

So, my first concern is that the devil might pull us away from God through our paranoia. We are trusting in ourselves and our own ability to insure our safety through guns, guards, and alarm systems instead of trusting in God. Those who do not feel secure through all our measures may stay home from worship locked in their bedrooms. They hope we will use technology to live stream worship services to them in the safety of their homes so they can share virtually. This leads to my **second concern**.

Some of our members have pretty good odds of never being shot in worship services. They are absent about seventy percent of the time. (I am not referring to members with health limitations who wish they could attend.)

If you were absent when an attack occurred would you feel terrible or relieved? Would you rather be killed while worshipping or while forsaking? Heb. 10:24-25 tells us, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

I am not advocating carelessness in light of our new normal, but to truly prepare ourselves for the gunman we need to be right with God. We need to see *the day* of our death *approaching* and spend our life **encouraging** our brethren in *love and good works*. We want to be **engaged in worship** when the day of our departure arrives and not watching the door.

Some might feel they could never return to the building after such an event. The devil can capture us by direct attack or stealth maneuvers. Remember Rev. 20:8 lists those who will go to the second death. The first on the list are the *fearful*.

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

November 12, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Mooresvillecoc.com

**The Lord is my
refuge and His
church is my
Sanctuary.**

Announcements

We wish to express our sympathy to the Comers. Huey's brother, Larry, passed away on Friday (11/3).

There are a number of area meetings. Why not support the efforts of our brethren and worship.

Our next "meet up" study will be at the Mooresville library at 2:00 on Saturday November 25. Acts 3 will be discussed. Come and contribute.

Braden will be preaching this evening instead of this morning as was previously announced.

Keep in mind our shut-ins as well as others who are limited by concerns of health (physically, emotionally, or spiritually). God has blessed us with a wonderful family. Appreciate them.

The business meeting and ladies' Bible class will meet next week at 3:45. We hope to see you there.

“The New Normal”

Ron Roberts

I remember reading when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor they sent a declaration of war shortly before the assault. The transmission did not go through and the nation felt they greatly dishonored themselves for what turned out to be a sneak attack. The current attitude of our terrorist enemies is quite different. They thrive on sneakiness. They succeed only through deception and the “sucker punch”. Their biggest success was 9/11. They killed thousands of civilians who were in the course of their daily routines. These people did not anticipate an attack. Why should they? No foreign nation could defeat the United States in a face to face conflict. There are rules to war. We were comfortable in the assurance that our military was superior to all others. But this attack was not on the military. It was not a fair fight. It was not face to face. It violated all the rules. The event led to what we now call “**the new normal**”.

The phrase, “**the new normal**”, suggests that things will never return to what they used to be, our old normal. We must learn to function in a completely different setting which will eventually be seen as normal to the next generation. We now have heightened airport security, guards at schools, police patrolling sporting events, monitoring of phone conversations, and newscasters warning us to report anything that looks suspicious to us. We are all to be on our guards. This in now normal!

Recently there was another church shooting. A town in Texas had 26 members of a Baptist church killed during worship services. 20 others were injured before the gunman was overcome. We grieve over the loss of life and recognize this is the new world in which our children are being brought up. Thus far the shooter is not believed to be terrorist.

When I began preaching in Knoxville we had an FBI agent, a policeman, and a Secret Service agent in our membership. Each one carried a gun at all times. I think it made some members feel safe. The FBI agent moved to another city, the Secret Service man went to another

congregation, and the policeman was withdrawn from within a few years of my arrival. The church had a security system, motion detecting lights, cameras, and three out of four elders had guns. One Monday morning I entered the building and did not punch the right code numbers to shut off the alarm. I noticed my mistake, redid the numbers, and then resumed my workday in the office. When I remembered I needed to go upstairs for something I was met on the dark stairs by a man with a gun! One of our elders was responding to the alarm. I put up my hands and explained the error. He laughed and went home. It was the New Normal!

Two concerns I have about church shootings outside of the obvious threat to life and limb. One is our attempts at security. Should we post a guard at the corner desk who can see everyone who enters the building? He would not have to be armed, but he could shout out an early warning for the rest of us. This is what would have been done in Knoxville if their building was designed the same way ours is. As it was, they posted a brother in a folding chair by the auditorium door who could see the outside entrance. I have taken a turn as the chair man, and **I was greatly distracted from worship**. This is my concern.

In Fort Wayne we had a sound system with a deacon operating the microphones. He would hand out mics to the persons who led in prayer and would turn them on at his panel at the appropriate time. He would raise the volume for the Lord’s Table microphone during the comments and turn it down when they were done. He turned on the pulpit microphone during the sermon and adjusted it to the speaker’s voice. I never liked the idea of this deacon’s duties because **I felt it interfered with his involvement in the actual worship of God**.

1 Peter 5:8 says, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*” If a gunman bursts through the door and shoots me, do I want to be drawing my gun or worshipping when it happens? Our vigilance toward the front door may be removing our attention to worship! Remember the devil is a deceiver. He excels in the sneaky, conniving attacks.