger coming or spot suspicious activity. They can be placed both outside and inside. One inside use is to deter abuse in the childcare area. All cameras should record and be monitored.
- ◆ Entry alarms will notify a monitor (on-site or off-site) of attempts at illegal entry. This will enable the quickest response possible for the time.
- ◆ Well-paced outdoor lights may discourage vandalism and burglary by making the exterior of the church visible to neighbors, passers-by, and patrolling officers.
- ◆ Doors resistant to forced entry, both interior and exterior, are essential to hindering thieves and attackers. Strong windows are also needed.[12]
- ◆ Safety fixtures include sturdy handrails on stairs.
- ◆ Evacuation cribs for nurseries can get several babies out safely.
- ◆ Don't forget items for fire safety: (extinguishers, alarms, sprinklers, exit signs, emergency lights, etc.).

## *Equipping the Safety Team*

The Church Safety Team needs equipment and supplies for both administration and response. The Safety Director and the Safety Committee should have, read, and refer to the book *Defending the Flock* by Kris Moloney.

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### **Administrative Supplies**

Here is a brief list of needed administrative supplies:

- ◆ Applications
- ◆ Background check consent forms
- ◆ Patrol logs
- ◆ Incident reports
- ◆ Injury reports
- ◆ Training Records
- ◆ Printing paper.

### **Response Equipment and Supplies**

- ◆ Communication tools enable control and coordination of Safety Team activities. At the team level, this uses two-way radios. Also vital are weather radios, especially those with S.A.M.E. and local emergency alerts (such as evacuation or shelter-in-place advisories).
- ◆ If there is a medical emergency, it may require certain items for an effective response. This includes First Aid cabinets and bags, AEDs, mobility assists, and mass trauma bags. Some of these items are available through Mountain Man Medical (a Sheepdog Church Security affiliate). Some medical supplies have expiration times and need to be kept up-to-date.[13][14]

## **Equipping the Team Members**

Safety & security items carried by Safety Team members may be either their own property or supplied by the team, depending on that congregation's policies and practices.

## *Items to Wear*

- ◆ The safety belt is referred to in Ephesians 6:14. This is a kind of tool belt to hold the radio and other tools as well as a weapon (if the team member carries one).
- ◆ Unless a team member is to be incognito, it is good to wear a shirt, vest, or jacket that looks like those of other team members. The team member will have a name tag, and/or "Safety Team" or Medical Team" on the garment and visible.
- ◆ Good walking shoes, appropriate inside and outside, are essential for traction and foot health.
- ◆ A "Safety Team" or "Medical Response Team" safety banner identifies the person as a member of the team to responding law-enforcement officers.

## *For Watch and Patrol*

Some items need to be carried at all times for watching and patrolling:

- ◆ Flashlights - Tactical lights are preferred. Use light to illuminate dark places. Of course, you'll need one at night.
- ◆ Two-way radio with headset/earplug. This is checked out at the beginning of a shift and turned in at the end.
- ◆ Pepper spray, if it is legal in that area, is a non-lethal defensive device.
- ◆ Something to take notes with.
- ◆ Camera to record items of concern on patrol. Can use the one on your phone.

## *For Medical Response*

A few items are handy in case of a medical emergency. They enable an immediate response, at least for one person.

- ◆ Medical gloves
- ◆ CPR mask or face shield
- ◆ Tourniquet

These and a few others are in the [Sheepdog Belt IFAK](#) (Individual First Aid Kit) sold by [Mountain Man Medical](#).<sup>[15]</sup>

## *Sheepdog Church Security Store on Amazon*

Several items for church safety and security, including some not named here, are available in the Sheepdog Church Security Store on Amazon.[16]

## Conclusion

Inventory the safety equipment and supplies for your Church Safety Ministry. See that they are up-to-date.

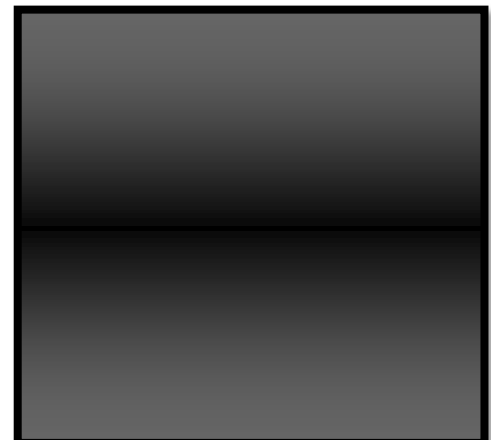
## Article References



DEFENDING THE FLOCK  
A SECURITY GUIDE FOR CHURCH SAFETY DIRECTORS  
FOR MINISTERS

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY MINISTRIES

VISIT THE SDCS ONLINE STORE





# CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

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



2022 Tulsa Cathedral Stabbing and Arson Attempt

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Unarmed Defense and Control

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2005 Assembly of God Church Shooting

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Equipping your Safety Ministry

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

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# SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

## “See Something, Say Something”

BY: ROBERT E. DOWNING, ED.D.

While visiting a local church, I had an interesting experience (from a Safety/Security standpoint). My wife and I attended an organ recital at a church after they had installed a massive new pipe organ.

The organ was centrally placed with a massive lighting system set up around it to highlight it. The overhead lights lit up the entire area around the organ and additional lights (perhaps as many as 40 small lights) were set up underneath the organ to highlight the various pedals used by the organist.

The organist (well accomplished and semi-famous) explained to the audience the history of the new organ and what she would be playing. She then proceeded to play a number of different pieces and would occasionally stop to talk about additional pieces she would play.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your perspective, I quickly became distracted. As the organist would play the organ, I noticed that all the lights in the church would get dim on occasion. Lights dimmed on 12 different occasions throughout the performance.

It occurred to me that there's was likely an electrical short in the wiring system set up for the new organ. And, I mentioned to my wife I need to call this to the attention of someone at the church. Note: she asked me not to raise the concern as it would delay our leaving.

As we were leaving, I saw a gentleman that appeared to be in charge. I pulled him aside and made him aware that all of the lights in the church were dimming at the various times throughout the performance. And, I indicated this might be an electrical issue (safety concern).

He then stated that he noticed that the lights dimmed when the organ was playing. However, he didn't realize there could be a safety issue. He further stated he knew exactly who to tell and that the problem will be corrected. He did not offer to close the loop and tell me when the problem was corrected.

From a Safety and Security standpoint we often tell people that when they "See Something, They Need to Say Something ". As I thought about it, I realize there were several potential security/safety issues.

- ◆ The gentleman saw the light dimming but didn't realize there was a potential safety concern.
- ◆ The piano had been played several times during the several regular Sunday services – and no one in the congregation had noticed the light dimming or they have not reported it.

This also helped me realize that sometimes individuals may become complacent. They sometimes fail to see things when they are in a place where they feel safe or comfortable.

I brought this topic up at a meeting of the Faith-Based Safety and Security Network of Hampton Roads. I thought it would be a good opportunity to discuss this incident and the potential impact on Safety and Security in Houses of Worship.

The attendees in the meeting agreed that people can sometimes be too complacent. Some of the potential ideas raised by the members were:

- ◆ It may be valuable to have a different set of eyes walk through their houses of worship. They realized that they may not "See " the areas of potential concern. Several members volunteered to visit other churches and provide an outside perspective. They offered to provide another set of eyes to look for problems.
- ◆ Additionally, several of the Safety and Security teams realized their team members needed to work at developing "eyes that see".
- ◆ Part of the discussion also focused on maintenance within their facilities. Several members had no idea about the maintenance priorities at their facilities. All of the members realized that the Safety and Security teams should have the opportunity to review the priorities of the maintenance departments and have the authority to change the priorities (if safety and security are impacted).
- ◆ Just as a side note, at the recent Uvalde shootings the outside door to the school and the door to the classroom (where the students and teachers were killed) had broken locks. It is my understanding, that maintenance was not even scheduled to repair the broken locks as the broken locks had not been reported by the school administration.

Lastly, the Safety and Security team members focused on the fact that there was no follow up from his church to let me know if the security issue was resolved. This presented a problem from the team members point of view:

- ◆ If I were one of the church members and I reported a safety concern and did not receive any feedback, would I be likely to report safety concerns in the future? The team members took the position that a failure to respond back to an individual, that had raised a safety concern, was highly likely to discourage any future reporting.
- ◆ A positive take away was that several of the team members in attendance decided that they would review their procedures for documenting and responding back to individuals that raised safety concerns.

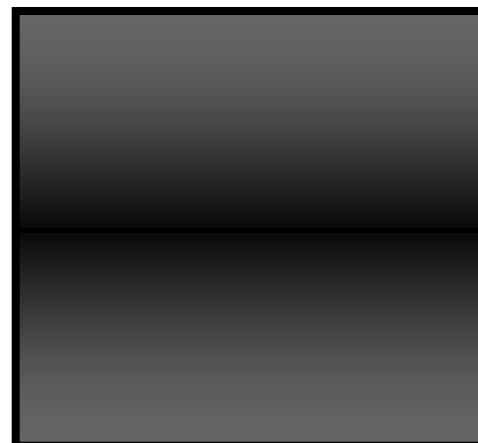
Usually when discussing safety and security issues we tend to focus on major events (disruption of the church, vandalism, theft, shootings, etc.). However, sometimes, even a relatively simple safety issue can provide us with an opportunity to learn and review our safety practices.



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FREEDOM  
MATTERS**

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# ONSITE INSTRUCTORS

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**JOSHUA COLEMAN**

**Location:** Cabot, Arkansas 72023

**Email:** [shepherdingsheepdogs@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdingsheepdogs@gmail.com)

**Phone:** [\(971\) 409-2425](tel:(971)409-2425)



**MICHAEL MERCER**

**Location:** South Windham, Maine 04082

**Website:** <https://michaelmercerconsulting.com>

**Email:** [michael@michaelmercerconsulting.com](mailto:michael@michaelmercerconsulting.com)

**Phone:** [\(207\) 699-8840](tel:(207)699-8840)



**BRIAN STOLT**

**Location:** Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

**Website:** <https://stolttacticaldefense.com/>

**Email:** [brian@stolttacticaldefense.com](mailto:brian@stolttacticaldefense.com)

**Phone:** [\(952\) 292-8758](tel:(952)292-8758)



**MICHAEL & DESERÉE KENNEY**

**Location:** Upper Deerfield Twp. New Jersey 08302

**Website:** <https://www.kenneyprotectiveagency.com/>

**Email:** [info@KenneyProtectiveAgency.com](mailto:info@KenneyProtectiveAgency.com)

**Phone:** [856-283-8481](tel:856-283-8481)



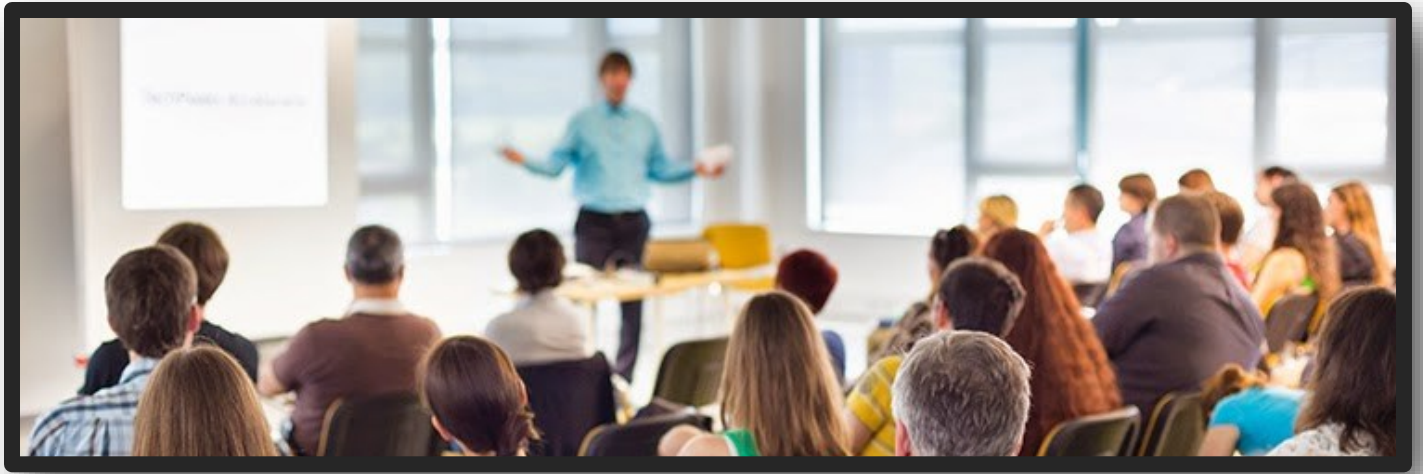
**JEFFREY TOEPPE**

**Location:** Racine, Wisconsin 53402

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

**Email:** [jeff@personal-defense-training.com](mailto:jeff@personal-defense-training.com)

**Phone:** [262-994-0242](tel:262-994-0242)



# SHEEPDOG SEMINAR FOR CHURCHES

Moses Lake, Washington Church  
Safety Seminar

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023. 9:00 A.M. -  
3:30 P.M.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Church Safety  
Team, Police Officers, all First  
Responders - any citizen concerned about  
unlawful violence. LEARN HOW TO  
PROTECT YOUR FLOCK!

COST: \$40.00 - LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN  
PRICE

Questions: Call 817.437.9693.

Church-related sex crimes are a  
problem...

We are begging you - PLEADING WITH  
YOU - to send your Youth Director and  
Children's Workers to this seminar.

We will show you what is happening - and  
what you MUST do to decrease the  
chances of a sex crime occurring at your  
church or church-related event. Please  
share this with every youth and children's  
worker you know!

FOR THE CHILDREN!!!

LOCATION OF EVENT

MOSES LAKE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

200 YONEZAWA BLVD.

MOSES LAKE, WASHINGTON 98837

**COSTS** - \$40.00 PER PERSON (LUNCH  
IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN](#)**

# SHEEPDOG CORNER



*Hi Sheepdog,*

Many of you have heard about the church security guard that was killed just this last Friday. (If not: <https://www.krqe.com/news/crime/church-security-guard-killed-while-on-the-job-suspect-in-custody/>)

Some of you asked about approaching suspicious vehicles. Here is my response for now... When in doubt, Call the Police about Suspicious Persons (SP) and Vehicles (SV). (Especially during off hours and late at night/dark.) Call for Backup. Never approach a SP or SV without someone in an overwatch/cover position. (Contact/Cover Procedure Applies) If you don't have backup, Call the Police. Approach SV from the side, avoiding the front and back of the vehicle. (ie. possible path of the vehicle should they attempt to leave or try to run you over.) As much as possible, approach in their line of sight. Don't sneak up on them. (If you feel like the situation calls for you to 'sneak up' on them then it is a 'Call the Police' situation. Smile, wave, and watch their demeanor (facial expression, movements, trying to look casual, etc.) If they show strong emotions (anger, fear, despair, nervousness, etc), Fall Back and Call the Police. If they move around a lot (possibly going for a weapon, hiding something, etc.), Fall Back and Call the Police. Greet them kindly. Ask them if you can help them. Use Verbal De-escalation skills to maintain control. Respond to any force used against you.

Here are four possible situations (You may be able to think of more.)

They are NOT up to no-good. Maybe stopping to meet someone, using the Wi-Fi, using their smartphone, getting directions, etc. Good public relations opportunity. Go about your day. They are up to no-good but the threat is minimal. Your contact may be enough to delay or deter their plan. They are in Crisis. Medium Threat. Use verbal de-escalation to keep the subject from becoming violent. Fall Back and Call the Police if you are unable to de-escalate or the subject escalates. High Threat. Respond to any immediate attack as necessary. Fall Back, if possible. Seek cover, in the church if possible. Go into Lockout. Call the Police.

We will expand on this in a future Article and [Church Security Roll Call](#) video.

***Your Loyal Companion in Christ,***

***Kris P. Moloney***