



# The Armor-Bearer

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

Your monthly companion in the battle for peace of mind

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## Special points of interest:

- Hidden Dangers of the New Age
- Remembering Times Gone Bye
- Changing Gun Laws in the U.S.

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## From the President's Desk

By Jim Willis

Does your church have blinders on?

*Blinders*, Webster's second definition is: "a limitation or obstruction to sight or discernment".

When it comes to security, many congregations, as a whole and individually, appear to have blinders that keep them from recognizing the dangers that lurk near and sometimes within their church doors. Ironically those that steadfastly refuse to acknowledge reality are the same ones that are astounded by the church's lack of preparation and planning when violence occurs.

The cases of two recent incidents of hostile and potentially violent disruptions in churches near my home offers clear examples of this. One of the churches had a security program in place, the other did not; but in both, the congregations' blinders were ripped away and stark reality that the potential for violence is real and it can occur in their church brought into harsh focus.

In the church with security, congregational blinders had limited the team's ability to function and hampered their effectiveness. This all came into clear focus when a member of the congregation, with prior issues with a guest speaker, became belligerent and stormed toward the pulpit. The security team and others removed the person after a lengthy and boisterous encounter that disrupted the service. The congregation was left shocked, frightened, and confused, and many left vowing never to return.

The other church considered security a non-issue. In fact many of the congregation had previously claimed church security was unbiblical. However, this all changed when a visitor to the church began to pace back and forth in the back yelling out obscenities, cursing God, and ranting incoherently. The startled congregation responded with confusion and fear. Some got up and quickly left while others covered under pews.

In both cases, the members were left feeling emotionally violated (these type of incidents have the same emotional impact as a home invasion), angry at the lack of preparation, and fearful of reoccurrences. The same phrases were heard over and over: "I never believed that this could happen in OUR church", "we're just a small country church, how did this ever happen", and simply "why". The answer is simple; putting on blinders doesn't alter reality.



InDev President Jim Willis at the Equator in Uganda.

## Uber and the Dangers of the New Social Media World

James Willis, Jr.



**“However, this isn’t some hypothetical problem for the future, but a very real danger now”**



Have you ever heard of Uber? It is the wildly popular and successful ride-sharing company that is seen by many as a hallmark of the new social-media age. For those whom might not know what Uber is or have never used the service before, Uber is a smart-phone app that connects people who need a ride with those who have a car and are willing to drive for a commission. The intent, and indeed the appeal, of the app is to basically “cut out” the middleman (taxis) to make traveling easier and more convenient for both driver and passenger alike. I personally have used Uber a number of times myself, and found that the experience was similar to that of getting a ride from a coworker or acquaintance. It may seem like such a useful and easy to use service is too good to be true, and unfortunately that is increasingly appearing to be the case.

Training to become an Uber driver consists entirely of watching a less than 15 minute long training video on YouTube. Training to become a taxi driver in many cities and states requires multiple hours of classes and certification, as well as vehicle inspections to ensure the safety of the taxi cab and the riders inside. It is incredibly easy to become an Uber driver, as the only real requirements are to possess a car, a driver’s license, and a smart phone. Uber does run their applicants information through a third-party criminal background checker, however this background check only looks at a person’s name, address, and SSN against a variety of databases. Uber’s background check doesn’t look at any fingerprint databases and their search into criminal records only goes back seven years.

Such half measures in regard for people’s safety, both for passengers and drivers themselves, leaves many opportunities for potentially dangerous people to slip “between the cracks”. However this isn’t some hypothetical problem for the future, but a very real danger now. A review of Uber drivers in Los Angeles this past August showed that 4 drivers for the company had criminal records including child exploitation, identity theft, manslaughter, and a DUI. There have been other reported cases of Uber drivers stalking former passengers and one of an Uber driver having possession of pictures of a passenger taken before that passenger ever entered the vehicle.

But this month provides perhaps one of the most shocking examples of the danger Uber poses is the murder of 6 people in Michigan this month by an Uber driver. The accused murder, Jason Dalton of Kalamazoo, went on a murder spree February 20th killing 6 and critically injuring 2 others. Apparently, Dalton gave Uber rides and collected fare before he started his killings that night and between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> murders. Ironically, the Daltons mid-spree passengers decide to take an Uber home *because* they heard about the shootings on the news. While it would be unfair to categorize all Uber drivers with the evil acts of Jason Dalton, the fact that this was possible, due to his use of personal car and limited Uber oversight, is what’s so troubling.

If you or your friends decide to use Uber, we recommend a few safety tips. First, never have an Uber driver pick you up or drop you off at your house. If possible asked to be dropped off or picked up at a neighbor’s house a few doors down or at the head of the street, and then walk home after they leave. When you are in the car, never sit in the front. Never find yourself too distracted by your phone or conversation to not be able to keep an eye on where the car is going or if you seem to be heading off course. If you feel like you’re being misdirected, have them stop the car and exit the vehicle immediately. If you find yourself in conversation with the driver, keep the topics general and never give up personal information. Lastly, never seem overly cautious or nervous, as this could cause the driver to become worried about you. Using common-sense thinking, you can keep yourself safe in these kinds of situations. But at the end of the day, wouldn’t it just be easier to call a cab?

## What Happened to My World?

Ken Shumaker

Have you ever thought, "What Happened to My World"? You know, the 60's, 70's, and early 80's. When you get up at 4am go to the barn, feed, milk, clean and get to school by 7:45am. And when you got back home, the chores started all over again. A time when every kid played baseball, football, softball and marbles, and of course, fishing or hunting in season.

Dinner was always at 6:00pm sharp and if you were not there on time you went without. And there was no use complaining, you knew the rules and that's the way it was. And you didn't jump in the car and run to the local fast food place, because that'd cost you at least a \$1.00.

The doors were always unlocked at home and at the church and if someone came in that door it was family, friend or in some cases the German Shepherd.

How many remember the 2 for 1? You know, you got a spanking at school, and then you got another one at home. Do you remember mom saying "You just wait till your father gets home!", and you knew that he definitely was on his way.

But what I remember the most was homemade Sunday breakfast before heading off to church. Sunday school was till 10:50, then on to Sunday service. Where everyone knew you and what you had done all week, thanks to Mrs. Johnson (every town has a "Mrs. Johnson"). You know, the lady that told everyone every secret in town. But Mrs. Johnson was also the best cook and the most loving person in town. She was always the first to get to you when you wrecked your bike, fell down, or got thrown off your horse. She knew when you were too late for dinner and always had a plate for you! My other favorite event was family dinner on Sunday. When the focus was on God, Church, and friends. It wasn't about running into town to find a restaurant, it was who from church was coming over to be family that night. Our home town was all about family, whether your last name was Owens, Fridley, Fitzwater or Johnson. On Sunday we were all one family, and to be totally honest that's the way the town was all the time. Everyone caring about each other not for personal gain but because they believed that the Bible says Love one another as you love yourself. Mrs. Johnson had the biggest heart of all. If the world had more Mrs. Johnsons, maybe, just maybe, we could leave the doors unlocked again!



Author's hometown of Nokesville, Virginia in the 1960's.

***"If the world  
had more Mrs.  
Johnsons,  
maybe, just  
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again!"***

## Announcing our First Spring 2016 Webinar

*Set the Date!!!*

### **Program #1: A Church with Blinders On**

Identifying and removing your churches' tunnel vision to everyday dangers and answering the question: *Why does our church need a security team?*

The most dangerous words heard in the church – *"that'll never happen here"*.

### **Date: March 15**

Times: (2 opportunities)

#1: 10:00am

#2: 7:00pm

Webinar Length: 45 minutes

Admission is \$45

Sign up before March 7th to save 20% !



Please visit [www.indevinc.com](http://www.indevinc.com) for more details!

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@indev-specialists.com

[www.indevinc.com](http://www.indevinc.com)



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

## Mississippi Church Carry Bill

James Willis, Jr

In the wake of the growing number of high profile shooting on church campuses across the country, many state and local governments are reassessing how they view security and public safety. This has generated a number of debates throughout the country, and it should not be surprising that gun-control is one of the more "hot" topics.

Into this ideological battlefield, the State of Mississippi has entered the fray this February as their state House of Representatives has passed House Bill 786, or the Mississippi Church Protection Act. If passed in the State Senate, which it is expected to do, than the Act would allow churches in Mississippi to arm their security teams if they so choose. This measure is supported by many law-enforcement agencies throughout the state as a proactive step in giving local churches a tool in which to defend themselves. Critics of the plan argue that allowing large numbers of citizens armed in churches could create a safety hazard, while others argue that it can create a slippery slope in regards to opportunities for terrorist to legally have weapons on "religious property".

InDev would like to reiterate our position that we neither encourage nor discourage the carry of firearms on religious property. Whether or not a church decides to have armed security teams on their campuses is a decision that InDev believes the church as a body should make, because to do so without widespread support has the potential to create serious divides in a church. Furthermore, on a personal level the decision to carry a firearm should be taken after consultation with one's family and in compliance with state law and the rules of their church. If you or your church decides that carrying on site is the right option for your situation, then InDev can offer training in armed and unarmed security techniques, as well as our proprietary ASSIST certification. For more information, please contact us 703-330-1836 or visit our website at [www.indevinc.com](http://www.indevinc.com)

## Quote of the Month

*We know what we  
are, but not what we  
may be.*

*William Shakespeare*



## Verse of the Month

*Whoever has no rule  
over his own spirit  
Is like a city broken  
down, without walls.*

*Proverbs 25:28  
(KJV)*