



Wayne Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY SERIES ON CURBING GUN VIOLENCE

The Social Justice Committee and the Adult Education Committee jointly sponsor a Sunday morning series in May on curbing the epidemic of violence with guns.

Sunday May 5, 2013 at Wayne Presbyterian Church at 9:30 AM

David Scholnik, the Pennsylvania Coordinator of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Frank Tait, a Deacon in our church, who is a certified firearms safety and marksmanship instructor and are the speakers.

Sunday May 19, 2013 at Wayne Presbyterian Church at 9:30 AM

Speaker is Bryan Miller, a leader in the organization called Heeding God's Call, an interfaith grassroots campaign.



Working with other groups to end violence



Wayne Presbyterians at the Capital in Harrisburg, PA rallying to end violence



Addressing Violence

- We mourn and pray for ALL affected by violence
- Violence is a HUMAN condition – Evil exists
 - Genesis 4:8 Cain murdering Abel
 - Separation from God
 - ALL are capable of violence
- To Reduce Violence focus on root HUMAN causes
 - Countless implements can be used to commit violence
 - Focusing on the implement removes focus from the INDIVIDUAL being responsible and accountable for their actions
 - Culture that abdicates personal responsibility to the government^{47,48,49}
 - No respect for self, others or property
- Existing Laws not enforced
 - Criminals by definition do NOT obey laws
 - Criminals still on the streets
 - 90% of adult murders have criminal records as adults¹⁶
 - *"To carry a gun without a license in Philadelphia has historically almost been a joke"* – DA Seth Williams^{18,19}

Root of Violence is Human Causes

- Unwed mothers^{41,44,45,46}
 - 57% of children in homes impoverished or low income
 - 1 of 3 children live in a home without a father
 - 57% of unwed mothers don't finish high school
 - 70% of juvenile murderers raised by single mothers
 - 25% of firearm homicides are gang related
- Mental Illness^{42,43}
 - 6% of population suffer Serious Debilitating Illness
 - Only 58.7% get treatment
 - Psychiatric beds reduced from 559,000 to 43,000
 - Suicide
 - US is 34th per capita in world
 - Over 55% of firearm deaths are suicides
 - As many suicides without a firearm as with⁵⁷



Life

- John 10:10
 - “I came that they may have life and may have it abundantly”
- Declaration of Independence
 - “Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness”
- We as INDIVIDUALS are responsible for our lives and accountable for our actions
 - To God
 - To government

6th Commandment

Thou Shalt Not *Murder*³⁰

צַחֵךְ		תֵּרַחֵךְ		לֹא
(2)		(1)		(1)
tsakh		teer		lo
←-----				
you shall murder				Not

The word “ratsakh” applies only to illegal killing (e.g., premeditated murder or manslaughter) — and is never used in the administration of justice or for self defense or war.

Racist Roots of Gun Control^{50,51,54}

- 1629 – Massachusetts Bay Colony
 - Illegal to provide firearms to Native Americans
- 1866 - Mississippi
 - “seized every gun and pistol of freedmen”
- 1911 – New York City
 - Disarmed Immigrants
- 1968 - California
 - Banned Open carry of firearms due to Black Panther protests
- Gun Control Laws do NOT control guns – they only disarm law abiding citizens³⁵

Rights

- How many Rights are granted by the Constitution?
 - **NONE**
 - Constitution prohibits Congress from making laws that infringe on God Given Rights¹
 - We have a process to amend the constitution
- Article 21 Section 1 of the PA Constitution states:
 - ‘The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be questioned’



Self Defense

- Only use a firearm to defend yourself or another from threat of death or grievous bodily injury³⁹
- 48% of people who own firearms do so for Self Defense⁴
 - Police response time in most cities²⁰
 - Average 10 minutes
 - Substantially longer as you move away from cities
 - Injury rate for using firearm in self defense is 1/10th those who do not resist and 1/2 those that run away⁶³
 - "fundamental principle of American law that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any individual citizen." ^{21,22,23}
- 91% of Police officers support Civilian concealed carry²⁹
- Firearms used 80x more to protect life than to take life⁵⁸
 - 250,000-370,000 defensive gun uses per year do not involve shooting^{28,35,36,40}

Gun Free Zones

- False Sense of Security⁵²
- Chicago – Shooting every 6.3 hours in 2013⁵²
 - 80% of shootings - gang related⁵³
- Mass Shootings
 - School Shootings
 - Aurora Colorado Theater
 - Common thread Mental Health



Yeah... that's how it'll work.

Magazine Capacity Limits

- Standard capacity used by Police
 - Handguns – 17-18 rounds
 - Patrol Rifles – 30 rounds
- “New York Reload”
 - Switch to a second or third firearm
- Moderately competent can reload in 2-3 seconds
- 96% of Police officers think magazine capacity limits will have no effect on reducing violent crime²⁹



Semi-Automatic vs. Fully Automatic

- Semi-Automatic⁶
 - 1 round discharged with 1 trigger press
 - Repeating firearms commonly available since 1860
- 92% of Police officers think banning semi-automatic firearms will have no effect on reducing violent crime²⁹
- Fully Automatic
 - Multiple rounds discharged with 1 trigger press
 - Highly restricted since 1934⁷
 - Only 182,000 in civilian circulation
 - Extensive background check w/fingerprints
 - Waive 4th amendment rights (privacy and search)
 - Extremely rare for these to be used in a crime



Background Checks

- 32 firearm background checks per minute^{8,9}
 - **ANY false statement is a felony - 5 years in prison**
- 1994-2010 Background Checks 118,249,000¹⁰
 - PA in 2012 - 968,534 checks¹¹
- Convicted Criminals attempting 590,078¹⁵
- Arrests (2000-2010) 16,441¹⁴
- Straw Purchases
 - Not the actual buyer of the firearm
 - Since 2006 - Arrested 822 people only 342 convicted^{16,17}
- 281 of 331 Philadelphia homicides in 2012^{18,19}
 - **NONE OF THE FIREARMS WERE OBTAINED LEGALLY**
- *Laws are not enforced*



Firearm Registration

- 1993 – 192 million guns – Per-Capita murder victims 6.6^{2,16}
- 2003 – 276 million guns – Per-Capita murder victims 3.8^{2,16}
- 2013 – 310+ million guns – Per-Capita murder victims 3.2^{2,16}

- 34.7% of Pennsylvanians own a firearm³

- “Universal Background checks” are a foundational step to “Registration” then to confiscation ³⁵
 - PA Police departments routinely confiscate firearms if firearm is not in the State Police “Purchase” database ³³

 - Politicians stated intent to disarm Americans^{55,56}

- How well are laws working for Alcohol and Drugs?



Firearm Accidents

- Causes of Firearm Accidents⁵
 - Unintended consequence of gun control efforts
 - Ignorance of the rules for safe firearm handling
 - Carelessness in handling or operating a firearm
- Top Causes of accidental death^{59,61}
 - Car Crash – 43,200
 - Falls – 14,900
 - Poisoning – 8,600
 - Drowning – 4,000
 - Burn/Fire – 3,700
 - Suffocation – 3,300
 - Firearm – 1,500
- Alcohol responsible for over 75,000 preventable deaths a year^{57,61}

Conclusion

- Reducing Violence should be our goal
 - Individual Accountability for actions
- Addressing HUMAN causes of violence should be a focus of our church's mission outreach
 - Breakdown of the Family
 - Mental Health
- *Disarming the Law abiding will not reduce violence*
 - Criminal element does not and will not follow the law
 - Government does not enforce the law

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“Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.

Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed one”

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