

Dear Pastor and staff;

Churches have been under attack, both spiritual as well as physical. In America however, we've been able to focus on the spiritual because physical attacks have been rare. That is, until now. For every church shooting, burning, burglary, that we hear of, there are many others that go unreported by the national media. It's up to the churches to take a proactive approach in doing everything possible to be prepared to deal with a critical incident. This is especially true in churches where the Gospel is preached because statistically, they seem to be more prone to critical incidents.

I'm a retired police officer from the city of Buffalo with 25 years experience. My last assignment was in the firearms division where I not only trained my officers in the use of firearms and combat tactics, but also officers throughout Erie County as part of the Central Police Academy. Shortly after retiring from the Buffalo P.D., I was hired as lead firearms instructor at the same police academy. A former martial arts instructor and international competitor, I am also tactics instructor to the Buffalo Public School's security staff. I am trained and certified to train instructors by the Department of Homeland Security and Louisiana State University in counter domestic terrorism and active shooter response. I recently found out that a web site I have nothing to do with ([silatsuffian.com/2009/01/test.html](http://silatsuffian.com/2009/01/test.html)) included me on a list of "world class" tactics instructors. True or not, I'm humbled and only hope I can live up to that.

A few short years ago I was contacted by a local church that expressed concerns they had due to some "shady" characters that had visited for a couple of Sundays. They appeared to be there not for the service, but seemed to be "casing" the building. I was able to go there and give them a security assessment and some pointers on what to look for and how to react to an incident. What impressed me is the fact that the pastor and the administration took a pro-active approach to this situation. Too many times it's only after a serious incident that individuals and groups take preventive steps. In other words, they are re-active. But here the church staff painted a good picture of a shepherd looking out for the flock.

Since then, I started The Watchman's Academy where I lecture and train church security teams. In my power point presentation, I go over past incidents and what we can learn from them. I also cover how to set up security teams, what their role should be, recommended equipment, tactical positioning, and more. All of this while being sensitive to the fact that there is a church service going on.

Church security should operate in a stealth mode so the congregation can worship freely without the distractions that come with normal security operations.

No matter the size of your congregation or building, I'm certain you and your security staff can benefit from this. This presentation is not for the church body but for you, the staff, or those you deem security personnel. Even if you have experienced military or police as security, they still need this. They'll be the first to say you can't have enough training and that not just any response, but a well coordinated response to an incident is vital.

Church security should be performed like a ministry, not well intended cops responding the way they would in a street situation. No police agency trains for "ministry" work. That's what I'll bring to the table. Situations can vary from a suspicious person(s) casing the building, someone coming to the church and stealing wallets from purses as worshipers sing or pray, a child predator, an estranged husband or wife entering the service causing a disruption, or the extreme, an armed confrontation.

Just to add to my experience, I have traveled with a group to different nations throughout the world providing tactical training to police and military. Because I'm bi-lingual (English/Spanish), most of my travels have taken mainly to Central and South America. We train them in firearms, hand to hand combat, and also dignitary protective services for government officials. Yes, we train bodyguards for heads of state. Those of us involved are all born again, active and retired law enforcement, military, and Special Forces individuals. This is all done as part of a ministry, so along with the training, we are allowed to present them the Gospel. After working with these troops and gaining their trust, the response to the Gospel is overwhelming. I now focus my ministry to law enforcement personnel here in America through the ministry of OpOverwatch.

Now, a seminar like this can run into the high hundreds of dollars and if hands on training is involved, into the mid thousands. However, I am willing to work with each church on an individual basis. The cost of my seminar will be fairly determined according to your specific needs due to the size of your congregation. Also, proceeds from this seminar will go directly towards mission's work. Full disclosure is available upon request.

I believe this is so important that if your church simply cannot afford this, I suggest inviting another church or two to the seminar and sharing the cost. Also, if you have police officers in

your congregation, or anyone with a heart to reach police officers with the gospel of Christ, they need to get involved in OpOverwatch.

All of that said there's no reason not to take advantage of this. You have nothing to lose and all to gain. Knowing what we know and what's available to us, God forbid an incident should happen at your church and we did nothing to minimize the effects.

When you're ready to participate in what I have to offer to prepare your people to deal with an incident, critical or not, please call me to answer questions, to meet, or to set a date for the presentation. However, keep in mind, some things we can wait on, and some things we should act on. The security and safety of our people should fall into the latter. Churches both local and out of state have expressed interest and I hope yours can be one of them.

Thank you for your time and Lord bless.  
Ezekiel 33:7

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P.S. You may have other pressing issues but don't sleep on this because remember, the devil never sleeps.