

## **Warrior Priests - The Christian Duty of Security**

*“And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two heroes of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen.”*

*1 Chronicles 11:22*

### **The Church should lead the world and not be conformed to it**

My thoughts on the need for the church to lead the culture concerning issues of security in a dangerous society and not follow or conform to the secular culture and its ideas and practices.

I'm concerned that the church isn't encouraging and equipping men in this discipline, but is instead "outsourcing" it. Not that the church specifically should provide the training, but that the leadership should encourage men to train; to become competent, capable, and responsible. Maybe provide opportunities.

Particularly husbands and fathers. They are called to be Prophets, Pastors, Providers, and Protectors.

If the church encourages and disciples men to train and prepare from a Gospel perspective to protect their flock they will be leading the culture and protecting their neighbors. They will protect their local church, but their training will also overflow to their homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces with a neighbor loving, God honoring and Biblically based witness.

### **What should church security look like?**

"A well regulated militia." (1)

The Sentinel Program

Dr. Kent Ingle from Southeastern University in central Florida recently described the security program they implemented called the Sentinel Program. (2)

"Basically what the program is is it authorizes highly trained— and I have to emphasize this— it's highly trained faculty and staff to carry concealed firearms for the sole purpose of engaging— and only engaging— an active shooter that would walk on our campus."

Some keys to the program:

1. Volunteers

2. Training
3. Organization

## Volunteers

*"He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."*

*John 10:12-13*

A security program should be made up of volunteers with a relational investment in the group of people they are responsible for. Those closest physically and relationally to a group of people are the most trusted to protect them.

## Training

*"He trains my hands for war,  
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze."*

*Psalms 18:34*

The volunteers in the Sentinel Program receive more than 130 hours of training. That is more than most law enforcement officers.

Some training ideas:

1. Illinois State 16 hour CCW (concealed carry) training
2. At least 16 hours of advanced tactics training
3. First aid, CPR
4. Mass casualty triage
5. Theology of self defense, just war theory
6. Evangelism training

## Organization

*"A well regulated militia."*

*"Now these are the chiefs of David's mighty men..."*

*1 Chronicles 11:1*

A security program should be well organized. There are many layers of security. First there should be deterrents visible outside the church (home, workplace) that deter would be attackers. For instance, a law enforcement or security vehicle patrolling the parking lot. Second are delays that make it harder for an attacker to approach the church without being discovered, such as guarded entrances and stand off barricades (IED or car ramming). Third is a response, which is

the trained and armed volunteers that can eliminate the threat as quickly as possible. As Dr. Ingle explains, "the purpose of this is to rapidly respond. The Department of Justice does studies on this all the time. When that 911 call goes out because somebody is already engaged in taking life... Well, it takes... five to seven minutes before law enforcement can actually get onto the campus and begin to respond. The average rampage is only about three minutes long."

A well organized security program would include how members communicate internally and externally, including the way responding law enforcement would identify church security, and many other factors.

## **Duty and Responsibility**

*"Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain  
is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked."  
Proverbs 25:26*

The preceding is a very introductory idea of possible ways a church could structure a security program of volunteers to lead the culture. Dr. Ingle concludes "That's what leadership is all about. God puts people in your care and it is your responsibility, from a contextual standpoint, to do everything you can to provide for those people in your care. And part of that is protection, and making sure they are safe so that they can fulfill what you are called to do in coming alongside them and empowering their lives."

I would argue that God's people have a duty to lead the community in this way. "Guarding human life against imminent and unjust violence, as Augustine would argue with his principles of Just War, is a created duty. It is part of loving your neighbor. And while Paul teaches in Romans 13 that the governing authorities 'do not bear the sword for nothing,' the governing authorities are not always on hand when the wicked strike." (3)

A CDC Study commissioned by President Barack Obama determined that "defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million per year... in 2008." (4)

*"Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.' When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work."  
Nehemiah 4:6, 11, 13-15*

## **Future Predictions**

The violent and dangerous state of our culture is not going to get better any time soon. "The defection of the church from God's truth [has removed] the barriers that restrain evil and disorder in society. As crime, civil unrest, and barbaric acts of terrorism rise, the people panic... [they] will beg for a strongman leader - even a dictator - who promises safety, security, and order." (5)

As a nation we are 21 Trillion dollars in debt. Illinois is in an ongoing deficit with Billions of debt. Economic crises will exacerbate crime. With details of new budgets in mind, it is becoming clear that it may be mathematically impossible to recover.

Politically the nation may be at a critical level of divisiveness. Many political protesters are claiming communist mass murderers as inspiration (Kaepernick, BlackLivesMatter, March for Our Lives, etc...). No joke, we need to be asking "how close are we to a bloody conflict?" Recently a candidate for Sheriff in North Carolina joked about killing resistant citizens, "You've heard people say 'You'll have to pry my guns from my cold dead hands.' OK." That was Buncombe County Sheriff candidate R. Daryl Fisher. (6) I'm not suggesting taking sides. I am suggesting we be aware of the signs of the times and be prepared.

Michael Youssef has a stern warning for us in his book, "The Hidden Enemy: aggressive secularism, radical islam, and the fight for our future." He warns, "... when an entire culture rejects God's truth... that culture opens itself up to bondage... If we do not take a stand for God's truth in our post-truth culture, we will find ourselves enslaved in our own land... 'for the evangelical accommodation to the world of our age represents the removal of the last barrier against the breakdown of our culture. And with the final removal of this barrier will come social chaos and the rise of authoritarianism in some form to restore social order...' And since our governments, courts, and educational institutions have eliminated God from public life, it stands to reason that peace will only become more and more elusive with each passing year." (7)

Will the church lead or conform?

## **Plan of Action**

If the church leadership will not directly encourage men to organize and train, I would like to find a small to medium size of group of brothers in the faith willing to make a commitment.

This is what I suggest as a minimum.

1. Basic/Confidence course (optional if needed)
2. Illinois Concealed Carry Course (required if not already licensed)
3. Advanced Concealed Carry/Tactics (16-40 hours)
  - a. Several local trainers offer classes

- b. The Appleseed Project rifleman course
4. Red Cross First Aid and CPR (required)
5. Mass casualty triage
6. Bible study on self defense, just war (required)

## Further Examples

### OathKeepers CPT (Attachment 1)

I am a member of Oath Keepers. Attached is a brochure for the Oath Keepers Community Preparedness Teams (CPT) project.

“Oath Keepers’ Community Preparedness Teams (CPT) Project is working to make America strong again, from the bottom up, by having well trained, experienced military, police, and first responder veterans come together and lead the way in preparing their communities for any disaster, either natural or man-made... We believe that strong neighborhood watches (with teeth) are the most critical first steps toward a strong America... to provide local security while we also strengthen what is already there...”

([www.oathkeepers.org/cpt-community-preparedness-teams/](http://www.oathkeepers.org/cpt-community-preparedness-teams/))

### SOLI (Sons of Liberty International)

A real life example of a not for profit that is training persecuted Christian minorities that have been devastated by ISIS in the middle east.

“Sons of Liberty International (SOLI) was founded by international security analyst Matthew VanDyke in recognition of the failure of the international community and governments to adequately protect the defenseless and support those struggling for freedom around the world. There needed to be an organization capable of on-the-ground action to help those whom the international system had failed. SOLI was created to enable those abandoned by the international community to take action in defense of themselves and their people, and to combat those forces that seek to harm and oppress them... Sons of Liberty International has been working with the Nineveh Plain Forces (NPF), a local Iraqi Assyrian Christian force, since February of 2016. The first phase of the training consisted of basic training in Close Quarters Combat, Weapons Safety, and other basic training. The second phase includes specialized leadership training for a select group within the NPF, intensive marksmanship training, advanced marksmanship training for a select group within the NPF, and continual review of basic training.” (emphasis mine)

(<https://www.sonsoflibertyinternational.com/>)

References:

1. AMENDMENT II, Constitution of the United States of America  
"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."
2. Dr. Kent Ingle from Southeastern University in central Florida. Excerpt from Wallbuilders Live interview, "Security: Florida Sheriff Arms Local Teachers and Protects Students"  
[wallbuilderslive.com/security-florida-sheriff-arms-local-teachers-dr-kent-ingle/](http://wallbuilderslive.com/security-florida-sheriff-arms-local-teachers-dr-kent-ingle/) Visited 2018-03-07
3. "Is it okay for Christians to bring weapons into church for self-defense?"  
[www.breakpoint.org/2017/11/here-are-two-swords/](http://www.breakpoint.org/2017/11/here-are-two-swords/)
4. "How Many Lives Are Saved by Guns — and Why Don't Gun Controllers Care?" by Larry Elder  
[blackcommunitynews.com/how-many-lives-are-saved-by-guns-and-why-dont-gun-controllers-care/](http://blackcommunitynews.com/how-many-lives-are-saved-by-guns-and-why-dont-gun-controllers-care/)
5. Youssef, Michael. "The Barbarians are Here: preventing the collapse of western civilization in times of terrorism" copyright 2017, Worthy Books, Franklin, TN
6. "Sheriff Candidate Jokes about Killing Defiant Gun Owners to Delight of Bloomberg Moms"  
[www.oathkeepers.org/sheriff-candidate-jokes-killing-defiant-gun-owners-delight-bloomberg-moms/](http://www.oathkeepers.org/sheriff-candidate-jokes-killing-defiant-gun-owners-delight-bloomberg-moms/)
7. Youssef, Michael. "The Hidden Enemy: aggressive secularism, radical islam, and the fight for our future." copyright 2018, Michael Youssef, Tyndale