



The Armor-Bearer is a monthly publication provided by InDev Specialists inc. to inform on topics to do with church security & emergency planning.

James Willis, Jr., Administrator

The Armor-Bearer

Your monthly companion in the battle for peace of mind

October 2015

Special points of interest:

- The risks and importance of carrying a weapon.
- Hidden dangers of cell phone functions.
- The importance of a security team "Uniform".
- Getting you church on board with security.

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From the President's Desk

By Jim Willis

From any angle that you look at it, churches today are facing difficult times. To add to the other concerns, churches must now focus on the growing threat of physical violence and security. Recent events both at churches and elsewhere have shown that the level of hostility toward Christians and Christianity are on the rise, and with an increase in hostility, comes an inevitable increase in violence.

How to deal with growing security concerns in the church has been the catalyst for, sometimes heated, discussions. The fact that there has been an increase in church related violence is been the only point of agreement in many of these discussions; how to respond is often both the question and point of dissension.

When discussing how to effectively respond to church violence, it is important to remember that all points of view are valid and important to the conversation. Trying to "win" the argument shouldn't be the primary goal of the discussion, coming to agreement on the approach that the church will take should be the ultimate goal. Engage the services of a good church security consultant, local law enforcement and first responders is also a good idea.

The thing to remember is that, there are as many differing options as there are styles of worship services. Keep an open mind, look to the goals that you need to accomplish, and focus on the problem at hand and results; this will keep the conversation from being hijacked by emotion.



Siri & Cell Phone Hacking

from- wired.com

In a highly interesting piece in wired magazine this month, the often unimaginable threats of the digital age were once again brought back into mind. French researchers have discovered that hackers can use the Siri function on cell phones to hack into your personal information. From as far as 16 feet away, hackers can send a silent radio signal which has the ability to easily turn your intelligent personal assistant into their backdoor gate keeper. Once into your phone, these same hackers can send text messages, assess your internet search histories, load malware and other tracking software, among many other possibilities. As can be guessed, the implications of this new threat are staggering. For more information please read this story in full at <http://www.wired.com/2015/10/this-radio-trick-silently-hacks-siri-from-16-feet-away/>

The Responsibility of Involvement

by James Willis, Jr.



***“It is your life
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The rash of terrible shooting incidents around the world this year has brought the heavy quantity of gun violence which Americans have seen over the past decade back into the forefront of society. With both society in general and the church in particular under siege, in the opinion of many, there are several options being argued for how best to respond to these crises. One of the more popular of these options is also the most sensitive; that choice being should church parishioners arm themselves, whether concealed or open carry, in church and public occasions. As with the nature of anything to do with the gun control/rights debate, InDev holds that personal carry is a personal choice, to be made in conjunction with your family and church. A second question to ask yourself if you do decide to carry is whether or not to use your weapon in the case of an active shooter situation. If you feel like you would proactively respond in such an event, then it would be best to coordinate your efforts with your church’s security team if one exists. If your church does not, consider joining together with other compatriots to provide for such a need in your church.

An excellent example of the usefulness of a church security team is the response of the New Life Church in Colorado Springs to their active shooter incident in 2007. Matthew James Murray, the assailant, had already attacked that morning a local Christian center before he appeared on the New Life Church campus. Unfortunately, Murray was able to shoot 5 people in the church parking lot. However, New Life Church was in a better position to protect itself for two reasons: they had a security team of church members on campus, and they were in tune to local events. Having heard of that morning’s shooting, their security team was on high alert, and thus security team member Jeanne Assam was able to respond by neutralizing Murray in the parking lot before he had a chance to enter the building and do untold damage.

In answering to an active shooter crisis however, any would-be responder must realize that through the very act of intervening they are intentionally putting themselves directly in harm’s way, and the odds are in favor of them being injured or killed in the process. The principal and school psychiatrist of Sandy Hook, Dawn Hochsprung & Mary Sherlach, were both killed when they responded to the sound of gunfire at the start of Adam Lanza’s attack. In this August’s train attack in France, the first two individuals, both Frenchmen, who tried to stop El Khazzani when he emerged from the bathroom, the first was knocked to the ground and the second was shot in the neck. When the three Americans next responded, one was severally cut by El Khazzani’s knife. And even more recent, during the Umpqua Community College shooting in Oregon, Chris Mintz ran into the building where Harper-Mercer’s attack was occurring and was shot seven times while trying to prevent the shooter from leaving a classroom.

These examples are not intended to discourage one from attempting to get involved in trying to prevent or stop an armed attack. Indeed, the consultants at InDev neither argue for or against that those who can intervene do so. This is a courageous choice which one must personally make, regardless of what anybody else says or thinks. It is **your** life on the line when you enter an active shooter situation, and **you** must be aware of the danger placed on yourself, **and** potentially your loved ones. Remember the lesson of John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”(NKJV) If you would like more information on personal carry options or augmenting your security team, please visit the InDev Specialists website at www.indevinc.com or call 703-330-1836.



“The Uniform”—Team Visibility

by James Willis, Jr.

It is important to remember that anyone who decides to respond to an emergency, whether it be a security, medical, weather, or any other kind, must be clearly visible & distinguishable from other church members. In the most general sense, some level of uniformity amongst the members of a security or emergency team can establish a sense of unity & professionalism within the team. Furthermore, a uniform grants the wearer an air of authority & command which will be instantly recognizable to all church members. This can also aid in the team members “taking charge” of a situation & removing or preventing any unwanted interference. Uniformity also helps to make team members quickly stand out to police or emergency responders, aiding in their efforts as well as preventing possibly dangerous situations of mistaken identity.

Now does a uniform have to be as complete or complex as an Army dress blue uniform or a Fireman’s kit? Not at all, the “uniform” of a team can be very simple. Matching color sashes or hats, vests or shirts, even name tags can all be combined in different ways to achieve your desired effect, which is to both stand out when needed & to be easily recognizable. For more information on uniforms, their uses, or ideas on creating your own team uniforms please visit our website and store at www.indevinc.com or call 703-330-1836.



Overcoming Opposition

by Glynda McCorkle & Jim Willis

Often after the church leadership has approved setting up an emergency response program, you will have vocal opposition from members of the congregation to the idea of starting a security team.

First, do not discount their views or concerns. They have a right to their views and, left unresolved, their opposition can hamper your efforts. However the opposition is more often than not based on fears that the team will be highly visible and/or intimidating, or they will have a detrimental impact on the church’s atmosphere and openness.

One approach to elevating these fears and gaining “buy-in” for your emergency response efforts is to set up a medical response team first.

The vast majority of emergencies in the church are medically related, and most people readily accept the idea of having a medical response team. Once established and it becomes evident that establishing emergency response teams will not adversely impact the church, then those with opposing views can often more easily accept the idea of a security team.

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Book Review- *You Can, You Will*

by Ken Shumaker

Joel Osteen’s recent book, *You Can, You Will: 8 Undeniable Qualities of a Winner*, is yet another excellent addition to his already impressive line of books. As strange as it sounds, except to those who have read his works before, Osteen’s writing is strong on making the obvious, “obvious”. He stresses that it is important that you should expect what you ask God for, & then expect nothing less. We are encouraged to expect that something good will happen to us each day, but that it is up to us to be receptive and keep an eye out for it. If you are already a fan of Joel Osteen’s works, then you will find no real negatives to this book. As always, Osteen’s style in many ways says what each of us think of everyday, but just don’t follow up on.



THE INDEV FAMILY:

~INDEV SPECIALISTS

~INDEV TACTICAL

~INDEV MINISTRY
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

9844 Business Way
Manassas VA

Phone: 703-330-1836
Fax: 703-330-4413

Email:
james.willis@indevspecialists.com

www.indevinc.com

"Don't worry, we've got this!"

Put Address Here

Quote of the Month

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt



Verse of the Month

The LORD *is* good,
A stronghold in the day of
trouble;
And He knows those who
trust in Him.

**Nahum 1:7
(NKJV)**