

CHURCH SAFETY RESOURCE GUIDE

What do we do?

How do we get started?

*Presented by
Jimmy Meeks*

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CRIME IN CHURCH

Since 1999, there have been at least 613 Deadly Force Incidents on church and faith-based properties in the United States, resulting in 412 deaths.



It is estimated that 10 sex crimes against children are committed daily in church related situations. These crimes are not restricted to any particular denomination. They are occurring in Protestant and Catholic settings. Many churches are barraged with lawsuits as a result.

The Time for a Church Safety Plan is NOW!

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EVIL TRIUMPHS WHEN GOOD MEN DO NOTHING

Greetings.

My name is Jimmy Meeks. I have been a police officer since 1980 and a minister of the gospel since 1973. I am a husband and father of five daughters and one son. I have a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law. I am also the proud grandfather of one granddaughter. I dedicate this project to these precious family members of mine. They have endured countless hours of my researching, studying, travelling, as well as the constant storytelling of the heroes of Daingerfield, Texas for the past 3 years.

My wife and I were married in the First Baptist Church of Daingerfield, Texas. Many of you may recall the violent scene that took place there over 30 years ago - June 22, 1980. Alvin Lee King entered the sanctuary at 11:20 a.m. and after shouting "*This is War!*" began to fire upon the more than 350 worshipers; he killed 5 and injured 10. My wife's great-grandmother came home from church that day with blood on her dress.

Since March of 1999, over 400 people have lost their lives in over 600 deadly force incidents on church property or church-related property (these incidents include homicide, suicide, unsolved suspicious and aggressors killed in action). In addition to that, over 130 people have been found dead on church property.

And neither of those numbers comes close to the number of children that have been sexually abused while at church functions, or other locations, by a church member.

Church violence has been around a long time. It began with the murder of Stephen in Acts 7. It is estimated that over 75 million people have been murdered for the cause of Jesus. The most violent century in the history of the Christian faith was between 1900 and 1999. As a matter of fact, *more people were killed in faith-related scenarios in the 1900s than the previous 19 centuries combined* (45 million!).

Every year, *200 million Christians* suffer some form of persecution around the world. Persecution is rarely reported in the media and therefore most of the Western Church has no idea of the suffering of this part of our body. But there are those faithful who do report what is happening to the body of believers around the world: *Voice of the*

Martyrs and International Christian Concern. Please visit their websites at www.persecuted.com and www.persecuted.org.

In this booklet, we will not deal with persecution of Christians. Violence at houses of worship in the United States are very rarely persecution related.

They are simply the crimes that occur on the street – that have now made their way into houses of worship. Careful research of these incidents of violence will confirm this. Thus, we are not telling you how to avoid suffering for the Cause of Christ: we are trying to help you not become a victim of a crime.

Taking a stand against violence has become a passion of mine since the early part of 2009. I have always stood against it, but for the last 3 plus years ***a fire has burned in my heart that will not go out.***

What I want to do in this booklet is elaborate on part 2 of our presentation: ***What Do We Do? - How Do We Get Started?*** The purpose in this writing is to help you get started. It is not a full treatment of violence at houses of worship, but it will assist you in getting started (which is the biggest challenge for churches who come to recognize the problem of violence at houses of worship).

I want to help you get ***started***. I am a firm believer in “trimming the fat.” By that I mean that I am not going to ramble on and on. I am going to put before you what you need to do, and you will need to take it from there.

Let me hasten to remind you of something. No matter what safety practices you come to believe in, ***if you fail to implement them, they are useless.*** It’s kind of like hearing a good sermon. It may be one of the best you’ve ever heard, however, if you do not *practice* what you heard, the sermon eventually falls by the wayside (along with all of the other unpracticed sermons).

Jesus said the wise man is the one who builds his house on the rock. When the storms come, the house stands because it is built upon a rock. Jesus went on to say that the one who hears His words - and *does* them - is the true wise man. Note the word “does.” It is not enough to “hear” - you must “DO.”

At the conclusion of this booklet, I will share a list of trusted resources available to assist you in church safety matters. They will consist of organizations operated by godly men and women *who understand the necessity of church safety*. You will find products they have created, or

works they have written, that can further assist you as you seek to protect the saints when they gather.

PLEASE NOTE: There are laws in our states that govern security practices. You need to consult with an attorney concerning safety procedures at your church. You do not want to overstep your boundaries and violate the law. Please consult an attorney as you initiate this process.

KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. The Washington Post recognized Carl Chinn's website as the most reliable source for learning about violence that occurs on church-related property. You need to go there often: some understanding of the kind of violence happening on church-related property. You will also be stunned.

In this booklet I use two phrases that describe the individuals in your church that are concerned with church safety and are willing to help. I call them the "Safety Team" or the "Eyes and Ears Team."

I intentionally avoid the word "security." There are laws that come into play if you use the word "security." Once again, check with an attorney or call the authorities in your state. You could also call the police and ask them for the appropriate answer.

I encourage you to stay in touch with our ministry as we seek to take a stand against church violence. You are invited to visit our websites: www.safeatchurch.org and www.copandcross.org.

Do not hesitate to call should you need any help. Our ministry would be more than willing to help. You may email me at copandcross@copandcross.com or call 817.437.9693.

Please contact us if you wish to host a church safety seminar at your church or in your area. To date, we have educated over 1,000 leaders on the need for a church safety plan. We also teach women's safety, and have shared our program with over 3000 women. We'd love to share it with the ladies at your church.

I also want to express my deepest appreciation to Sondra Hicks of ***HeartStone Pictures***. (www.heartstonepictures.com) Sondra is very concerned and burdened about the amount of violence that occurs on church-related property. It was her idea to produce this video and booklet so that churches might learn how to take a stand against the violence. Through the production of *the movie Faith Under Fire* she

got to know with many of the victims of the Daingerfield tragedy, and she learned how the pain associated with violence is long lasting.

It has been said that there are 3 kinds of people in the world. The first is the sheep. Sheep are shy, bashful, and nonassertive. They have no desire to fight and prefer peace above everything. The second type is the wolf. We all know what the wolf can do. He devours, destroys, and even kills the sheep.

Fortunately, there is a third kind of person that exist in this world: the *sheepdog*. He, like the sheep, covets peace: *But the difference lies in the fact that the sheepdog understands that peace sometimes comes at a high price*. He has no burning desire to fight – but he will - should the occasion arise. When duty calls, he responds.

This booklet is for the sheepdogs...

HOW TO GET YOUR TEAM GOING



CHOOSE THE RIGHT LEADER

This is obviously very important. The wrong leader could be disastrous for the whole project. You are looking for the right man (or woman) who understands the need for this type of service to be in the church. He must be a...

- Believer in the necessity of church safety practices...
- Knowledgeable in what's going on around the country in terms of church-related violence...
- Must have a passion for protecting people...

There are, of course, other attributes to look for, but these will certainly be up front. This is discussed in **ASSEMBLING YOUR TEAM**.

Deciding who will lead your team is a decision that probably needs to be made by the church staff. You will know who this person is. It will be someone who has already shown a concern for the well being of the flock.

It will do you little good if you do not support this person whom you choose to lead. You must not see his ministry any less important than any other ministry in the church. As a matter of fact, it is his ministry that enables your church to function in a safe manner, protecting everyone as they gather.

Support your leader. A budget for finances should also be considered for the safety ministry. They will need a few items to make this work (radios, etc.). If you ignore the valid requests, you may later regret it. I could tell you a few stores at this point, but I won't.

THE LEADER BEGINS TO ASSEMBLE HIS TEAM

With the leader chosen, he will now begin to assemble his team. Do not be in a hurry. Proverbs 19:2 warns that those who act hurriedly will err.

Take your time as you search out the men and women who have a passion to protect people.

More than likely you will already know who you want on the team. They, like you, will have already demonstrated the traits necessary to be part of the church safety team.

Once you have received permission from the church staff to assemble a safety team, then *do so*. Do not let anyone know what you are doing. Do not make it a public matter.

Do not put in the church bulletin that you are doing so. This matter, at least for now, needs to be done in a stealth-like mode. The congregation will learn soon enough that the church has formed a safety team.

The leader will then choose his team. I strongly encourage you to NOT accept volunteers. Use the "Jesus-Approach" – choose your helpers. Jesus did not accept volunteers. He chose His followers (see John 16). This is the approach you want to take, keeping in mind the following two themes –

- The leader takes his time as he chooses his team
- The leader wants attributes in his team that he has in himself

It is of utmost importance that you enlist the help of those who love the flock passionately, *even to the point that they would lay down their lives for them*. That may seem a bit dramatic, but there was a day in the history of Christendom that such a trait was common amongst the saints.

Look for your Priscillas and Aquilas (see Romans 16). They are the ones who love the flock enough to risk their own lives.

There are certain qualities you look for in your team members. Of course, you know this already, but perhaps a refresher of what you are looking for will help.

I personally would recommend that your team members meet the following 4 criteria:

- No new converts. Try not to put any new believers on the team. You don't want the initial stages of their Christian pilgrimage to be about church safety. Let them be grounded in other matters of the church before you invite them into matters of danger at church.
- Is he/she a good greeter? This is important. Now, your greeting team (ushers) may not be the same as your safety team, however, both teams need to have the qualities of being individuals who can welcome others to the house of worship. The safety team need not be known as those who stand aloof from others, always looking for the suspicious and criminal. You want to learn to do both but in a very natural way.
- Does he/she have a servant's heart? This is so vitally important. Many a good cause has fallen to the ground because of members who were first and foremost committed to their own agenda.
- You do not want a member on your team that always complains of his assignment.
- Is he/she physically fit? This is a given. If something troublesome happens that will require strenuous effort on the part of your team you don't want to have to depend on someone who is not physically prepared to deal with it.

There are many other traits you want in your team members but make sure these 4 are in place. You really won't have that much difficulty deciding who to put on the team. Their character and manner of life will be evident. You just know who fits and who doesn't.

A word of caution: Try to avoid police "wannabes." There are those who simply will not understand the place of church safety and will constantly be tempted to overstep their boundaries. Such is the case with wanna-be police officers. Being on a safety team will fill some kind of void they have been desperately trying to fill. The people on your team need to be mature.

Above all, your team members love the flock – even to the point that they would lay down their lives for them.

After you choose your first member, invite him or her to assist you in choosing the others. Solomon said there is safety in the multitude of counselors.

And remember to *take your time* as you engage in this task.

In summary, let me say this about your safety team members. You are looking for your "Red" McDaniel and Ken Truitt. These are two of the men who, on June 22, 1980, at First Baptist Church in Daingerfield, Texas, took on gunman Alvin Lee King when he entered the sanctuary. King was armed with 4 weapons and over 350 rounds of ammo. His intent was to fill the sanctuary with blood. McDaniel and Truitt (as well as Jack Dean and Chris Hall) stopped him.

McDaniel and Truitt were shot to death.

TRAINING

There is simply no way your team will function effectively unless you occasionally practice. I recently heard someone say, "People don't rise to the occasion; they sink to the level of their training." This is very true. And this principle is also true when it comes to church safety.

A few times a year your team needs to get together and discuss and practice how you intend to respond in different scenarios. ***Don't count on the proper knowledge coming to you in a moment of crisis***; prepare for how you should respond. Of course, God is faithful and merciful and he often helps us out of a bind. And I'm sure he will do so again. But anyone who has dealt with people at their worst will tell you that training is essential.

I'm reminded of the Navy Seals that went after bin-Laden. If I understand correctly, they trained for over 6 months - and then went and got him. They did not get a call on Tuesday telling them his whereabouts and then go after him Wednesday. No. They trained until they were ready. And though difficulty struck their journey they didn't miss a step.

I know that most people are hard-pressed for time and taking a few Saturdays every year to do this could be burdensome. In view of that I would encourage you to make the best of the time that you do have. For instance, when you meet on Sunday morning, and before you head off to your assignments, practice a certain scenario that has been on your mind recently.

Or you could do as other churches have done. Bring a group of believers together and practice disaster response. I have heard of many churches doing this. And it's a lot of fun.

Please contact Security Consultant Paul Lake at www.sentryoneconsulting.com to ascertain more information about this.

DISCUSS THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF CHURCH SAFETY WITH YOUR TEAM

There is a spiritual side to this. And because this is so, you want to be men and women of prayer. Scripture records times when God revealed the intent of his enemies to his people (see Elisha's life).

The safety team at your church is a ministry. And the members of the team need to know that. It is not a playful matter. It is just as important as any other ministry in the church. On Sunday mornings, before heading out to your assignments, spend some time in prayer. That particular Sunday may very well be "The Sunday" that disaster is aimed at your house of worship. Your time in prayer may result in sensing impending trouble that you can prepare for or stopping it altogether.

MEET WITH POLICE OFFICERS WHO ATTEND YOUR CHURCH.

This is a **must**. You can ask them for advice. Furthermore, you could also ask them if they are carrying a gun and what intentions they have in the event of a gunman entering the church.

You might also consider making the officer the head of your team (if they are willing). Police officers are trained to look for trouble and to stop it when it occurs.

You might also consider hiring off-duty police officers. This would, to a great extent, decrease the chances of harm to the saints. A uniformed officer is a deterrent to a would-be killer.

On April 22, 2012, in Aurora, Colorado, following an argument with friends a few blocks away, 29-year-old Kiarron Parker raced his car across the parking lot of the New Destiny Christian Center just as Sunday services had ended. His car rammed another and came to a stop. As the pastor's mother (67-year-old Josephine Echols) and others came to Parker's aid, he pulled a gun and started shooting. Echols was hit 5 times and died. As people ran back into the church, Parker followed, but was killed as he entered the foyer by church member and off-duty police officer Antonio Milow.

If you do hire off-duty police be specific with them as to what you where you want them stationed and what you want them to do.

I would suggest that you have them roam about, seen by as many people as possible. If you have a large church, you certainly need to consider hiring police officers. In most places you'll probably be looking at about 100 dollars a week (per officer).

Your people are worth it.

ON SUNDAY MORNINGS DO THESE TWO THINGS FIRST.

Sweep and Shake. By this I mean that someone (or more than one, depending on the size of your church) needs to check the building (all buildings associated with your church) before the people arrive. This is the "sweep."

Someone from your eyes and ears team will go around the entire building and check every door that leads to the outside. This is to ensure that the door(s) was locked before your arrival. It also ensures that no one is inside.

There have been occasions when homeless people wandered inside the building (or have been there for days). If you find an open door that could very well be the case.

If you suspect someone is inside, it would behoove you to **phone the police** and let them check the building. If you do not solicit the help of law-enforcement be sure someone is with you when you check the inside.

So, on Sunday mornings someone from the team will “Sweep” around the church and “Shake” every door that leads to the outside. Don’t forget this. If a class later discovers a stranger who had made his way in through an open door, it could be bad.

PROTECTING SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS.

There are two words I want you to remember when it comes to protecting your members during the Sunday School hour: *Station* and *Speak*.

With an emphasis on the children’s classes you will want to station someone nearby. This needs to be someone that can arrive *before any children get there*, stay there during Sunday School, and not leave until the last child has been tended to.

Visitors, some of whom may have evil intent, need to see the attention you are giving to the children’s area. It is also appealing to visitors who have children and are looking for a good church for their family.

Secondly, this safety team member needs to SPEAK with anyone wandering about in the kids’ area that he does not recognize. *There is no reason a stranger needs to be in the vicinity of the children’s classes.* None. If you do not know who this person is, and it’s obvious they have no child to drop off, you will need to lovingly confront them.

Simply ask them if you can be of assistance. If they tell you that they are just “checking things out,” offer them a guided tour. If they refuse, you will need to inform them that you are required to stay with them until they leave.

They may find this offensive. But do not give in – stand your ground! If they are offended by your insistence, that is an indicator that you certainly ***need to stay*** with them.

In a kind manner simply tell them that you are assigned to the children’s area and that your presence is a safety factor. A good and decent person (visitor) will appreciate you.

If they leave in a huff, so be it. You may well have thwarted the enemy’s plot.

DETACHED BUILDINGS

Detached buildings are gymnasiums, portable buildings, or any other building that is not connected to the main sanctuary. Unfortunately, safety team members often ignore these.

Before any members arrive (or as close to that as possible) a safety team member needs to conduct a sweep around the buildings and check each door. Once again you make sure that no unlocked/opened doors were entered overnight.

If any of these detached buildings are used during the Sunday School hour, then someone needs to stay there during that time and not leave until the last person is gone. Once the last person is gone, thoroughly check the building as well as all doors.

Once you make sure everything is locked, then assume your next assignment.

PARKING LOT

Over 100 dead bodies have been found on church property since 1999 and that does not include the 400 plus people that have been murdered while on church property and faith based property during the same time period.

Of the 100 plus deceased persons found on church property, for many of them, it is not certain where they were killed. Some were killed off church property and left on church property.

This is the reason your safety team must conduct a "safety stroll" when they arrive at church on Sunday morning (or for that matter, a stroll anytime before a congregational meeting).

After your team meets, you need to check the parking lot. Look for anything **out of the ordinary**.

I read of a story of a woman who found debris in a church parking lot and disposed of it. It turned out to be a bomb and after hurling it in the dumpster it soon exploded. So check the area of your dumpsters and the entire parking lot. If you think you might have a bomb (even the slightest suspicion) don't touch it. Call 911 immediately.

Take note of any cars that you do not recognize. If you arrived early and there was a car(s) parked in the lot, find out who it belongs to.

Be very careful as you approach any unknown car. A man committed suicide in his car in a church parking lot and used deadly chemicals to do so (oddly enough, he posted a sign on his car stating that he had used such chemicals). In Garland, Texas a woman was found dead in a vehicle parked on a church parking lot.

Check the landscape immediately adjacent to your church building. Check the bushes, hedges, and all other landscape. Look for anything out of the ordinary. While doing this, also check your air-conditioner unit. Make sure it has not been tampered with.

Someone from the eyes and ears team will need to be assigned to parking lot patrol while the services are going on. It will be tempting to ignore this crucial part – but don't. Obviously if it's hot outside it will be difficult to stay there. If that's the case, bring water with you. *However, the parking lot needs to be under surveillance.*

The number of people assigned to the parking lot depends on the size. If you can do it with only one person, so be it. Make sure this person(s) has a radio and a mobile phone.

Furthermore, this team member needs to wander about and have NO hesitancy in calling the police if he sees anything that alarms him. ***This is very important.***

If you see a stranger in the parking lot and it is obvious he's not coming to the services, take special note of him. If he stays in the lot, ***call the police and let them check him out.***

DO NOT ASSUME THAT IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. Assuming can get you killed.

Let the police respond and they can figure it out. What you see him doing may seem perfectly innocent and harmless. But that is not something that you KNOW FOR SURE. He may simply be eating a sandwich and drinking a pop - his Last Supper so to speak - before he comes in and kills some of your people.

These are all very simple things to do. They even seem a bit mundane. But do not be fooled by such thinking. Remember that you are taking care of the flock and this is part of your assignment.

The monitoring of your church parking lot may well stop an intruder.

A WORD ABOUT RADIOS: My trusted friend, Paul Lake, says this about radios:

"Typically the best frequency range for a church campus is UHF because it has better penetration through structures. 2 watts is typically adequate unless you have a very large campus with lots of buildings. I would get a radio with at least (8) channels (most actually come with 16) and have at least 8 frequencies programmed in. Plan on using one channel as primary for the Safety Team and one as a backup. Then let the staff and any other special groups use one of the other channels. You will find that as your team (and your church) grows these radios will find lots of helpful uses in just daily operations and special events.

You can get this type of the radio off the Internet usually for less than \$200 each. However, if you have a local company that can get what you need in the same price range it's often good to have a relationship with someone close who can help problem solve if needed. I also recommend you go ahead and get the two wire surveillance mikes for each headset. This will allow your team to communicate in crowded environments without disturbing others."

THE FOYER

If an intruder gets into the foyer, there will certainly be trouble. Your eyes and ears team has to be in place, watching and listening for anything that is deemed suspicious.

Here are some suggestions for your eyes and ears team stationed in the foyer:

- Station them by entry doors
- Be as **observant** as possible
- Take note of **suspicious** people (Persons carrying large bags, backpacks, etc.)
- Physical Appearance (Are they dressed appropriately for the weather? Wearing a coat in summertime? Trench coat & sunglasses? Hair, facial expression? Hands in pockets?)
- Watch for two or more people grouped together, appearing not to be engaged in the church service, but looking at the surroundings. **They may be "casing" your church.**

I would suggest that no one enters the church without the assistance of an Eyes and Ears team Member. That doesn't mean they can't get in, it just means that **a member of your team welcomes everyone who enters**. By doing this, your team is sharpening their skills as well as watching for the suspicious.

I would also consider a lock that makes ENTRY impossible without assistance from an Eyes and Ears team member (or greeter/usher). Of course, you would not engage this lock until after about 10 minutes into the morning worship service. A lock can be installed that can make this happen. The lock would make it where no one can get in, though the lock would have to make exiting easy (the fire code would demand such).

This means that someone, an Eyes and Ears team member or usher, is standing by the door, observing all who enter.

Also remember to assign a member of your team at each entry door.

The eyes and ears team members assigned to the foyer need to stay there until church is over and the last person is gone.

THE SANCTUARY

The facts are in: tragedies occur in church sanctuaries. There are several actions your team members can take that might help thwart evil intent.

- Seat members of your team strategically, where you can view a designated section of the sanctuary.

The members of your team that agree to do this may be the ones who cannot assume other duties, but are willing to help with safety matters in the sanctuary - and are willing to seat themselves in the same place each Sunday. Work with them and decide where they can sit so that they can assume responsibility for a designated section.

- Make sure a member of your team is seated near each door that leads into the sanctuary. They need to take note of all who enter - especially after the service has begun. **Latecomers have been known to be the ones who have brought great harm.**
- In the sanctuary, it will soon become obvious who will cause trouble. They will be loud, or fidgety, nervous, and talkative. These are the
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- actions of those who disrupt the service. ***Your team members are going to need to be trained as to how such individuals will be confronted.***
- If someone is disruptive, and needs to be confronted, ***great care must be used in dealing with them.*** First and foremost, your team member (or usher) will need to use just the right tone of voice. Angry words stir up anger, Proverbs 15:1 states. And this is certainly true in the matter at hand. You don't want a team member who makes matters worse! When you confront a disruptive person, speak softly. This will convey to him that you are concerned about him. You may need to ask him to meet you in the foyer. Remember, as you do so, ***you must show great compassion and concern.*** He must know that you *care* about him. Once you're in the foyer, ***quietly and compassionately*** ask him what is wrong. Be sure you tell him why you asked him out to the foyer. Let him know that you were concerned about him. You might even consider asking him to go with you to another room where you can sip on some coffee and talk for a while. Who knows, you may convert him to the faith!
- If you cannot settle the issue, you may have to ask him to leave. As you do this, make sure there is another person with you. Pay attention to his hands. Once again, this is an issue that must be dealt with in a training session.

Here are more suggestions:

- Out in the foyer, explain quickly and quietly what the rules are and how he is breaking them
- If you need to, ask them to leave.
- If they ask "why," do NOT say, "*Because I said so...*"
- Softly tell them if they do not leave, the police will be called.
- Never hurl accusations, such as "You're smelly...you're trespassing." This will incite hostility.
- Never touch anyone unless you're ready to respond to his or her action. Make sure there are 2 of you if this situation arises. Touch is a last resort.

CHURCH BUILDING WHEN UNOCCUPIED

In Texas a police officer that is certified to do so may conduct what is called a *Security Survey*. This is when the officer thoroughly checks your building, lists what changes need to be made, and then submits the report to you. If you make the suggested changes, you ***may*** be able to get a discount on your insurance.

Your local police department may not offer this service. However, there are companies that do (contact your insurance holder and ask them).

Keep in mind that if a burglar gets in your church they are basically two things he will take –

Computers and the sound system.

If you do not intend to pursue a security survey, keep this in mind. Most churches I have been in do not secure the sound system. It is easy pickings. Consider what actions you can take that would better secure the sound system (by “sound system,” I am referring to the location where the sound engineer is stationed during services, controlling the sound, power point, etc.). ***If at all possible, make sure your sound system with all of its components is inside an enclosed room.***

Also, make sure you check the lighting outside your church. Youth often sneak outside during an event – and head for the darkness! If something bad happens in the dark, your church will hear about it.

CHURCH OFFICES DURING THE WEEK

The primary objective of your church during business hours (during the week) is the safety of your staff. Many, many churches are vulnerable during this time. I have even known of church staff members that were murdered during this time.

I offer the following suggestions:

- 1- Keep all doors locked. Many churches have trouble doing this, saying they want to keep an inviting atmosphere. But the evidence is in: you need to protect your staff. There are ample cases of individuals wandering and committing all sorts of crimes. Thieves know that churches are what we call “soft targets.” In light of this, you should consider “target-hardening.”

- 2- Control access to the church by electronic lock (and video surveillance if possible). There is nothing wrong with this. It is perfectly proper and your employees are worth it. Besides, many churches have gone to this manner of security.
- 3- An intercom system between the secretary's office and the pastor's office. This allows the secretary to contact the pastor if a problem is developing.
- 4- Install a panic button in the church office. The button should activate an alarm in other parts of the building that summons help.
- 5- Program 911 into the phone (speed dial).
- 6- Employees should have parking spaces as close to the door as possible.
- 7- Maintain adequate lighting around the church and in the parking lot.
- 8- A word for the secretary when working at the church alone: NEVER TELL ANYONE WHO CALLS THAT YOU ARE ALONE.
- 9- Do NOT keep large amounts of cash in the church office.

Let me say something to those churches that have an open door policy. You need to consider what you are going to do if someone enters and becomes a threat. How are you going to react? What plan do you have? As I have already stated, there have been church employees hurt, and even killed, inside their office.

Let me suggest that you do what one church employee I know of does. She has a can of pepper spray on her desk. That may seem a bit extreme - but it's not. Pepper spray won't kill, but it will temporarily thwart the intent of one who would assault you.

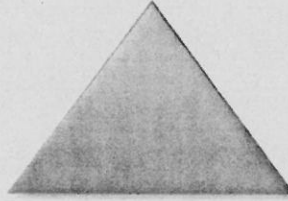
Remember: There will be people who come to your church asking for a handout. When they come, they will already be a bit "bummed out." If your church is unable to help them, their "bummed out state" may worsen. It may be that when that occurs, they resort to violence.

And you will be the target of their rage.

How will you defend yourself in such a situation? If you are counting on some self-defense class you took years ago, then you're in trouble. And self-defense always means *the attacker is too close*. Pepper spray may be the answer. Simply learn how it is used and you may survive. And if you do use it, call 911 immediately.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE CRIME TRIANGLE

DESIRE



ABILITY

OPPORTUNITY

To keep your church, or even yourself, from being the victim of a crime, you must understand the steps involved in the commission of a crime. This is called the *Crime Triangle*. Each step of the triangle must come together in order for a crime to occur.

DESIRE. All crime begins with a desire. The Bible confirms this, too. James 1 states that "each man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own *desire*." This is the beginning of a criminal act. It is important to remember that you do not have control over the desires of a criminal mind.

ABILITY. This is the second step in the commission of a crime. After a person experiences the desire to commit a crime, he must then decide if he has the *ability* to carry out his intention. A blind person rarely – if ever – robs a bank. He may have the desire to do, but he lacks the ability. Ability, like desire, is also an element over which *the crime victim has no control*.

OPPORTUNITY. When a person has the desire to commit a crime, and also possesses the ability to act it out, he then seeks the *opportunity* to fulfill his desire. And this is where you have almost complete control. ***You can remove his opportunity.***

When it comes to safety matters at your church, you must remember that you *cannot control the desires and abilities of a criminal*. If a pedophile intends to strike one of your youth, there is nothing you can do concerning his deviant desires. *But, you can exert your best effort to remove any opportunity that he might discover.* And that certainly includes implementing the best protection plan you can find for children.

A 17-year old man was charged with sexual assault of a girl at a church in Waxahachie, Texas in 2010. The assault reportedly happened in the bathroom. I would want to know if when the girl went to the restroom, *was there an adult in the hallway in view of the restroom?*

You see, no one expects such crimes to occur in a church bathroom -- but that is the day in which we live.

So, your church safety team must "think" like a criminal and look for every place your people are vulnerable - and *remove the opportunity*.

WHO WILL BRING HARM TO YOUR CHURCH?

Here I will give you my opinion, based on what I have seen in 30 plus years of police work, as to what type of people are most likely to bring harm to your church members. This is strictly my opinion.

THE MENTALLY DISTURBED

Our world is filled with people who suffer from mental illness. This is a sad fact and I wish it were not true. But there are those who are so mentally disturbed that sometimes their troubled state will manifest in horrific violence.

Your church must be aware of this. Those who are mentally disturbed attend many churches.

Let me hasten to add that *not all mentally disturbed individuals will harm others (most will NOT)*.

On the other hand, there are those that will. Their mind has come to believe that an act of violence is something they must do. Some killers have even claimed to be "hearing voices" - voices that instructed them to kill.

Your church would be wise to take note of people in this condition and familiarize yourself with their condition.

I am not qualified to address this subject in great detail, but I have read stories of the mentally troubled who brought great harm to others, and as a 30-year police veteran I have witnessed this scenario time and time again.

I have also learned that some of the cases of church-related violence were committed by the mentally disturbed.

Church staff members need to be educated about the mentally disturbed. I would encourage all ministers, and the rest of the staff, to attend training that explains the various mental diseases that haunt so many people. Ample training is available.

Your church would also do well to consider "how" they could *minister* to the mentally disturbed. Doing so may well prevent a tragedy. And doing so would also be a terrific way to minister to these individuals, many of whom feel bad about their condition. The mentally disturbed were drawn to Jesus - and He received them without question. The church should do likewise.

THE ANGRY

Anger is a potentially violent emotion. It is also the first subject that Jesus addressed in the Sermon on the Mount. It is the door that a murderer will walk through before taking a life. If there were no anger in the world - there would be little, if any, violence...

In the United States there are about 25,000 murders every year. If anger were eradicated, these violent crimes would, for the most part, simply disappear.

Often, the church staff and leaders already know an active member of a church that is bound by anger. Perhaps he is one of those you have even told your safety team to "keep an eye on."

The thwarting of one's desires almost always fuels anger. Put simply, angry people are those who *did not get their way*.

If an angry person is making things hard on your church, you should consider *lovingly* confronting them. But do not confront until you have a "plan" as to what you're going to say.

And it would probably be best if someone were with you during such a meeting.

During the meeting, assure him/her of your love and desire to help. This is precisely what Paul instructed in Galatians 6 when he spoke about restoring those overtaken by a trespass.

I honestly believe that the "anger issue" is only going to get worse due to the stress of the times in which we live. So, do not make light of someone who has an anger problem.

Cain got angry when his gift was rejected...and then he killed his brother. *His anger opened the door for the dark side to take over.* The Apostle John explained Cain's predicament: "Do not be like Cain who killed his brother, *because he was of the evil one...*"

Anger invites the demonic (see Ephesians 4:26-27).

There have been several cases of church violence where a husband went to the church in search of his wife - and when he found her, he killed her. This is an obvious case of uncontrolled anger.

In December of 2007, Matthew Murray killed 4 people in Colorado - two at Youth With A Mission, and two at New Life Church. The posted words he left behind indicated that his anger had become rage, his rage became hate, and his hate led him to kill.

If I ever return to the pastorate, I will do my best to see to it that "anger management classes" are held regularly.

THE GREEDY

In 2011, in Little Rock Arkansas, 3 men entered a church during Sunday School and robbed the members. When they left the church, one of them fired his weapon. It also happened at another church. A man entered with a shotgun and committed robbery against the choir members.

Greedy people will commit crimes - sometimes crimes of violence. Robbers have victimized several churches: the taking of property while threatening harm or actually committing harm.

The way a church responds to this problem is of utter importance. More than likely, the one who robs your congregation will not be a member of your church. It will be an "outside job."

So, to prepare against this act (robbery) you will need to scan your church for the places where a robbery might take place.

Be cautious when the offering is counted. And whoever transports the money to the bank certainly needs to exercise caution. In the latter case, the transporter should take a different route as often as possible.

Robbery has also happened at church offices during the week. Initiate all precautions possible in this case. I would certainly start by locking the church door during business hours. And I would install an intercom on the outside entrance door. There is no need to have an "open door policy." It's simply too risky.

You need to understand why a person would rob a church. There is a simple formula the robber has calculated in his mind: his greed + your vulnerability = his payday.

In other words, once he commits to robbery, he then searches for a soft target. Criminals know that churches are soft targets. The trust factor is strong in church people. But, it is misdirected.

Trust that we should only have "in God" is often placed in people. And this makes us soft targets. Think like the police: "In God we trust. All others we ID.

THE SEXUAL DEVIANT

The sexual deviant can bring tremendous harm to your church, and affect the victims for the rest of their lives. The truth is, sexual crimes on church property and church-related events, far outnumber the shootings and stabbings that occur at church.

Churches are often guilty of placing more emphasis on restoring the sexual deviant than they do on the protection of its children (and adults). This can have tragic consequences.

The truth is, most churches are not even qualified to deal with the sexual perversion that exists in some lives - especially the pedophile.

The church's job in this matter of sex crimes is to **REMOVE OPPORTUNITY** for the sexual predator (understand the Crime Triangle) - **And** to report the violator should he act out. In Texas we have a mandatory reporting law. If, for example, a priest should hear a confession wherein the confessor admits to molesting children - the priest is bound by law to report him (or her).

Let me repeat: *Churches must place the protection of children above the restoration of sexual violators.* If you fail in this area, and a molester strikes, the potential for restoring lives of broken people will be greatly thwarted. You can also have criminal charges filed against you.

If a sex-offender joins your church it is proper to welcome him, while at the same time be curious as to *why* he is there. The staff needs to meet with him ASAP and place a certain question before him: *What Is Your Plan For Recovery?* You must ascertain this. If he does not have a plan, tell him that forming one is necessary if he intends to worship at your church.

Church volunteers commit 50 percent of sex crimes that are tied to the church: church staff commits 30 percent. The church staff *needs to know each other* and put certain boundaries in place.

For instance, a youth minister must not be allowed to have the youth at his house if there is no adult supervision other than him. There are endless stories about what has happened when this rule was ignored.

I would also suggest that each staff member have someone check his or her computer at least monthly. The latest statistics indicate that those in ministry are having a terrible time ridding themselves of pornography.

The best organization in the country - in my humble opinion - for helping to protect youth while at church, youth meetings, etc., is Ministry Safe. Go to their site to learn more...(www.ministrysafe.com)

PROTECTING THE YOUTH

I am constantly speaking with church leaders about safety. It is not a subject that I always conversed about when meeting with churches. But it is high time that the leaders in churches lay aside the religious mentality, shun the errors about "faith" - and initiate programs that are geared toward protecting the youth...

Can churches not, at least one time a year, address these issues of safety?

Churches and other places must address such issues. Colleges and universities must hold regularly scheduled "awareness meetings," wherein local law-enforcement can update students on the tactics of attackers and rapists - and give counter-attack strategies to avoid such danger.

Youth groups must address this, also. At least once a year, the youth

should be gathered (emphasis on the females) and taught how to be aware of their surroundings at all times. Teen violence is here.

It is estimated that 20 percent of high school girls have been assaulted by their boyfriends.

CHURCHES - ARE YOU ADDRESSING THIS MATTER?

I honestly think that sex crimes against women will continue - and even skyrocket. And there is a reason for this. More men are addicted to pornography than ever before. However, looking at porn does not always satisfy. Some of the men who view these images are going to want to *act out what they see*. And here is where the violence will escalate.

Church leaders, as a father of 5 daughters, I plead with you to contact your local police and have them give a presentation to the girls in your youth group. Your police department will be more than happy to assist you.

WHAT IF A SHOOTER DOES ENTER YOUR CHURCH?

That's a tough question. And you need a plan. I once read a police officer's response to this question, and his words are worth considering: "Weaken his shooting ability by throwing hymnals, yelling from multiple directions, and tackling him from behind."

Of course, most of your members are not going to do that.

I have been asked how one might prepare a church for a shooting. Personally, I would let my congregation know that if a shooter comes in, I would want them to do what I quoted above. I'm not sure you have any other options. But, if your members go "haywire" on him, the damage and destruction would not be as much.

My recommendation is that you contact the resources I have listed and ask them about this. In all honesty, you need at least one armed person at your church. This might be the off-duty police officer you choose to hire, or someone from a legit security company. Your church has to make this decision. These church shootings are not going to stop.

Let me add an important word here. Your local police department is trained to deal with these matters. Churches have NOT taken advantage of this. Call your local PD and set up a time you can discuss this with them.

PROTECTING THE PASTOR

WHEN THE PREACHER IS PREACHING:

Meet with your minister and let him know that if someone approaches him while he is preaching, your intent is to stop him. It is possible that the preacher has made pre-arrangements with this person to do so, that a particular point might be made. If you know ahead of time, you'll be prepared.

Paul the Apostle found himself in a rather strange predicament in Philippians 1. He couldn't decide if he wanted to live or die. To depart and be with Christ would be far better, he wrote, but in the end he decided it would be better if he lived. He came to this conclusion based on *the needs of the Philippians*. Read it for yourself –

“For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.”

And this is one reason church safety is so important. Your pastor has work to do; souls to save, members to disciple, and so on. We want to keep him alive so he can fulfill his mission. If Satan targets anyone, he will surely aim at the minister. He will seek to destroy the pastor any way he can.

Fred Winters was the pastor of First Baptist Church in Maryville, Illinois. During the early service in March 2009, Pastor Winters was gunned down by Terry Sedlacek. There has been much debate as to why Sedlacek committed this crime in front of 190 worshipers. Winters was merely standing behind his pulpit when Sedlacek approached him and shot him.

One man at the church that morning who participated in stopping Sedlacek told me that he believed Satan was behind the murder. I agree with him. Jesus said the devil is a liar and a murderer. The Apostle John warned us to not be like Cain who killed his brother because he was “of the evil one.”

After the shooting at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, Pastor Al Meredith explained to a television reporter that he understood what was going on. He went on to say that Wedgwood is located near a

seminary, and many of its students attend Wedgwood. Satan, he concluded, would target these preachers who would one day be spread across the globe sharing the word.

Many people are wrestling with the issue of church safety. They have difficulty with the issue of force, self-defense, etc. However, we must not allow such deception to set in. If Satan targets your pastor, you must be ready to defend him.

History shows that the enemy has targeted ministers. Millions of those who were faithful to spread the word have been in his sights. And if the devil succeeds, there will be excessive grief in your church for a very long time. You will spend years trying to heal the broken hearts of your congregation. Some of your members will never set foot again in a sanctuary.

Someone at your church needs to be assigned to "pastoral detail." By this I mean that at least one member of your safety team needs to be with the minister the moment he arrives at church, and stay with him until he leaves. Stay close to him, and beware of any strangers who approach him. Stay out of his way for the most part, but be mindful of all who come near him – especially those whom you do not recognize.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma a pastor was ministering to those who responded to the invitation. As he was doing so, one of the "seekers" punched him in the face.

Your church needs their pastor. He has a lot of unfinished work to do.

There is much training available for those who want to learn more about personal protection and bodyguard procedures. But, for now, let's keep it simple.

My advice is that when the pastor steps onto the stage to begin ministry someone needs to assume responsibility for his care. This person needs to sit near the front in such a position that he can see not only the minister as he is preaching, but the crowd before him. This way you can see if anyone starts toward the preacher.

Training is vital here. You need to have a plan as to how you are going to respond if someone does approach the preacher.

During the invitation, the team member assigned to the minister needs to stay nearby the minister. There have been ministers who were assaulted while ministering to the masses. Don't get in the way, just stay near and be as helpful as possible.

I would encourage the team member who inherits this assignment to stay with the minister until he and his family have left. The simple truth is, there may be someone who has come to the church with intentions to hurt the minister. This has happened before - and it will happen again.

A few months back, a woman showed up at a church on a Saturday while the members were engaged in a clean-up day. She asked for the minister and was told where to find him. She then went to him and shot and killed him.

Let me conclude with a few more words about the pastor. I was a pastor at a church for over 11 years. At the same time I was a full time police officer. I must confess: Being a pastor was the much harder task. As a matter of fact, there were times I thought it was going to kill me.

After almost a dozen years in the pastorate, I came to understand that I needed to be more understanding of pastors. Part of my church safety presentation includes the call to churches to be more protective of the pastor and his family.

It is no secret that everyday a pastor somewhere will walk off the job. Many have just had it. Tending to a flock can be very difficult. Most of the sheep have no idea what the pastor goes through. In light of this, your team must be protective of the pastor and by all means, **DO NOT ALLOW THE PASTOR TO BE PART OF ANY CHURCH SAFETY TEAM.** You are doing this for his protection. He must be free to minister, to give himself to prayer and the ministry of the word (See Acts 6).

Other than allowing the pastor to assist in choosing the right member to begin the team, he has no other obligations, nor should he, concerning church safety. The president has to leave security with the Secret Service: he has a country to run and doesn't have time to consider security needs, etc. Your safety team has to be the same way. Create the safest atmosphere possible for your pastor so that he can minister effectively.

TIPS FOR PROTECTING THE PASTOR

1- Do not allow your pastor to have to be concerned about church safety. Take care of this matter for him. His calling is to pray and preach. Don't dump this matter of safety on him.

2- After Sunday night services, insist that he goes home when he's done. *Do not allow him to stay at church and lock all the doors.* After preaching, his energy is exhausted. He needs to go home. Have your safety team check the building and make sure it's secure.

3- During the invitation/altar call, stay close by the pastor/minister. You never know why someone has come forward. Don't get in his way, but by all means keep a close eye on him. Be ready to help him. Speak with your pastor about this and work out a signal/code he can give if he needs your assistance.

4- Tell the pastor when he is at the church ALONE - keep the doors locked!

PLEASE NOTE: there may be laws in your state that address personal protection (bodyguard). Please check with your attorney on this matter.

Don't have skits or plays that involve the use of weapons or violence.

THE NECESSITY OF CHURCH SAFETY

BELOW IS THE OUTLINE I USE TO CONVINC CHURCHES OF THE NECESSITY OF SAFETY PRACTICES WHILE AT CHURCH. IT IS THE FIRST PART OF THE PRESENTATION ON THE DVD.

- The biggest obstacle to setting up a church safety plan is a MENTAL BLOCK

A FAULTY BELIEF creates the mental block

- The faulty belief says -

"HARM DOESN'T COME TO PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE AT CHURCH."

WHAT ABOUT...

- The death of Job's children
 - Saul killed 80 priests
 - 75 million martyrs since Stephen (Acts 7)
- More in the last century than the previous centuries combined (45 million)
- Over 400 people killed on church and faith-based property since March, 1999

Justification for protecting the flock

MATTHEW 10:17

"Be on your GUARD against men; they will flog you IN their synagogues."

PROVERBS 22:3

"A prudent person foresees danger and tak precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."

JOHN 7:1

- THE PRUDENCE OF JESUS...
 - "...Jesus was going about his business in Galilee. He didn't want to travel in Judea because the Jews there were looking for a chance to kill him."

•REASONS TO PROTECT...

- Love - 1 COR 13
- “Love...always protects...”
- Jesus (John 18) stands up for His disciples when He’s arrested
- The Early Church often met in secret
- The children are worth it!

The idea of using “force” concerns us...
Did Jesus ever use “force” to accomplish God’s purposes?
Yes He did –in the Temple!

“Let the watchman be fully alert.”

“Be on guard!

“Stay alert”

“Keep alert at all times”

“Stay alert”

“Stay alert and be clearheaded”

“Stay alert”

You never know who is in your congregation...

**“Watch out for Alexander the coppersmith. Fiercely opposed to our
Message, he caused no end of trouble.”**

2 Timothy 4:14

Because of that...

You can, and should, form an *EYES and EARS TEAM*

RESOURCES FOR CHURCH SAFETY

NOCSSM – National Organization of Church Security and Safety
Management, Inc.

THE WATCHMAN'S ACADEMY

MINISTRY SAFE

GUARDIAN ANGEL CHURCH SECURITY TRAINING

SHEEPDOG MINISTRIES

CPPS - THE CENTER FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

CARLCHINN.COM



Chuck Chadwick founded Gatekeepers Alliance in January of 2002 as an informal meeting of Security/Facilities Directors from some of the largest churches in the DFW area. Meetings were held to discuss issues/challenges and it was found that regardless of location the issues/challenges were similar.

Chuck's home church (Fellowship Church, Grapevine, TX) grew from 6,000 TWA (Typical worship Attendance) to 22K and then from one location to multi-site. At the height of the organization Chuck directed and multi-jurisdictional task force of some 40 officers composed of Law Enforcement, Private Protection Officer, Security Guards and volunteers.

In 2005 Chuck left full time Church Security Director employment to dedicate his life to Gatekeepers Alliance teaching seminars and putting together "Best Practices" for churches around the nation. The first Church Security Conference was held at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano TX in 2005.

Chuck continues to direct the security operations of some of the largest churches in America through Gatekeepers Security Services, LLC. a Texas Corporation.

Conferences and Seminars are held several times a year in churches across the nation and membership has grown to hundreds of member churches.

In November of 2007 the name of the organization was changed to: The National Organization of Church Security and Safety Management, LLC - "We feel the name change better reflects the broader scope and purpose of the organization".

NOCSSM continues the original mission by providing educational courses, conferences for churches throughout the nation as the "First Name in Church Security".

The website is www.nacssm.org.

Personal word: Chuck has been doing this for quite a while - over 10 years. The training he offers is excellent. He brings in the best speakers who offer the best of counsel and instruction as to how you can make your church safe. He can also help you with the laws in your state that pertain to church security.

 **The Watchman's Academy**
Church Security Consulting & Training



The Watchman's Academy is a security consultant and training service. The idea came to Steve Padin, a retired 25-year decorated police veteran for the Buffalo, NY Police Department, after his office at the Buffalo Police Department was contacted by a local church regarding some security concerns they had. After walking through the church building and giving them an assessment, he realized the need for churches and other places of worship to better their security efforts.

Is The Watchman's Academy a place where people come to train? We prefer to come to you, wherever you are in the country. This way by working with your team exclusively the training can be tailor made to suit your building and location and your particular team. However, there are other options. You can find out if a church in your area is hosting a seminar where they are inviting other area church security representatives to attend or, your church can host one. But if you wish to travel to the western New York area at a particular time when there are no seminars scheduled, we have a church building where we can accommodate you.

As a firearms instructor certified by New York State and the N.R.A., Steve offers training in firearms safety and use as it pertains to home and personal protection as well as church security. We also offer training in hand to hand tactics. If a person enters the service intent on causing harm, he or she needs to be stopped and controlled immediately and effectively. Even if the person is armed with a weapon, such as a knife or firearm, and security is unarmed, we cover disarming techniques that can minimize casualties.

The website is <http://thewatchmansacademy.com>



The number of shootings, stabbings, suicides, etc., does not come close to the number of children that have been sexually molested while at church or a church related event or by church members at a non-church location. Ministry Safe is the best! I have worked with them at several seminars. No one understands what harm can come to children in church-related incidents better than Ministry Safe. I could go on and on about them.

MinistrySafe provides child sexual abuse training, policies and procedures, application forms, reference check forms, interview forms and an ever-growing list of instructional documents. All of these are made available on your organization's customized MinistrySafe Control Panel that enables you to automatically administer and track your safety system. Our clients include churches, schools, camps, zoos, and housing foundations; foster care agencies and adoption organizations. Click play on the video player above to further explore the resources available to MinistrySafe Members.

Child abuse prevention is a topic that concerns everyone working with children, especially when it comes to preventing sexual abuse. Providing abuse training for your volunteers and employees is a necessity when you consider the staggering number of lives that have been hurt and, in some cases, destroyed by some form of sexual abuse during childhood. You have to do more than get a background check on workers to ensure the safety of young people in your care, and the system we've developed will help you reduce the risk of sexual abuse in your organization. MinistrySafe is especially helpful for churches, given the escalating number of sexual abuse cases. Church safety programs are in desperate need of edification and support in order to protect the next generation.

Visit their website at www.ministrysafe.com



Guardian Angel Church Security Training

Kevin Bennett has been a police officer for well over a decade. He has been on the Idaho State Police SWAT team for seven years and has over 2000 hours of certified training in a wide variety of police disciplines. Kevin is currently an instructor for the State of Idaho in several areas including Drug Recognition Expert, DUI, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Impact Weapons.

In 2008 Kevin was deployed on a SWAT call out in Moscow, Idaho and saw firsthand the devastating effects of a violent church incident that impacts that church and community even today.

This experience, imprinted on his mind and in his heart, combined with a love for teaching, knowledge of police tactics and training, and a desire to protect God's people led to the creation of what today is Guardian Angel LLC.

Kevin has partnered with his wife, JoLynn, a Children's Minister in their local church, to manage the day to day operations of the company allowing Kevin to focus on providing the education and training you need to safeguard your house of worship.

The website is <http://www.gachurchsecurity.com/>



SHEEPDOG MINISTRIES

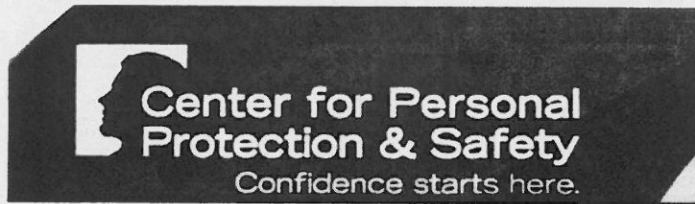
Sheepdog Ministries is a Christ centered security consultation ministry designed by two current Christian law enforcement officers with over thirty years of combined police experience.

Rudi is a District Attorney Investigator in Southern California, assigned to the Gang Prosecution Unit. Rudi is a 16-year law enforcement veteran who worked 12 years as a police officer for a southern California police department. Rudi has worked his entire law enforcement career in the area of Gangs, Narcotics, Community Policing and SWAT. Rudi is a certified law enforcement Firearms Instructor, Taser Instructor, Chemical Agents Instructor and Defensive Tactics Instructor who has trained hundreds of military, police and civilian personnel in topics ranging from SWAT tactics, officer safety, police tactics, witness protection, gang and narcotics recognition, prevention and enforcement, as well as riot control and emergency response procedures. Rudi is a well-respected and recognized expert in these fields. Rudi served as a former Marine Corps Military Police Officer and Army infantryman. Rudi is a born again Christian who has felt the Lord leading him to use his knowledge and experience to serve in the Security Ministry Field.

Michelle, Rudi's wife, is a detective with a Southern California police department, assigned to a Regional Narcotics and Gang Taskforce. Michelle is a 16-year law enforcement veteran, who has worked 11 years as a police officer. During her career, Michelle has worked in the areas of Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Gangs,

Narcotics, and School Resource Officer. Michelle is a recognized expert in the area of Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse. She has trained hundreds of police and civilian personnel in the areas of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse Recognition, Graffiti recognition and prevention, physical security and school related crimes. Michelle has worked as a security officer and is a former Army Ammunition Specialist, who trained hundreds of military personnel. Michelle is a born again Christian who has felt the Lord guiding her towards service in the Security Ministry Field.

The website is <http://sheepdogministries.com>



The Center for Personal Protection and Safety (CPPS)

The Center for Personal Protection and Safety is a leading developer and provider of customized training and consultation solutions. Partnering with our clients, we empower individuals to be stakeholders in their personal safety and security in the workplace and while traveling and living abroad. As thought leaders in the industry, CPPS creates and leverages best practices, providing practical solutions to some of today's most extreme challenges.

Active Shooter and Other Forms of Extreme Violence
Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking
Workplace Violence
International Travel Safety and Kidnap Survival
Detention by a Foreign Government
Living Abroad and in High-risk Environments
Threat Assessment and Management

CPPS has touched the lives of millions. Its clients include more than 50 percent of Fortune 100 companies, 1,100-plus colleges and universities nation-wide, and numerous U.S. Agencies to include the FBI, DOD, VA and Social Security Administration.

The website is www.cppssite.com

Faith Under Fire

By Carl Chinn
Church Safety Stats Expert

I am reminded once again of one of the most horrific church shootings we've ever been aware of. I now have a copy of the recently released documentary concerning the Daingerfield, Texas First Baptist Church shooting in 1980. If there is a "Landmark case" which should be viewed as the national wakeup call that evil will invade sanctuary that would be the one.

It is also the plumline example of how real characters of protection should respond. No less than two of the five who died that day, gave their lives in the counter-attack that others may live. It all happened so fast there is confusion on what Gene Gandy was starting to do when he was killed, but every witness knew that Red McDaniel and Ken Truitt were killed as they were stopping the shooter. Jack Dean and Chris Hall survived, but they too engaged the shooter saving many lives.

Beyond the initial incident, the movie emphasizes the healing that has been a 30-year process.

I have studied over 600 deadly force incidents at faith-based organizations in the United States. There is no story out there like this one. This is a must see documentary for any church security team, or church leadership struggling with the decisions on how to protect their congregations. I encourage you to order your copy of Faith Under Fire today.

Think about it:

Evil invaded sanctuary and will do so again.

The only connection the shooter at Daingerfield had with the church was that the church had organized a benefit for his family some years earlier when their home had burned.

Greater love has no man than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

Man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)


HEARTSTONE

Presents



A Film By Sondra Martin Hicks

FAITH UNDER FIRE

"This is a remarkable story which shows that a person with faith can overcome overwhelming sorrows." 
Given 5 doves The Dove Foundation

To view the trailer visit:
Faithunderfiremovie.com

**"A MINISTRY TOOL THAT OPENS UP THE
HEART FOR DEEP WOUNDS TO HEAL."**

*"This is an amazing story of forgiveness and God's presence
in the midst of suffering."*

The DOVE Foundation

Given 5 Doves

Faith Under Fire is the story of the shocking assault on the church at the most base level. First Baptist Church of Daingerfield, Texas, experienced the first mass shooting during a worship service on a Sunday morning in 1980. Sadly, this kind of violence has escalated into an almost regular occurrence today.

With honesty and raw emotion survivors of this shooting share the shock to their faith, pain of loss, forgiveness, revenge and their struggle to heal. Their story journeys from the pit of heartbreak and despair to restoration, ultimately letting go of anger and hatred to find peace again in everyday living.

Their 30-year journey to healing is an example for us all in our time of difficulties.

In an unforgettable encounter, the killer's daughter meets the mother of the murdered child for the first time. It is a moment of love and forgiveness that is a rare and beautiful example of the healing nature of forgiveness.

"On of the great inspirational films of our time."

Pastor Tim Wade, FBC Daingerfield

"Time doesn't necessarily heal. Sometimes old wounds have to be reopened so forgiveness can be completed. Only then can healing flow. Faith Under Fire will help you believe in healing again!"

**Mark Jobe, Global Pastor Gateway Church,
Southlake, TX**

"Faith Under Fire" masterfully uncovers the events leading up to the tragic shooting, captures the intensity of the actual events, depicts the hurt of the community, and carries the viewer through the restorative process."

Dr. Steve Mullen, Dallas Baptist University

"A powerful recording of an increasingly relevant subject - violence in places of worship. As these acts of violence increase, those who have leadership in religious institutions would be well served by the viewing of this docudrama and the follow-through to prepare for such acts, should they happen among their worshippers."

**Dr. Dan Crawford, Southwestern Baptist Seminary,
Fort Worth, TX (retired)**