

October 2022

# THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



## IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Training Spotlight
  - Weekly Team Briefing
  - Lessons Learned
  - Monthly Articles
  - Church Security Roll Call
  - Guest Article
  - Certified Instructors
  - Upcoming Seminars
  - Sheepdog Corner
- 

## TOP NEWS STORY

### ALBUQUERQUE CHURCH SECURITY GUARD KILLED WHILE ON THE JOB; SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

A security guard was killed in the parking lot of the church he served in Friday night, and police have arrested a suspect in connection to it. Police arrested 35-year-old Marc Ward Saturday afternoon as a suspect in the murder case of 61-year-old Daniel Bourne. Bourne, a security guard with Calvary Church, was killed while on the job.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

# TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

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## Security Team Fundamentals

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 Security Team Fundamentals Module 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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Take all 7 Modules  
and be Certified  
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Church Security  
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# WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

## Fundamentals of Church Safety

### The Theme for September 2022

*But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day (Deuteronomy 8:18).*

September has traditionally been Back-to-School Month, though many schools now begin in August. Classes begin with reviewing the fundamentals, then building on them. The same principle applies to athletic teams at all levels when they begin training for a new season.

Even as we move further along in learning about church safety and security, it is important to remember the fundamentals. The third article in the [Church Security Guide](#) is "[Church Safety Team Basics](#)," and the first training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program is "Safety Team Fundamentals." How do September's weekly articles relate to this?

### *Weekly Articles*

*2019 West Freeway Church of Christ Shooting (Lesson Learned)* – The Security Team at West Freeway Church of Christ knew the fundamentals. Their vigilance was good within the sanctuary, but watching for suspicious behavior could have extended to the front door.

*Outer Guard (Stopping a Killer Outside)* – Since many church shootings begin outside, that is a good place to begin our vigilance. In "Safety Team Fundamentals" the first duty for the Safety Team is "monitor the facilities." This includes patrolling as well as watching via security cameras, through the windows, and by a team member posted in the parking lot.

*On Hold (Citizen's Arrest)* – Keeping the congregation safe may require detaining someone, in other words a citizen's arrest. Know when and how to detain a subject, and know the state's laws on citizen's arrest.

# Weekly Team Briefing Continued

*Setting Boundaries (Protecting Children with Preventive Procedures)* – Fundamental to protecting children from sexual abuse is recognizing grooming and other advances of a sexual offender, and teaching children to say “No” to inappropriate behavior.

## Action Points

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For All –

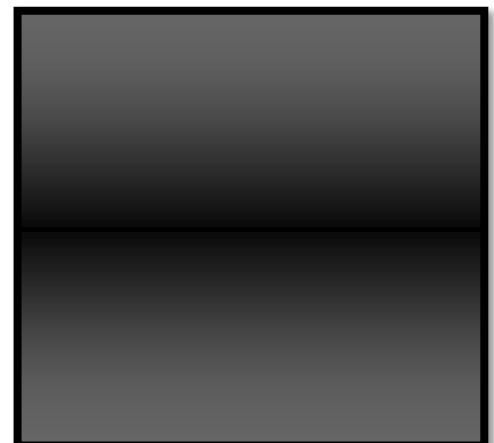
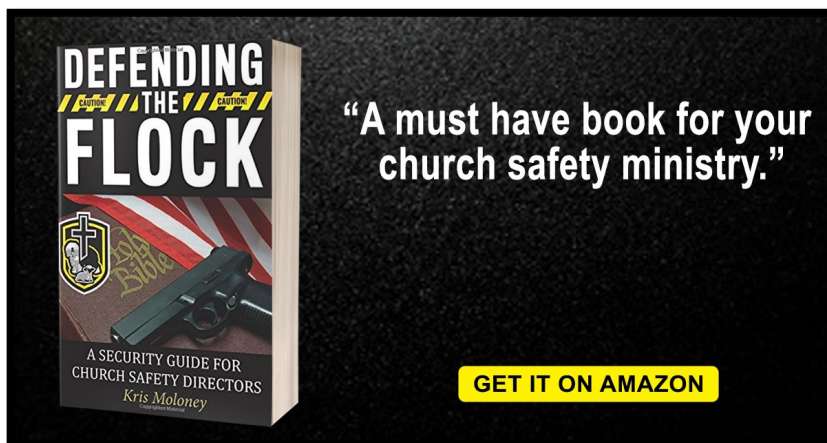
- ◆ Read “Church Safety Team Basics” in the Church Security Guide.

For Church Safety Directors –

- ◆ Get all team members trained and certified in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program, including “Safety Team Fundamentals.”

For Team Members –

- ◆ Don’t forget the fundamentals as you work to keep the flock safe.



# 2019 West Freeway Church of Christ Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

## From the Bible

King David praised God for helping him learn how to use weapons:  
*He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms (2 Samuel 22:35 and Psalm 18:34).*

Quick action by Abishai saved David's life:  
*And [one] of the sons of [Goliath] ... being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him ... (2 Samuel 21:16-17).*

## Introduction

We do not know how many lives were saved by the quick and accurate response of one person who was trained and practiced in the use of his weapon.

## Videocast and Church Shooting Lessons Learned Download

This article is covered by Kris Moloney in a videocast on the YouTube channel [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) (the audio is on a [podcast](#)). You can subscribe to keep up-to-date. Kris contributes from his own experience in law enforcement, the military, and church security.[2]

Beneath the video screen (you may have to click "See More") is the [Church Shooting Lessons Learned Download](#) link. This PDF is available for one month (until the next Lessons Learned article is posted). It can be printed for sharing with others, teaching, or presenting a case to congregational leadership.

## Six Seconds that Counted

It was the last Sunday of 2019. A man wearing a wig, a fake beard, and a long coat walked into West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, Texas, and sat down near the back. A few pews in front of the man, a woman worked her way to where her husband was sitting. She noticed the strange appearance of the man and became uneasy. Sitting down, she told her husband that something was not right. The woman was not the only one noticing the man's appearance. Members of the church's security team noticed, too, and they kept watching him.

During the Meet-&-Greet time, the man stands up as others do. He briefly talks with someone, then leaves. A minute later he re-enters, says something to someone, and sits back down.

When it is time for Communion, the deacons went to the front, picked up the elements, and began serving. The strange man stood up, said something to someone in the window aisle who then pointed to the middle of the room. The strange man pulled a short shotgun from his coat, fired at a deacon carrying Communion bread, turned back and fired at a security team member drawing his concealed handgun. At the sound of gunfire, many parishioners begin ducking for cover or running for exits. Some drew weapons and began looking for the source of the gunfire.

In the back of the sanctuary, Jack Wilson, the security team leader, had been watching the man. He drew his gun and aimed, waiting for a clear shot. Six seconds after the shotgun was drawn, Wilson fired, downing the gunman with one shot to the head.

## The Homeless Shooter

Not all homeless persons are dangerous. Whether one is homeless depends, in large part, on the reason for homelessness. The West Freeway shooter had his roots in White Settlement. He was homeless because of mental illness. He couldn't hold a job and often needed help. He did have relatives who lived in the area and could have lived with one of them, but chose not to.

Homelessness has become a major issue in several major American cities. Those who have worked with or studied the homeless conclude that the major causes of homelessness are mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction. Churches and faith-based organizations are working to help the homeless.

## *Not a Stranger*

The shooter was not a stranger to West Freeway Church of Christ. He had come to them for help several times, and they gave him food, but not cash. According to the senior pastor, he was angry when he did not get cash. It is uncertain whether this was a motive for the shooting. The wig and fake beard may have been an attempt to not be recognized, since people at the church knew who he was.

## *The Tragic Date*

The day of the West Freeway CoC shooting was the anniversary of the death of the shooter's brother. According to a relative of the shooter, he took it really hard, since the brother had committed suicide. He did not leave a note or online postings, so we cannot know for certain that this was what triggered the attack, even though it seems possible. Some have claimed the man was angered because the help he received was not cash, but we do not really know that either. We do know that dates hold important symbolism for radical terrorists, and may determine the timing of attacks. For someone emotionally disturbed and/or mentally ill, a death anniversary can lead to depression and irrational actions. If he was trying to get himself killed, then he succeeded.

## *An Arrest Record*

The shooter was not a stranger to law enforcement. He had been arrested several times for a variety of offenses and different places (depending where he lived at the moment). At least one of these was for assault with a deadly weapon. He had also been arrested in Oklahoma for arson. Several arrests were for theft.

## **Impact**

Three people died in the assault, the deacon, the wounded security team member, and the assailant. The deacon in this diverse congregation was an African American who had been a member of the church for decades and was liked and respected by all. He was, according to one news story, also a member of the security team.

The slain security team member was also a long-time congregant. He had been on the team since it had been formed a year earlier.

This incident garnered national attention. Being on December 29, it was the last big news story of the year. The way it ended also attracted much attention. Two years and almost two months earlier, the Sutherland Springs church shooting took place just after a Texas law went into effect allowing churches to have unlicensed security teams and before another law allowing concealed carry weapons in places of worship.



The way the West Freeway shooting ended showed the value of having armed and trained persons guarding the church. Wilson was able to stop the attack only six seconds after the shotgun came out of the coat. This was not just anyone with a gun and a holster. He knew how to shoot and when to shoot. He was a former law enforcement officer who'd not only been trained in tactical shooting, but drilled regularly on the range. Practice gave him the nerve to identify the assailant, hold the gun steady, and wait for a clear shot.

Not only Texas state officials, but law enforcement officials across the country cited this as an example of how trained and armed citizens could stop a crime in progress, and it encouraged other states to revise their use-of-force laws. Of course, there have also been intractable detractors.

News of this church shooting incident spurred an increase in the number of churches starting safety/security teams or seeking advanced training for existing teams.

Changes in security at West Freeway Church of Christ have not been made public. This is prudent, because it hinders criminals from finding a way around them. The Google Maps street views are from 2018, more than a year before, so any visible outside features added since then, such as cameras, cannot be seen on the map, at least for now. A church can request street views to be blocked or have certain features blurred out for security reasons.

## Lesson Learned: Guard the Gate

This section is not to put down the church or its security team, but to learn from the incident so we can improve our security posture.

### *What was done right?*

The West Freeway Church of Christ shooting highlighted one thing done right. They trained safety and security team members in how to respond.

When they saw the strange appearance of the man coming into the sanctuary, they kept an eye on him as a suspicious person.

They quickly reacted to the show of force when he pulled out the shotgun. He immediately shot two persons fatally, but got no chance at any others. The team leader was ready and steady, quick on the draw and holding his fire until he had a clear bead on the suspect.



## *What could be done if there's a next time?*

There is another lesson to not be bypassed: Guard the Gate.

According to team members, the apparent disguise was noticed when the suspect came into the sanctuary. They kept watch on him. The security team leader even used one of the cameras to monitor him. However, he was already in the sanctuary. Grant Cunningham, a survival and security blogger, wrote that the shooting may have been avoided if the man had been stopped before getting to the sanctuary.[10]

The assailant evidently knew the usual order of service. He used the Meet-and-Greet time to exit then return. Was this to retrieve a weapon hidden outside?

It would be better for a problem person to be spotted at the door before or when entering the building. If a safety team member had been at the entry door, the wig, fake beard, and long coat would have been noticed. Then the member would have called for backup ("Orange in lobby, backup") then engaged the person in conversation while looking for signs of a weapon.

Here's where it is wise to lock the door after the service has begun. If the person did not have a weapon coming in, but leaves then returns, he has to have someone let him in. Check again for a weapon. Long coats are often used to hide a firearm longer than a handgun, for example a short rifle or shotgun, and sometimes weapons are left outside then retrieved later.

If a safety team member is not at the door, then a trained greeter should be there. Greeters need to know what to do when a suspicious person comes to the door. They need training. Tina Lewis Rowe has written and published *Security Concerns For Churches: The Role Of Greeters and Ushers*. The greeter must be situationally aware, know what to look for, and get help when needed.[11]

## *Additional Advice*

Any use of deadly force has legal consequences, especially if there is serious bodily injury or a fatality. A lawyer will be needed in these cases. Jack Wilson placed a call to U.S. LawShield, and an attorney arrived at the church while the police were still there. Sheepdog Church has an affiliate relationship with U.S. LawShield.[5][12]

## Training Notes

Each Church Safety Team is urged to have all its members trained and certified through the Safety Member Certification program. There are eight training modules, including "Active Shooter Response v4." Taking all the classes and passing their certification tests will earn the student two years as a Certified Safety Member.

Three training formats are available: Team Certification (church-hosted classes), Individual Certification (self-paced online instruction), and Online Events (live Zoom classes).

Team Certification (church-hosted classes) can train the entire team at one time. A key advantage is the ability to ask questions and discuss the subject matter. The materials in the training bundles can be adapted to the local setting.

Individual Certification (self-paced online instruction) enables new members joining the team between classes (about two years apart) to be immediately trained. Also, a team member can train when he cannot attend classes, such as when there's a schedule conflict with regular employment.

Online Events (live Zoom classes) can be attended by individuals and teams. Kris teaches these classes, which are held on Sundays at 3:00 pm Central Time. The first quarter of the 2022-23 Season begins on September 11 (Active Shooter Response is on Sept. 18, Nov. 20, Feb. 5, and April 2).

The [Church Security Guide](#) article "[Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training](#)" is a detailed summary of the subject of responding to an active killer.[3][4]

## Conclusion

The time and place to begin observing people should be when they come to the entry door.

## There Is More

This is the first weekly article for September. The other three are "Outer Guard" (Stopping a Killer Outside), "On Hold" (Citizen's Arrest), and "Setting Boundaries" (Protecting Children with Preventive Procedures).

## [Article References](#)

# OUTER GUARD

## Stopping a Killer Outside

### Introduction

If a band of raiders was detected approaching an ancient walled city, soldiers would go out the gates to attack them before they could set up for an assault. If an attack was under way, archers shot arrows and slingers shot stones from atop the walls, boiling water and burning oil were poured on those trying to climb the walls, and those who came to the top faced a wall of spear points. Fighting the enemy outside the walls was preferable to fighting them inside. In church security, the better outcome is stopping an intentional killer outside.



### In the News

These news stories illustrate the need to extend safety-security measures outside the doors of the church.

Ames, Iowa, June 2, 2022 - Two female Iowa State University students, ages 21 and 22, and a third woman were walking through the parking lot of a church on their way to a Bible study. The 33-year-old former boyfriend of the 21-year-old approached them, shot and killed the two students - the third woman escaped. He then turned the gun on himself.[2]

East Baltimore, Maryland, November 16, 2021 - The 69-year-old custodian of a church came and let construction workers in. That evening, another member of the church found her bloodied body in a restroom. A man in the community began standing guard outside the church, hoping to prevent another incident. Half a month later, an arrest was made. The suspect was a day laborer hired by the construction contractor to help move pews. Not long before, he had been released from prison. His record includes robbery and rape.[3][4][5]

Los Angeles, California, November 17, 2021 - For two decades, a recovered drug addict on the pastoral staff of a Los Angeles church had helped dozens to likewise escape addiction. One Sunday morning he stepped outside to get fresh air after teaching a class before going into the worship service. Someone shot and killed him, then got into a waiting car and sped away.[6]

Tampa, Florida, November 14, 2017 - A suspected serial killer in the Seminole Heights sector of Tampa claimed his fourth victim outside a church. A volunteer helping feed homeless and other needy persons was shot in the back by a man dressed in black.[7]

## Videocast and Show Notes

In a videocast, Kris covers the subject of this article - the audio is on a podcast. This is on the YouTube channel Sheepdog Church Security Academy. Subscribe to it so you will not miss anything. You can share the videocast with others, especially those starting safety ministries in their churches.[8]

Below the video window is the link to the weekly Show Notes. This is a downloadable PDF which can be printed to be shared and discussed with others. The Show Notes for this article are available until the next weekly article is posted.

### From the Bible

King David praised God for helping him learn how to use weapons:  
*He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms (2 Samuel 22:35 and Psalm 18:34).*

Defenders of ancient cities did not wait for an assault, but took the battle to enemies outside the walls:

*And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar (1 Samuel 7:11).*

*"... knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?" (2 Samuel 11:20)*

*For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me ... So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared (Nehemiah 4:18).*

## "Dragons there be"

Some old maps labeled territory or waters deemed perilous with the tag, "Dragons there be." This was sometimes illustrated with images of dragons and other monsters. Dragons were considered real threats to public safety. The legendary St. George went out to fight a dragon, not waiting for it to come into the city.

For places we wish to keep safe - homes, schools, other institutions, and places of worship - "dragons there be" outside the doors. In the news stories above, there really were dangerous persons outside, and in one case the danger was let inside. For us the question is how do we spot "dragons" (intentional killers) and stop them?

### *Keeping an Outside Watch*

Among all the church shootings since 1999, three especially stand out: in 2007 at New Life Church, and in 2017 at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ and FBC Sutherland Springs. In each of these cases, the killer began shooting outside. In the last one, 26 victims died. If the killer had been spotted before he began shooting, the doors had been locked, and 911 (or the local sheriff's precinct) had been called, law enforcement might have arrived before the shooter got inside.

Watching the outside calls for situational awareness, even when you're using cameras. Some things ought to catch our attention, such as:

- ◆ Someone sitting in a parked vehicle for more than a few (four or five) minutes, whether in the parking lot, in the alley, or on the street.
- ◆ A vehicle repeatedly moving by, its occupants watching the church.
- ◆ A person wearing tactical gear.
- ◆ Long coats not needed in current weather - they can hide long-barrel firearms.
- ◆ Someone leaving the church, getting something out of a vehicle (or from a hiding place), and returning to the church.
- ◆ A person moving stealthily through the parking lot or along the perimeter of the property.
- ◆ Someone not on the safety team just standing or moving around the parking lot or grounds, especially during classes or a service.
- ◆ A person carrying bags or boxes not consistent with church attendance or a scheduled after-service event (such as a potluck).
- ◆ Other strange behaviors or appearances (for example, the wig and fake beard of the West Freeway Church of Christ shooter).

## *Engaging the Threat*

What you do when what you see raises suspicion depends what it is.

If it is a parked vehicle, watch carefully, observing the occupants' appearance and what they are doing. There are several reasons someone would sit for a long time in a parked vehicle. For instance:

- ◆ Perhaps they stopped to handle a phone call or text messages while not driving.
- ◆ They may be calling for directions or looking at a map.
- ◆ Maybe the driver is having a medical emergency.
- ◆ A driver might have realized he or she was too sleepy to be operating the vehicle, so pulled off the road.
- ◆ The person may be an intentional killer, either getting ready to attack or waiting for the right time.

If there is no observable or suspected threat, a safety team member posted outside or on patrol may go to the car and ask, "Can I help you?" If a team member is not outside at the moment, someone from inside can go out. If you do go to the car, be cautious and ready to respond to violent actions.

A suspicious-looking person coming to the door should be greeted and engaged in conversation. Listen, observe, and evaluate, all the while being alert for aggressive moves. Having backup is preferred.

If you determine that someone outside is a threat, lock the doors. Here, when time counts, is where all the open doors should be on close-to-lock status - all you have to do is let the door close. An option is to have electronic door locks: push a button and all doors lock. Then call 911.

Some shooters wait for the service to end and people are leaving. This complicates locking the doors. That happened at New Life Church and Burnette Chapel, when the gunmen intended to kill many people.[9][10] The killer at St. Alphonsus waited for his wife to come out, and the crowd provided some cover.[11] Be ready to shoot if the attacker is shooting people outside or trying to break into the church.

Most killers come into the church ready to shoot. The one in Laguna Woods brought in bags with his weapons and ammunition and incendiaries and put them in place for the intended time.[12]

The point here is that being aware a possible killer is outside gives you a head start and more options than dealing with him after he comes inside. In Laguna Woods, the bags the man carried should have raised suspicion at the door. In some other churches, if the killer was detected while he was waiting outside for people to leave, attendees could have been kept inside behind locked door while he was dealt with (especially by responding police).

## Conclusion

Keep an eye on the outside and be ready to respond appropriately to any suspicious persons, taking defensive measures if needed.

## There Is More

September has four articles. The others are "2019 West Freeway Church of Christ" (Lesson Learned), "On Hold" (Citizen's Arrest), and "Setting Boundaries" (Protecting Children with Preventive Procedures).

## [Article References](#)





# ON HOLD

## Citizen's Arrest

### Introduction

Most people in this country have heard of citizen's arrest at one time or another. It may have been in news stories about activists threatening (or vowing) to make citizen's arrests of public officials for alleged violations of their oaths of office. Some stories may have been about environmental activists threatening to arrest corporate leaders. However, only a minority really understand what a citizen's arrest is, beyond being an arrest made in the absence of an arrest warrant by someone other than a sworn law enforcement officer. So, what constitutes a citizen's arrest, and when is it valid and legal?



### In the News

Antioch, Tennessee, September 24, 2017 - An active killer shot and killed a member of a church in the parking lot, then went inside shooting. Someone called 911. When police arrived at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ, they found an usher holding the killer at gunpoint.[2]

Tampa, Florida, April 4, 2016 - A TV news crew on the way to a story witnessed another story as they passed a church. They saw a church custodian holding a burglar at gunpoint.

The custodian was repairing damage done to the front door by someone breaking in. Since he had a permit, he took his concealed handgun, not knowing if someone was inside. While the custodian was boarding up the door, the burglar returned. When he came upon the custodian, he turned and ran. The custodian pursued, and caught him in the bushes at the corner. He held the suspect until police arrived and took over.[3]

Laguna Woods, California, May 15, 2022 - When a gunman opened fire at an after-service church dinner, killing one person, church members tackled him, tied him up with extension cords, and waited for the police. No one was charged with false arrest.[4]

Sumrall, Mississippi, June 20, 2022 - A man awakened by barking dogs found someone trying to break into his house. He held the suspect at gunpoint (with his shotgun) until police arrived. They found pistols in his pockets. He had a bloody arm from breaking a window at a nearby church and getting cut on the broken glass.[5]

## From the Bible

The Bible does not define or specifically name citizen's arrest, but it does cite a few examples:

*Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place (Deuteronomy 21:19).*

*And Elijah said unto them, "Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape" And they took them ... (1 Kings 18:40).*

*And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, they say unto him, "Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act" (John 8:3-4).*

*And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers (Acts 16:19).*

*"For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me" (Acts 26:21).*

## Detained by a Citizen

A citizen's arrest is an arrest made by a person who is not acting as a sworn law enforcement officer, in other words, just a citizen.[7] The arresting person may indeed be a sworn law enforcement officer, but not on duty and not in his jurisdiction. The concept of a citizen's arrest is actually an ancient one. For a long time there were no governmental organizations exclusively devoted to enforcing laws among the population. Soldiers and guards might be dispatched to arrest certain persons for violations of the law, but most arrests were made by ordinary citizens who brought offenders to the judges (often the elders of a city).

In the Middle Ages, sheriffs in England were charged with enforcing the laws, and they hired deputies to assist them. However, most of the time they could not respond in a timely manner (telegraphs, telephones, and radios did not exist), so they still relied on citizens who were present to make an arrest, if they could. The deputies could pursue outlaws or post lookouts for them.

With modern communications and transportation, police, deputies, and troopers can often respond soon enough to make an arrest at the scene of a crime - though not always. For the sake of an orderly society, states have defined what is legally acceptable as a citizen's arrest. One aim is to avoid false arrest. Another goal is to reduce the inherent risk to citizens in making an arrest.

More importantly, we do not want someone to make an arrest for personal reasons and bias instead of for the commission of an actual crime. It might be humorously entertaining in a movie or TV show for someone to say, "If you yell at me one more time, I'll arrest you for breaking the peace," but it would not be legal to arrest someone just for yelling at you.

### *Justification for a Citizen's Arrest*

What conditions justify use of a citizen's arrest? Here are the general situations when a citizen can make an arrest:

1. The subject has committed or attempted to commit a "public offense"\* in the presence of the arresting person.

\*A public offense is any violation which can be punished by fines or prison.

1. A felony has been committed by the subject; not necessarily in the presence of the arrestor, who must be certain the felony has been committed.

2. When there has been a felony committed, and the arresting person reasonably (with cause) believes the subject has committed it (the arrestor must be certain the felony has been committed).

Note that a citizen's arrest may not be made for a public offense less than a felony unless it is committed in the arrestor's presence.

An example for #2 or #3 is when law enforcement agencies have issued a wanted post for a specific suspect of a specific crime or crimes. If the suspect may be armed and dangerous, the notice will say so. If they are not likely to be armed, a citizen's arrest may be made.

As to activists threatening to place public officials under citizen's arrest, very few (if any) of these activists have court-admissible evidence to prove a felony has been committed. Therefore, if they actually did make an arrest, they could be charged with false arrest and/or kidnapping, and possibly also charged with assaulting a public official if any force above voice was used.

## *Ordered to Arrest*

*Scenario:* The door to the chambers opened for the judge to come in. The bailiff called, "All rise." When the defendant stood up with his attorney, he turned from the table and bolted up the aisle for the door. The bailiff shouted, "Stop Him!" A woman by the aisle tried to tackle the fugitive as he ran by. A man across the aisle finished bringing him down. The defendant was handcuffed to a deputy for the remainder of the trial.

In this scenario the bailiff ordered an arrest, and two of the spectators in the courtroom obeyed. This illustrates a mandated arrest, when a law enforcement officer requests citizens to capture and hold a person. This is usually when a suspect is fleeing from the officer, but it has happened when a suspect was resisting arrest and the officer called out to bystanders for help.

An order to pursue and arrest may result in forming a posse. Rare today, posse comitatus was used more often in the American West in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Ordinary citizens were called and deputized by the county sheriff or U.S. marshal to pursue known outlaws. Now it is usually limited to nearby persons being ordered to assist a police officer, deputy sheriff, state trooper, or bailiff in apprehending a suspect or keeping him/her from escaping.

## *Defining an Arrest*

Arrest is generally defined as stopping or detaining a person. What level of detainment is considered an arrest depends not only on state laws and local ordinances, but also on court decisions. For example, if you tell a disrupter to sit down while you call the police, and every time he begins to stand you tell him to sit back down, that may or may not be an arrest. If you let him leave, then it would not be an arrest. If, on the other hand, you tied or handcuffed him or locked him into a room, that definitely would be an arrest. If the disruption did not amount to a public offense, this would be a false arrest.

## *When Citizen's Arrest Is Allowed*

The law mostly allows citizen's arrest within certain parameters, in specific situations.

In most locations (there are now some exceptions), a store owner/manager or designated employee may stop an observed shoplifter to answer questions and conduct a bag search (a search of the person is usually reserved for police to do). The owner/manager/employee may ask the suspect to remain in place waiting for law enforcement.

If a person is being physically assaulted (battery) or threatened with a deadly weapon, a third person may end the assault and hold the assailant for police. A person acting in self-defense may hold his or her attacker under arrest. The same goes for catching someone breaking into your home or business.

### *Requirements for Citizen's Arrest*

In all citizen's arrest cases, the suspect must be turned over to law enforcement when they arrive. Until then, the arrestor is responsible for the suspect's safety. No mistreatment or excessive or unnecessary force is allowed. Investigation is the prerogative of the police. Cooperate with them and answer their questions.

### *Consequences of Citizen's Arrest*

There can be physical and legal consequences of a citizen's arrest.

#### **Physical Injury**

The first peril is physical injury. This may be to the arrestor, bystanders, victims, or the suspect. Armed or unarmed, the suspect may fight back while resisting arrest. He/she could injure the arrestor or the victim. If the arrest is to defend someone already in danger of physical injury, then it is worth the risk. If using a firearm or other lethal projectile weapon, there is a risk to bystanders. Jack Wilson at West Freeway Church of Christ waited until he had a clear shot to fire his gun at the assailant.[8]

#### **Legal Liability**

The second peril is legal liability, both criminal and civil.

If the citizen's arrest is legally valid, how the suspect is treated can be fodder for criminal charges or a lawsuit. Will the suspect claim excessive force was used? Were restraints too tight? These charges, often lodged against police, can also be used against citizen arrestors.

The validity of the citizen's arrest may be in question. If the suspect is not charged with a crime or is acquitted, the detainment can be considered a false arrest. This is why it is important to be certain that a crime was committed before making an arrest. In the hypothetical case given above of dealing with a disruptor, letting him or her leave if he or she chooses to go avoids a false arrest.

A person making an unnecessary detainment can be charged with making a false arrest, even kidnapping. If the arrestor is found guilty, then the door is open for the suspect to sue. When it comes to church safety and security, the church can also be sued. If the team member has been found guilty, this may remove liability insurance coverage for that case (consult your policy).

## Conclusion

Think twice before making a citizen's arrest. Do not attempt it unless it is both legal and necessary.

## There Is More

This is the third weekly article for September. The other three are "2019 West Freeway Church of Christ Shooting" (Lesson Learned), "Outer Guard" (Stopping a Killer Outside), and "Setting Boundaries" (Protecting Children with Preventive Procedures).

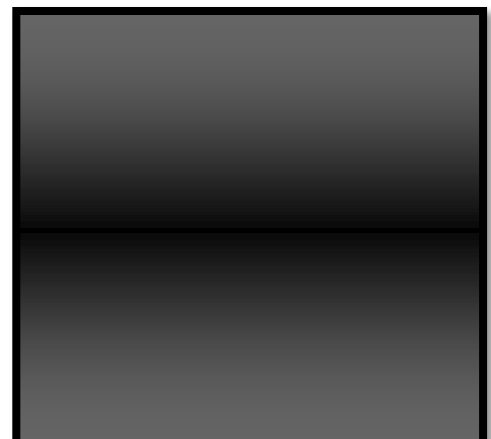
## [Article References](#)



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# SETTING BOUNDARIES

## Protecting Children with Preventive Procedures

### Introduction

We teach children to be careful crossing the street, to not play with fire, and to keep from other dangerous things. This is for their own safety. Do we also teach them to set personal boundaries to protect themselves from sexual abuse? We want them to be able to resist immoral advances by those they otherwise trust: family members, teachers and coaches, older children, family friends, etc. What we need to know is how to teach them.



### In the News

Children and youth who are not victims of sexual abuse because they maintain their boundaries rarely make the news. Some offenders are caught because an aware youth or child told someone else about the grooming or advances. There are, however, many news stories of those who do fall victim to sexual offenders because they either did not have boundaries or they let their guard down.

\* This is about an assault by a stranger:

San Jose, California, May 5, 2015 - A girl, age 13, had just got off the school bus and came to the door of her house. Just then she saw a man coming onto the porch. The thirtyish man claimed to be lost, then began inappropriate questioning. The girl opened the door, dashed inside, and tried to close the door, but the man forced his way in. She fought him off until he fled. The girl texted her father while hiding. Police said the man's description matched that of the person who tried to assault a woman a month earlier.[3]



\* Most cases of sexual abuse are not direct assaults, but a softening up of the targeted persons so they will willingly participate:

San Diego, California, 2021 - The San Diego law firm Estey & Bomberger, which represents survivors of sexual assault, posted an article about how sexual predators groom children and youth. In the process, predators work on both the intended victim and the parents, taking advantage of the naïveté of both as well as their reluctance to admit fault. The predator first looks for ways to get close to the prey, then feigns concern for the child's wellbeing.

This article was written to advise parents and guardians on how to protect their children and to urge them to establish personal boundaries.[4]

\* Not all grooming and solicitation is in person. A lot of it is now online:

Cambridge, England, United Kingdom, April 22, 2021 - The Internet Watch Foundation released a report revealing that the online sexual grooming of children has increased. This is especially true for girls, who are targets not only for arranging sexual encounters, but also for self-produced online pornography. About 80% of the victims were girls from 11 to 13 years old. Images of girls had also gone up from 2018 to 2020.[5]

Detroit, Michigan, December 5, 2018 - In the Detroit, Michigan United States District Court, the nine members of a global online child sex images ring were convicted of several federal sexual exploitation charges. The trial was in Detroit because a Michigan girl who had been targeted worked with the FBI on the case.

The men, ranging in age from 34 to 47, posed as teen boys online to entice the girls. This operation ran for five years. They hunted online social media, began with "innocent" comments, manipulated girls into exposure and acts, and used shame, blackmail, and/or threats to keep them acting. Ages of the victims were from 10 to 17. They stopped when they realized that authorities were investigating people on the same web service they used, but by then they were already being investigated.

The leader of the group was sentenced to 40 years, but only served a month of it before being beaten to death by other inmates in a federal prison.[6][7][8]

\* A father found out from his daughter that someone was soliciting her online:

Oklahoma, June 2017 - A father in Oklahoma (name and location withheld) learned from his daughter that someone on social media was getting fresh with her (grooming). Dad reported it to the local police, but they said they couldn't do anything until the offender came, so he set up a sting. Using his daughter's phone, he made contact with the sexual solicitor, who proposed meeting her somewhere. Dad agreed and gave him the address and directions to the large yard behind the house where he set up a tent. There the father and two other men waited while a grown woman was in the tent as a decoy. The hopeful offender came at the appointed time, 12:30 AM, and went to the tent. When he got there, the three men tackled him and bound him with zip ties. Then the police came and took him into custody.[9]

## From the Bible

The Bible has advice for young people to use discretion in relationships (what we call “setting boundaries”) to guard against inappropriate behavior:

*Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee ... To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words ... For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead (Proverbs 2:11,16,18).*

*... but intreat ... the younger [women] as sisters, with all purity (1 Timothy 5:1b,2b).*

*Flee also youthful lusts ... (2 Timothy 2:22a).*

## Drawing the Line

When we express a desire that something does not progress past a certain point, then we are "drawing the line." But saying what we do not want is often not enough. Setting personal boundaries is effective only when we act on our desire for "no farther." When we draw the line, we need to first know when someone is about to cross the line. Then we need to know how to hold the line, not let them cross.

As seen in the news stories above, many children don't know how to hold the line on sexual abuse. The abusers may be strangers, whether physically present or online, or be people they know, such as family, neighbors, teachers, coaches, even pastors. However, some children and youth do ask for help and predators are stopped.

## *Getting Past the Fence*

Most sexual predators of children and youth use grooming to get to the point where they can abuse their prey while minimizing the chance of interference and discovery. In this process, they gain the trust of the intended victims, condition them to accept and engage in sexual talk, and finally to engage in sexual acts. A successful sexual offender can keep using the same person for years.

## *Damage Done*

When caught, most sexual offenders of minors are charged with child endangerment. Why endangerment?

- ◆ For very young victims, this can be physically injurious due to the extreme difference in size and strength.
- ◆ Then, just consider what this does to the mind and emotions of an abused young person.
  - ◆ It warps their view of what sex should be. This often leads to dysfunctional marital relationships.
  - ◆ Many later become abusers themselves.
  - ◆ For those raised in churches, this brings spiritual and moral confusion, because they are engaging in what they believe is wrong.
  - ◆ If the perpetrator is an authority figure, this brings disrespect for persons in that position, sometimes even for authority itself.

## *Building the Fence*

In many areas of life we are told to build fences, to set boundaries to keep others from taking unfair advantage of us. This may be in the workplace, or in social organizations, or even in families. Many times in families this is someone taking financial advantage of others or over-using them. We should consider sexually abusing a minor as taking unfair advantage of their innocence, inexperience, size, lack of authority, undeveloped reasoning powers, etc.

On the other hand, children can learn to strongly say "No" to some things. We should know what to teach them to say "No" to. They also need to trust us enough to come to us with anything that concerns them. For example, if someone says, "Don't tell anyone," or "Don't tell your parents," that means there could be a bad reason, so they should tell us. If they say, "I HAVE to tell Mom [or Dad], and the person says, "No! No! Don't tell them," that's a sign this is really bad, so tell.

## Advice on the Dru Sjodin Website

The "[How to Prevent](#)" subsection of Safety and Education on the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website[1] has four divisions:

- ♦ "Educate Yourself"
- ♦ "Learn about Healthy Development"
- ♦ "Talk to Your Child or Teen"
- ♦ "Family and Community Safety."

"Family and Community Safety" is about building defenses against sexual abuse. The first chapter in this is "Family Safety Planning." Here we are advised to create "a family safety plan," bringing everybody onto the same page. Here the family can discuss boundaries and healthy interactions. The children learn what is not acceptable, what they say "No" to.

### *Educate*

Since sexual predators consider parents to be naïve, we begin by educating the adults. Then if Johnny says, "Mr. D. did [an inappropriate action]," we thank Johnny for telling us, then we know what was wrong and decide how to deal with Mr. D.

Teach children the proper names for body parts and help them to understand their bodies as they grow.

### *Building Trust*

Talking with children and teens in a calm and respectful manner builds trust. Listen when they talk to you and take them seriously. If they are mistaken about something, calmly correct, not scolding them or putting them down. When they trust you, they are more likely to tell you when they hear or see something suspicious.

### *Guidelines*

Boundaries begin within the family. If the family has guidelines for respect, safety, healthy interactions, and personal privacy, and these are followed, then the children learn these boundaries through both example and practice. This makes it easier for them to hold the line when someone acts inappropriately. By the way, talk about what they can do in those situations. Oh yes, the boundaries grow as the child does.

## *Safe Adults*

Who are the safe adults in your family, in your church, in the school? These are the ones your children or teens should talk to if they have questions or encounter inappropriate behavior. Find out who's safe or not safe. Watch and listen. Is someone too friendly or too interested in a child? If an uncle gives your daughter lingerie, does that raise questions?

## *More Help*

At the end of "Family Safety Planning" is a list of links to five resources:

- ◆ Tip sheet on how to create a family safety plan from [Stop It Now!](#)
- ◆ Comprehensive toolkit about child sexual abuse for parents from the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) (PDF)
- ◆ Child sexual abuse prevention tips from the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) (PDF)
- ◆ Children's advocacy center locations from the [National Children's Alliance](#)
- ◆ Contact information for rape crisis centers and state and territory coalitions from the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#)

## **Online Safety**

Online safety for our children is now a vital concern, as seen in three of the news stories above. So how do we keep our children safe online? The easy way would be to not let them online at all, but for most that is impractical. Besides, if they do not learn how to be safe online now, they'll be falling for scammers and predators when they've left home. They need to be taught how to be safe from online sexual predators. They also need to learn how to be discrete about what personal information they share online. They should be skeptical of online and email offers which are too good to be true, or messages intended to create panic and drive them to unwise actions.

This teaching involves both guidance and guardianship. Since they are minors, you have not only the right, but the responsibility to be aware of what they are doing online. That used to be easier when they had to use the family computer, but now almost every teen and many preteens have their own smart phones.

Assure the children and youth that phone accountability does not mean we do not trust them, but that (1) we are protecting them from bad actors, and (2) we are helping them know what to be aware of and how to respond.

Obviously, we need to be able to discern inappropriate communication. Do we ourselves practice this? Can we spot scam email and text messages? If so we can explain examples of these to our youngsters, and tell them that bad people are not after only our money. Some want us for wrong purposes. How you explain this depends on the child's or teen's stage of development. Basically, the message is (1), "That person is likely not who he or she claims to be," and (2), "No matter what they say, they do NOT love you, may not even like you." Does this work? For many families it does. One example is the last news story above. The father found out that a sexual predator was after his daughter and he foiled the attempt.

## Conclusion

We all need to set personal boundaries to protect ourselves from fraud and abuse. Therefore, we should help and guide our children in setting their own personal boundaries, especially to protect them from sexual abuse.

## There Is More

This is the last article for September. The other three are "2019 West Freeway Church of Christ Shooting" (Lesson Learned), "Outer Guard" (Stopping a Killer Outside), and "On Hold" (Citizen's Arrest). The next article (the first in October) is "1999 Temple Grounds Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned).

## [Article References](#)



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# CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

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



2019 West Freeway Church of Christ  
Shooting

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[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Stopping a Killer Outside

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

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Citizen's Arrest

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Protecting Children with Preventive  
Procedures

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

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# SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

## Be A Peter

BY: TERRY BERRINGER

Today we're gonna borrow the 1981 DeLorean DMC time machine from "Back to the Future" and jump around the time continuum of the early New Testament.

We will be starting in The Garden of Gethsemane where a large crowd of temple guards armed with swords and clubs are coming to arrest Jesus. As they approach Jesus, one of Jesus' disciples named Peter, draws his sword and cuts off the ear of one of the Temple Guards.

At this point, let's jump back in the DeLorean and go back a bit to Luke 22:36.

Here we see Jesus telling his disciples that if they didn't own a sword, that they should sell their cloak and go buy one.

What!?!?!

Jesus is telling his disciples to "Arm" themselves?

He didn't tell them to get a butter knife, or a box cutter to open all those Amazon boxes...but a sword!

The sword, at the time, was one of the main law enforcement and battle weapons of the time. Some might have even called it an "assault weapon." He didn't say that EVERYONE needed to be carrying one, only those in the small percentage.

Now let's jump back in the DeLorean and get back to Gethsemane.

Here we see Jesus' response to Peter drawing his sword and attacking the Temple Guard.

It wasn't surprise, shock, or disbelief.



Jesus wasn't angry that Peter was armed.

He wasn't angry that Peter defended him.

He didn't tell him to give his sword to the Temple Guards.

He didn't tell him to throw it on the ground.

He didn't scream "For all who live by the sword will die by the sword."

What Jesus did say is "Put your sword back in its place".

Or what would be translated into today's verbiage as "Holster your weapon!"

What Jesus did do is he healed the guard's ear and went with them, eventually to the cross, knowing what was to come.

A lot of folks with a warrior mindset (Often known as Sheepdogs) feel alienated by the "modern" Church...but in large part, that's because a lot of "modern" churches don't understand the warrior mindset. If they did, they would understand the great warriors whose stories are told throughout the Bible.

And the modern church definitely does not understand violence.

The warrior ethos is highlighted throughout the Bible... more so in the Old Testament.

Jesus surrounded himself with rough men who were ready and willing to fight the good fight...both physically and spiritually.

Peter was outnumbered and outgunned.

The Bible doesn't tell us that any of the other disciples had his back.

But he took the fight to the bad guys anyhow.

Modern day "Peters" stopped flight 93 from being another guided missile on 9/11.

More recently, Parkland school Coach Feis was a "Peter" when he put himself between his students and the shooter during the Parkland school shooting.

"Peters" regularly stop killers before they get the label mass shooters and make the headlines.

Thank God for Peters.

One last point that needs to be made on this subject...the Ten Commandments do not prohibit killing.

They prohibit MURDER.

Murder is always selfish; Killing is not necessarily.

And every free country that I know of recognizes that difference with their laws.

But churches still use mis-translations that say “thou shall not kill” which is assaulting to people in the military who have killed evil people for their country, law enforcement who have killed in the line of duty, and anyone who has killed in self defense.

**\*\*Quick aside:** A few people tried to correct my word choice, thinking that I meant to say “insulting” instead of “assaulting.” I did not make a mistake with the word choice. Think of how the body responds when you breathe in ammonia...it is an assault to the senses and causes a threat response to your body.

I consider it to be an assault. Not a criminal assault, but an assault none-the-less.\*\*

The mis-translation of this Commandment is one of the factors that has alienated warriors from churches throughout time.

Fortunately, there are churches across the country that recognize that violence is a tool and that sometimes it’s what’s needed to stop evil.

With that in mind, here’s to all warriors finding the internal peace that passes understanding as they defend their home and house of worship.

Serving Him,

Terry Berringer



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

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# ONSITE INSTRUCTORS

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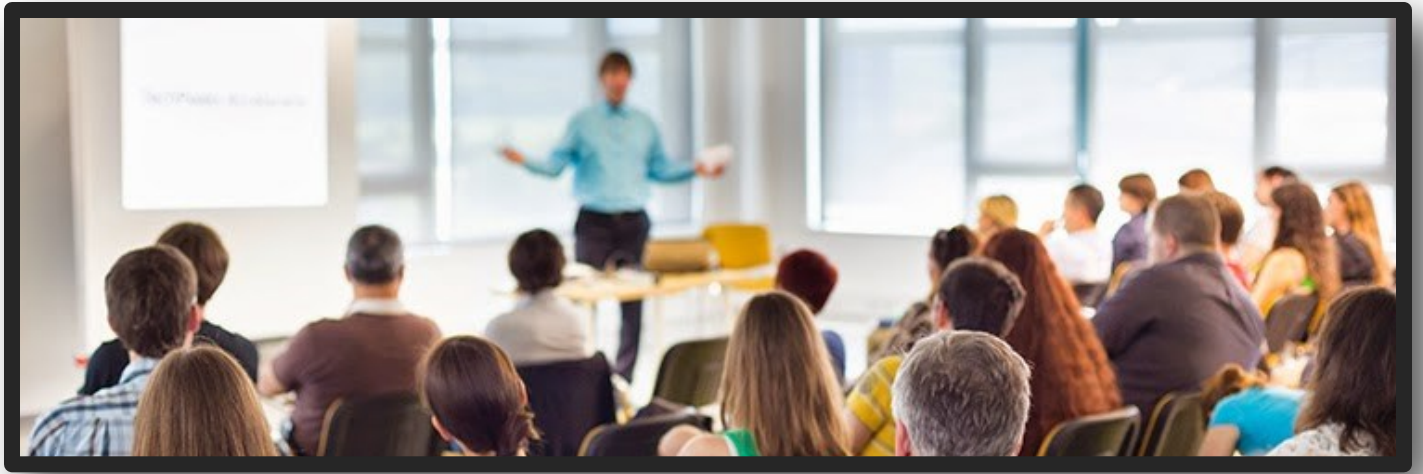
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## **SHEEPDOG SEMINAR FOR CHURCHES**

**Quartzsite, Arizona Church  
Safety Seminar**

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

### **DATE**

Saturday, November 12, 2022.

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

Lunch included

### **LOCATION OF EVENT**

[Quartzsite Alliance Church](#)

720 W. Desert Vista St.

Quartzsite, Arizona 85346

### **COSTS**

\$30.00 for one ticket

\$45.00 for two tickets

Lunch is provided

### **Attention Ladies in Quartzsite:**

We will have a Women's Safety Seminar on Saturday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 at the church. No self-defense is involved and the cost is only \$5.00.

Ladies, if you register, you may come early and have lunch.

*[Click here to Register!](#)*



# 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***