

# **America must protect its churches from terrorist attacks**

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In the wake of the horrific murders and injuries from last's week's attack on the Orlando nightclub by a self-proclaimed Muslim, America is going through an extreme crisis of confusion. It seems that everyone is getting the blame for what this evil man did. People are blaming Donald Trump, Obama, the NRA, Republicans, Christians, and most of all they are blaming guns.

One of the most profound conclusions that came out of the 9/11 Commission report was that we had experienced a "failure of imagination" that prevented us from believing what did happen could have happened.

I think it is fair to say that in our collective eagerness to assign the blame on someone for the Orlando massacre, we are missing the big picture about what kind of attack that can conceivably, or even inconceivably, happen in America. It is the ultimate shell game, shifting our attention from reality and focusing us on agendas, and the end result is that those who are intent upon killing as many Americans as possible will eventually succeed.

In 2009, I was given the opportunity to visit the Fusion Center in Oklahoma City. This is an organization, run by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, whose duty is to help preempt any attack that might be coming to the State of Oklahoma. One of the things they do is watch newscasts from television stations all over the world. For any event they see, they are to ask the question, "Will this pose a threat to Oklahoma?", and if so, alert the proper authorities to prevent anything from happening.

While there, I was talking with an OSBI agent, and explained to him that one of my biggest concerns in providing safety in my church designs was to provide safe environments and safeguards for children. As I began to ask him for his opinion on how to provide this kind of security, he abruptly stopped me and said, "Are you going to ask me if I carry a gun in church? You bet I carry my gun in church." With that said, he did not want to discuss it further.

In that conversation, I had no intention of bring up the subject of carrying guns in church, but it left me wondering what he knew that I didn't.

That conversation also leaves me wondering how we could possibly identify every threat that might be coming our way, and especially threats against our churches. As more of the news comes out about the man who attacked the Orlando nightclub, one thing is evident – people knew about him and his hatred and it is likely that at least some of his family members knew of his plans, yet nothing was done to prevent him from making the attack.

To add to the confusion, we are getting misinformation from the Obama administration. According to Obama, there must be more gun control, and we have to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists if we are going to prevent these massacres.

Yet the fact is that nearly three thousand people died as a result of the 9/11 attack, and not one shot was fired. This, of course, is just a distraction from the real problem. Here are the facts as best I as can state them.

The Koran does, in fact, teach that infidels – that is, anyone who doesn't believe in Islam – must be either killed or subjugated. The goal of Islam is to bring the entire world under Islamic rule, no matter how long it takes.

There are Muslims who are coming to this country with intent to kill Americans. The FBI has reported that they have seen evidence of this in all fifty states.

There have been attacks in this country since 9/11 happened – Chattanooga, Fort Hood, San Bernadino and the Boston Marathon bombing are the most memorable – but we have forgotten about numerous other attacks on our soil, most of which were perpetrated by Muslims. In Syria and Iraq, hundreds of churches have been destroyed or taken over by Muslims, and hundreds of thousands of Christians have fled for their lives. So many Christians have been killed there that it can only be interpreted as genocide.

In America, the number of megachurches is growing. They are no longer the small neighborhood churches of a few hundred, but targets of opportunity in the thousands. These are the facts from which we must imagine the unthinkable, that more terrorist attacks will take place on American soil, and it is likely that churches will eventually feel the brunt of these attacks. What can churches do to protect themselves? More on that next week.



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