

Church Safety and Security

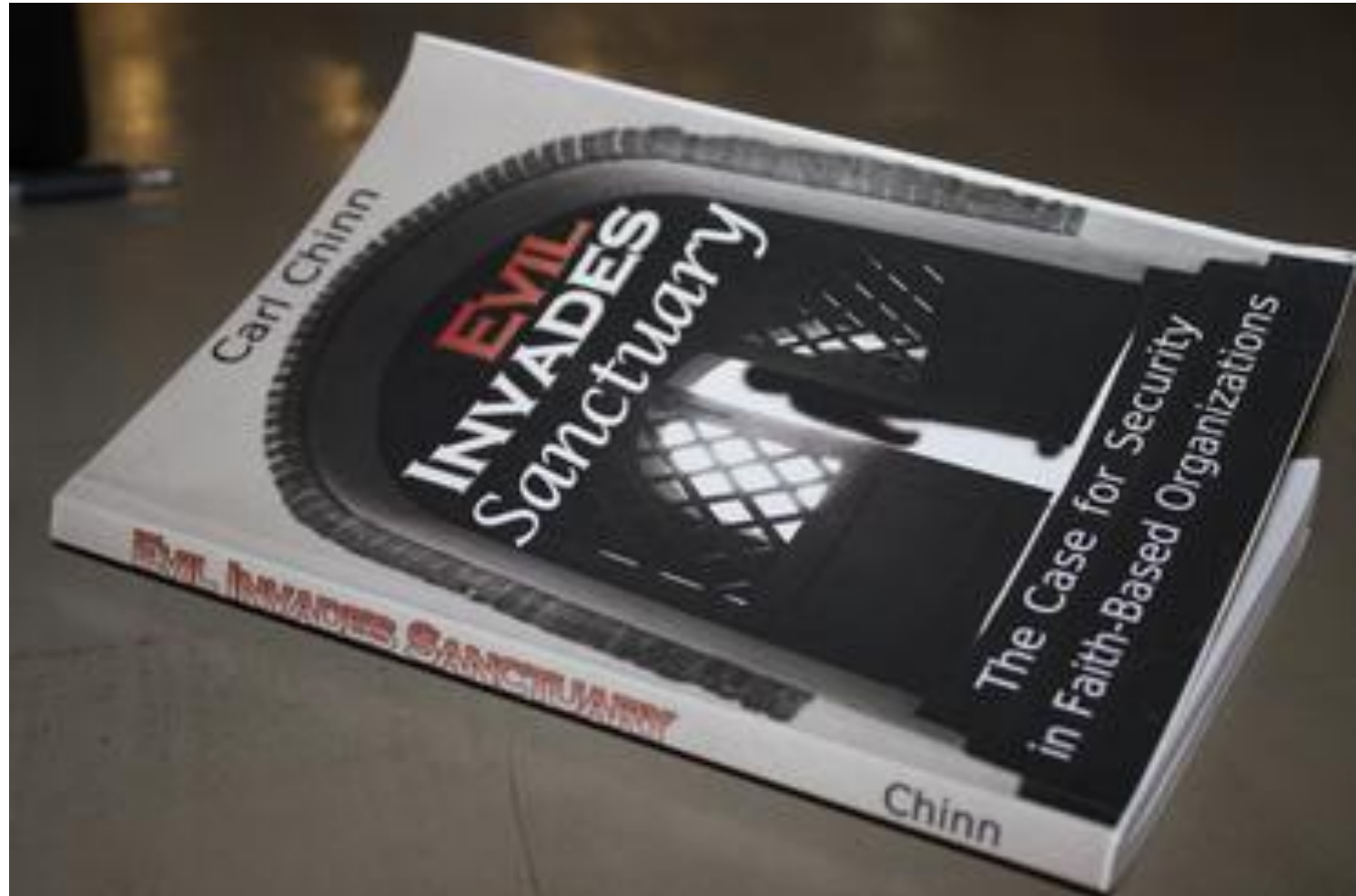
Alan Ware

- How to reduce the risk of an active shooter event
- Pastor and Leader Presentation

Active Shooter Video

- Civilian Response to an Active Shooter:11min.
- Watch - Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) video
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0lt68YxLQQ&feature>
- Do leaders know how to evacuate safely?
- Can you lockdown entrances & classrooms?

Carl Chinn's book



Deadly Force Incidents

<http://www.carlchinn.com/>

Incident Statistics		
Occurred inside the building	425	26.86%
Occurred outside on ministry property or activity location	1157	73.14%
Occurred during event	615	38.78%
Occurred when no event was happening	971	61.22%
Single attacker	955	74.32%
Multiple attackers	330	25.68%

27% occurred inside

73% occurred outside

100% came in from the outside

Step 1

Think “Rings of Protection”

1. Outer Ring – Parking
 2. Middle – Entrances
 3. Inner – Sanctuary &
Education Space
- Armed or unarmed-

1. Outer Ring/Early Warning

- **Parking & Outside Door Greeters**
 - Parking is **first impression** to your church
 - Early warning of problems (seconds count)
 - Welcome, assist with parking, direct to entrance, observe needs or threats
 - Visual image – gunman drives by, what does he see? No resistance or obstacles to overcome. Looking for path of least resistance

2. Door Greeters

- Entrance is your second impression
- Welcome, assist, observe
- Never leave guest alone, inside door greeter walks with them, get to know them, take them to the next person
- You may find they are upset and have a need you should deal with before it gets out of hand

3. Protecting Worship

- Bible Study & Worship Service is 3rd/4th impression of your church. This where we can really blow it with guest,
- Handoff from door greeters
- Have members ready to receive guest and get to know their needs
- *Disruptive people, identify, engage, verify, respond quickly*

Training for Greeters

- Train members to be guides for guest
- Able to share the gospel
- Connect them with like minded members
- Discern their needs, direct as needed
- Able to discern danger signs and discreetly communicate to staff or security

Training for Greeters

- How to respond to unusual issues.
 - E.g. man in rabbit suit is not allowed in building
 - Ask to look in suspicious bags or backpacks
 - People asking for money, to see building
 - Things that don't look right
- Empower them to respond in appropriate, predetermined ways

Stop

Why are we talking about Greeter Teams instead of Armed Security Teams?

1. You cant stop crime, but you can relocate it
2. A strong outer presence is a deterrent
3. It's better in the parking lot than inside
4. You get more for your investment of time
5. In the security business if you let an intruder in, you have failed at your job

Now Security Teams

VA Law: Firearms in Church

- Virginia law bars guns in religious meetings unless the person has a “good and sufficient reason” to carry a weapon. **Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli II (R) wrote that personal protection meets the legal standard as a reason to carry a firearm.** He said, however, that a church can choose to ban guns on its property. Apr 17, 2011
<http://www.handgunlaw.us/documents/agopinions/VAAGOpinionCarryInChurches.pdf>

Security Team Options

1. **Contracted** off duty police, uniformed or plainclothes (cost)
2. Off duty **volunteer** police officers (availability)
3. **Hired licensed** security guards (cost)
4. **Licensed private** armed security team (train)
5. **Trained volunteer** security team (training)

1. Contracted off duty police, uniformed or plainclothes (cost)

- Arrest authority
- Proper training
- Liability is on police, but most require COI for police from church
- Can address any issues (on-duty w/crime)
- Presence can relocate/deter crime
- Cost; \$5000 - \$6000 per year each

2. Off duty **volunteer** police officers (availability)

- Same benefits has hired officer
- No cost
- **Availability** is biggest issue
- Works well if many officers are available and can sign up on a monthly schedule

3. Hired Licensed security guards (cost)

- Contracted firm, easy to manage, pay by hour
- Carries most of the liability. Certificate of Insurance required to cover church
- Have arrest authority similar to police
- Cost is main issue (but usually less than off duty police, \$4000-5000/year)

4. Licensed Private Armed Security Team

Concerns

- no arrest authority,
- DCJS one time and annual training cost

Benefits

- most flexibility, can be volunteer or staff
- Annual qualification training keeps skills up
 - Letter of Authorization required
 - Ministry & Security combination

5. Trained volunteer security team (training)

Benefits

- Made up of church members who know members and community
- No cost

Concerns

- Insurance coverage? Check w/Agent
- Training level consistency (SWAT proficiency?)
- Full Liability; Insurance Co. may want proof of due diligence on vetting, policy, training to insure
- Letter of Authorization, scope, use of force laws

Final thing on Security Team

- Verbal response training (Verbal Judo)
 - Consistent messaging
 - Positive outcome, de-escalation
- Training Volunteers
- <http://www.sheepdogsafetytraining.com/>
- License your own officers
- <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/licensure-and-regulatory-affairs/armed-security-officer>
- William Story – Richmond VA – DCJS Trainer for licensed armed security guard training
- <http://www.liamiv.com/> Peace@liamiv.com

Deadly Force Incidents

Threat Intelligence

Other categories of DFI statistics

- 26% - Robbery 61% - non-event times
- 30% - Domestic & Personal conflict
- 11% - Mental Illness
- 41% - Things you probably know about
(communicate to those that need to know)
(most mass shootings had warning signs)
Honor clergy—penitent privilege but protect church

Other Important Risk Management

- Internet filtering for WiFi
- Cameras
- Building Automation; Doors, Card Access, HVAC, Lights
- Outdoor lighting, line of sight
- Media response; what will you say?

Medical Team

- Trained First Aid Responders
 - (Doctors, Nurses, EMT)
- Train and Organize
 - Leader
 - Annual 1st Aid/CPR/AED training for staff
- Equipment and supplies
 - **AED**, First aid kits, oxygen, snacks, juices, sit/lay down

Sexual Abuse Prevention

- Policy; 6 month & two or more rule
- Procedures; age specific guidelines
- Online – Protect My Ministry or Ministry Safe
- Or preprinted packets of applications
- **Reference** and Background Checks
- Limited access to children's area; check-in/out
- Separated spouses; restrictions in writing
- Training annually; sign policy, VBS, Fall startup



Important Concept



- **Do things every week that prepare you for the future**
 - You could have a dozen armed security guards in the sanctuary, but they will probably never see an active shooter
 - Parking and entrance greeters can have an impact every week for guest and be better prepared for threats

Thank You!

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