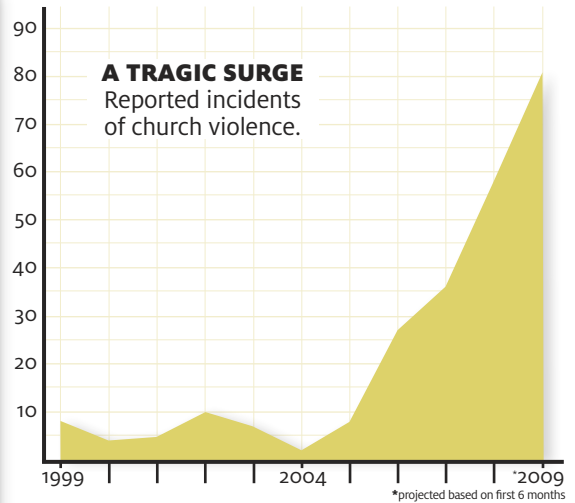


# CHURCH VIOLENCE



➔ Carl Chinn wakes up at 4 A.M. to search Google News for church | shot | bomb | arrested and three dozen other violent words before heading to work. He has reason to be interested: As building engineer at Focus on the Family, he was a first responder to the 1996 hostage crisis there. A decade later, Chinn found himself in the hallway as a gunman attacked his congregation, New Life Church. In his spare time, he now offers security consulting for churches and runs what is almost certainly the country's most extensive database on church violence (at [CarlChinn.com](http://CarlChinn.com)).



## LESS RARE, BUT STILL RARE

The chance you will die in the next 12 months from an injury are about 1 in 1,681. How it could happen:

**CHURCH VIOLENCE**  
1 in 18,393,327

**LIGHTNING STRIKE**  
1 in 6,177,230

**HORNET, WASP, OR BEE STING**  
1 in 3,615,940

**PLANE CRASH**  
1 in 502,554

**CAR ACCIDENT**  
1 in 6,539



**“No weapon forged against you shall prosper. But if your church is on the move, weapons are being forged against you.”**

CARL CHINN

## MAKING CHURCHES HARD TARGETS

ASIS International, the world's largest security training organization, opened a new church-security division earlier this year. Groups already in the field include the Christian Security Network, the National Organization for Church Security and Safety Management, and Strategos International.

## If a shooter gets in:

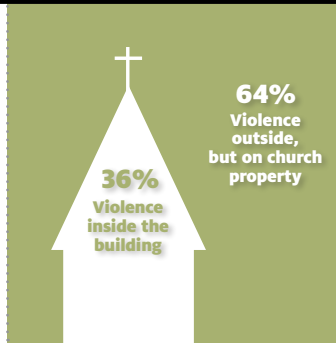
- 1 Pastors or other visible leaders should draw attention away from the congregation.
- 2 Throw hymnals, yell from multiple directions, and attempt to tackle shooter from behind en masse.
- 3 Establish communication with the police as soon as possible. (Preferably, only those on the church's crisis response team should call 911.)
- 4 When police arrive, stay on the ground until you are told to move. When told to get up, move slowly with no objects in your hand.

—Andrew G. Mills, *BuildingChurchLeaders.com*

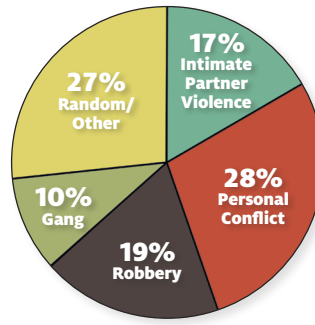
### WHEN



### WHERE



### WHY



**SOURCES & NOTES:** Church shooting data compiled by security consultant Carl Chinn. Other death odds from the National Safety Council. Strategos International found a similar uptick in church shootings, but fewer incidents (6 in 2007, 18 in 2008, and 17 in the first half of 2009).