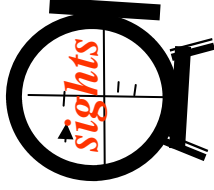


**Is YOUR church facility “in the  
sights” of a Burglar or Vandal?  
Learn how you can protect your  
Facility. Contact the:**

**Mobile Baptist Association**

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***Improving the  
Security of Your  
Church***



*Have you heard any of these statements around your church?*

**“Yes, Officer, we had a break in here at the church during...”**

**“I don’t know how much was taken from the office money box? It was in the secretaries desk!”**

**“It’s so dark back there. No wonder it happened.”**

**“What! The air conditioning is not working because someone stole the wiring?”**

**“How could this happen? Didn’t we have a policy to cover this? We’ll be sued!”**

*Is your church facility a target for burglary, vandalism, theft, or worse?*

Many church leaders are seeking ideas and ways of protecting their facility and members. Church staff and leaders are struggling with ever increasing cost of liability and insurance coverage and how they can bring these expenses under control. Large and small congregations are literally “opening the doors” to thieves and vandals on a daily basis.

*Does your church have in place, and consistently operate, procedures that provide your facilities with appropriate security?*

Churches are known for being “open to everyone.” Most churches have multiple meetings that occur from early morning to late evening, sometimes seven days a week with many members having open access (meaning; keys or codes) to the facilities whenever they wish. During worship services when members are together, churches have experienced burglary, vandalism, theft and more. Do you have appropriate procedures in place to provide security on your property for your members and their guests?

**Security Response Outline using **P. R. I. D. E.****

**P**revention

By your church pre-planning for emergencies, closing gaps in your security, proper training, spending funds for safety and security, you can make your church a much safer place.

**R**ecognition

By proper training and the acquisition of an alert and “suspicious” mindset, you can be prepared to deal with intrusions and emergencies.

**I**nterdiction

By proper strategies you may be able to use security personnel and equipment to insulate your congregation from disruptions (violent or otherwise).

**D**isruption

By use of all the above you may be able to disrupt, interrupt, and forestall attacks on your church.

**E**mergency Response

Even after implementation of all of the above, there will be situations that you have not planned for or situations where you will need trained personnel. There is no such thing as a perfect defense and a “response team” should be trained and ready to provide the best response possible.

*Nine Tips for Increased Security*

1. **Insurance consolation.** Contact your insurance company for suggestions in your facilities and community.
2. **Adequate lighting,** inside and outside. Lighting is the No. 1 deterrent to criminal activity.
3. **Security committee.** Enlist men and women to pay attention to security before, during and after each church service.
4. **Patrol the property,** watch the congregation for agitated, unusual behavior or coats and clothing that can hide automatic weapons or explosives.
5. **Control Access.** Limit the number of access points, use the welcome center as a soft barrier to screen people coming into the church. Keep doors locked and balance the need for churches to be open to anyone with the essential need to protect our guests and children.
6. **Alarm systems.** Provide 24 hour recorded surveillance where affordable. Dummy systems are not encouraged.
7. **Screen employees and volunteers.**
8. **Accessible structural diagrams.** Be able to quickly provide police with complete building plans.
9. **Offerings.** Include a secure chain of custody from receipt to deposit. Maintain accountability for collectors, counters, and depositors.
10. **Secure Children.** Protect who is authorized to pick up a child and monitor children in the building including restrooms.