

by: Vance Free



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**Increase in the acts of reported violence in churches**

- This includes:
  - Over fourteen shootings
  - Over thirty two killed
  - Over twenty wounded
  - Various protest and service interruptions

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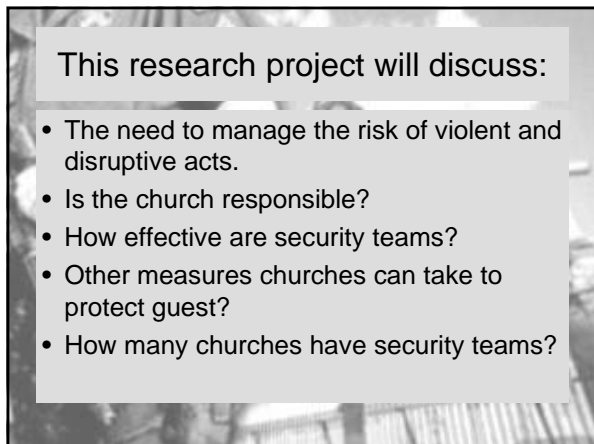
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**This research project will discuss:**

- The need to manage the risk of violent and disruptive acts.
- Is the church responsible?
- How effective are security teams?
- Other measures churches can take to protect guest?
- How many churches have security teams?

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**Managing the risk**

- Protecting children from child molesters
  - Applications and
  - Background checks
  - Secure facilities for children
- Today not only children, but every person.

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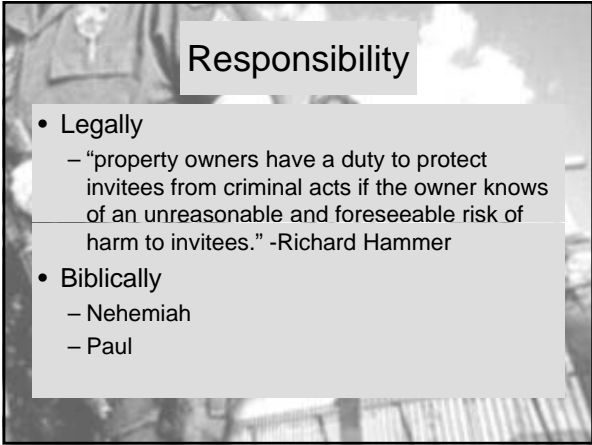
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**Responsibility**

- Legally
  - “property owners have a duty to protect invitees from criminal acts if the owner knows of an unreasonable and foreseeable risk of harm to invitees.” -Richard Hammer
- Biblically
  - Nehemiah
  - Paul

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**Other measures**

- Have a plan
- Personnel
- Access control
- Video cameras
- Signs

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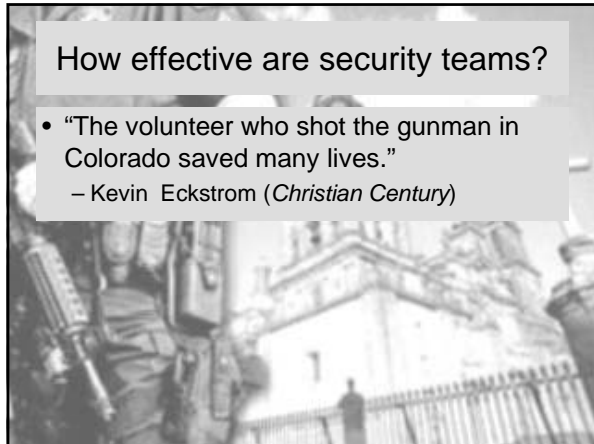
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**How effective are security teams?**

- “The volunteer who shot the gunman in Colorado saved many lives.”  
– Kevin Eckstrom (*Christian Century*)

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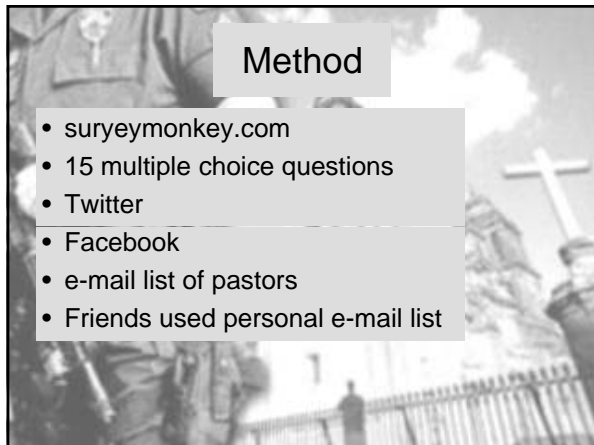
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**Method**

- suryeymonkey.com
- 15 multiple choice questions
- Twitter
- Facebook
- e-mail list of pastors
- Friends used personal e-mail list

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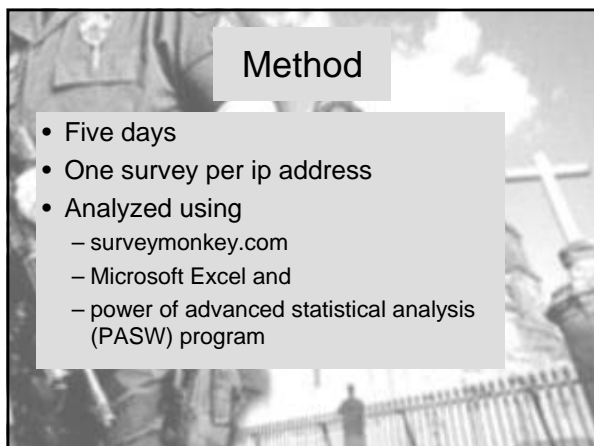
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**Method**

- Five days
- One survey per ip address
- Analyzed using
  - suryeymonkey.com
  - Microsoft Excel and
  - power of advanced statistical analysis (PASW) program

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### Results

- 54 respondents
  - 33.3% (n=18) Senior pastors,
  - 38.9% (n=21) Associate pastors and
  - 27.8% (n=15) Other
- Responses were scattered across the country
  - ip address search

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### Results

Average attendance of respondents on any given Sunday morning

Average Attendance Range	% of Respondents
1-100	21.00%
101-200	18.00%
201-300	4.00%
301-400	7.00%
401-500	9.00%
501-600	11.00%
601-700	0.00%
701-800	6.00%
801-900	2.00%
901-1000	2.00%
1001-1500	7.00%
1501-2000	6.00%
2001+	6.00%

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### Results

- 63 % of the churches do have security teams
- Number of attendees vs. whether or not a church has a team
- Pearson Chi-Square test
- p-value of .008
  - There is a significance

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**Results**

One of three churches with 2000+ attendance does not have a security team

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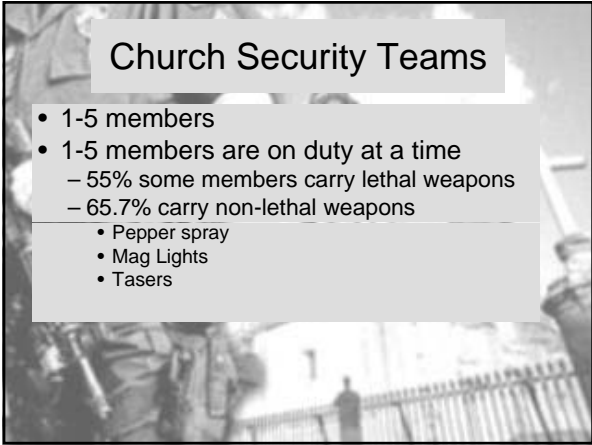
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**Church Security Teams**

- 1-5 members
- 1-5 members are on duty at a time
  - 55% some members carry lethal weapons
  - 65.7% carry non-lethal weapons
    - Pepper spray
    - Mag Lights
    - Tasers

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**Church Security Teams**

- 94.3% are volunteers
  - some off duty police officers
- 44.4% offered some form of professional training

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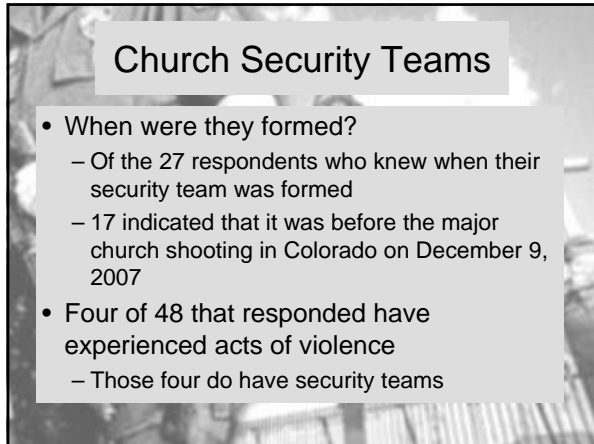
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### Church Security Teams

- When were they formed?
  - Of the 27 respondents who knew when their security team was formed
  - 17 indicated that it was before the major church shooting in Colorado on December 9, 2007
- Four of 48 that responded have experienced acts of violence
  - Those four do have security teams

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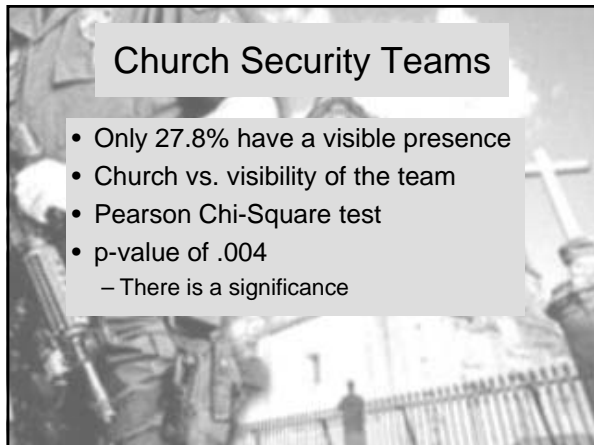
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### Church Security Teams

- Only 27.8% have a visible presence
- Church vs. visibility of the team
- Pearson Chi-Square test
- p-value of .004
  - There is a significance

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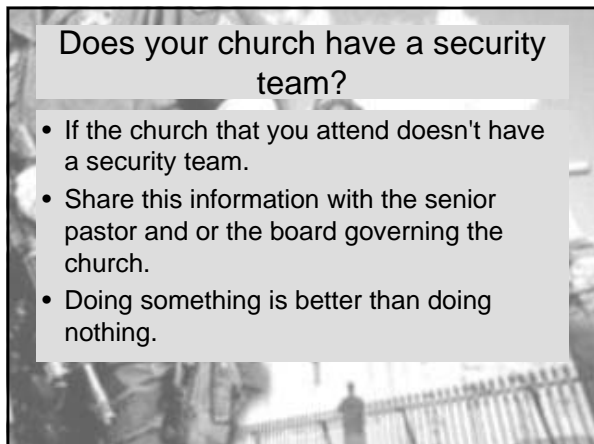
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### Does your church have a security team?

- If the church that you attend doesn't have a security team.
- Share this information with the senior pastor and or the board governing the church.
- Doing something is better than doing nothing.

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Questions?

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