

# Sanctuary

## Balancing Security and Hospitality

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# Real Life





# Real Life

147 church shootings from 2006-2016 (Drake)

- 17% the attacker felt unwelcome or had been rejected by the church

1,600 "deadly force incidents" since 1999 at Houses of Worship (Chinn)

- 25% robberies

- 16% fights between domestic partners

- 14% personal conflicts

- 10% involve mental illness.

- 6% religious bias

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/06/us/church-shootings-truth/index.html>

# Real Life?

- There are an estimated 378,000 congregations in the United States, which means the likelihood of any congregation being involved in a shooting in any year is approximately 1 in 126,000 or 0.0000079%.
- There are a minimum of 19,656,000 church services every year in the United States. That means your odds of being in a church service in which a shooting occurs are at most 1 in 6,552,000 or 0.00000015%.
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/common-church-shootings/>



## Real Life

Not one of us would want to suffer the aftermath of a worst case scenario without having made a good faith effort to make our congregations safer.

# Real Faith

How does our planning for worst case scenarios spring from what we believe it means to be a Christian?



# Real Faith

- Proverbs 2:10-12
- Isaiah 31:1
- Matthew 26:47-54
- Luke 22:36-38
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Matthew 25:37-40
- Hebrews 13:2
- Matthew 16:25-26
- Matthew 10:16

Discretion will protect you...  
woe to those...who trust in ...chariots  
all who take the sword will perish by the sword  
If you don't have a sword... buy one  
if you greet only your brothers and sisters...  
whatever you did for one of the least of these...  
do not forget to show hospitality to strangers  
those who lose their life for my sake will find it  
be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves

“ For wisdom will enter your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.  
<sup>11</sup> Discretion will protect you,  
and understanding will guard you.  
<sup>12</sup> Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked  
men,  
from men whose words are perverse,

”

Proverbs 2:10-12 (NIV)



“<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, **“Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”** <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?”

Mt 26:47-54 (NRSV)

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

MT 5:43-48



“

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

”

Hebrews 13:2 (NRSV)

“

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,  
who rely on horses,  
who trust in the multitude of their chariots  
and in the great strength of their horsemen,  
but do not look to the Holy One of Israel,  
or seek help from the LORD.

”

Isaiah 31:1 (NIV)



“<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said, “When I sent you out and told you to travel light, to take only the bare necessities, did you get along all right?”  
“Certainly,” they said, “we got along just fine.”  
<sup>36-37</sup> He said, “This is different. Get ready for trouble. Look to what you’ll need; there are difficult times ahead. Pawn your coat and get a sword. What was written in Scripture, ‘He was lumped in with the criminals,’ gets its final meaning in me. Everything written about me is now coming to a conclusion.” ”  
<sup>38</sup> They said, “Look, Master, two swords!”  
But he said, “Enough of that; no more sword talk!”

Luke 22:35-28 (MSG)

“<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, **just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,<sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me.**’”

Matthew 25:37-40 (NRSV)



## Real Faith

Our preparation should not be a compromise between our faith and reality, but a response to reality that is wholly consistent with our faith.

Because we believe \_\_\_\_\_  
we should \_\_\_\_\_

# How do we get there?

1. Form Team
2. Get Informed
3. Evaluate Setting



# How do we get there?

## 4. Set Priorities

What can be done immediately without too much distress or deliberation?

What can we do in the short term to close “gaps” in safety?

What topics do we need to include in our plans?

## What Hominy included

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# How do we get there?

## 5. Develop Rationale/Purpose

### Parking Lot Security Team Purpose

seeks to be a visible, hospitable and active presence that welcomes guests, reduces anxiety, helps those in need, and pre-empts potential hazards.

### Emergency Procedures Purpose

Make common sense preparations to proactively reduce potential threats and safety hazards for all who attend events at Hominy Baptist Church while holding true to our convictions about welcoming the stranger and accepting the risks of being Christ-followers.

# How do we get there?

6. Draft Plans

7. Revise and Review

8. Present, Publish and Post

9. Practice What You Plan



# Resources

BDM: Checklist for a Church Emergency Management Plan

<http://www.brethren.org/bdm/resources.html>

Recommendations for Local Church Emergency Plan

House of Worship Emergency Plan Sample (PDF)

[http://www.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/Faith-based\\_Preparedness.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/Faith-based_Preparedness.aspx)

Emergency Plan Template for Faith Based Organizations

<https://adacounty.id.gov/accem/Writing-Emergency-Plans>

Emergency Response

<http://www.uprightministries.com/templates/System/details.asp?id=45314&PID=676044>

Protecting Your Church from Crime and Violence (and others) \$14.95

<http://store.churchlawtodaystore.com/emergencies.html>

Shooter in the Church

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2007/august-online-only/070606.html>

Guide for Developing High Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/33007>

Questions?





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