# Bethel Baptist Church Security Training 3/21/2021 Changed In The Twinkling Of An Eye

Anyone who has embarked on safety or security planning understands the risk matrix. The various models all show measures of likelihood (probability) of a specific risk in one direction compared with cruciality (impact) in the other. The process is an attempt to understand the crystal ball of risk.

Some low probability things deserve extra attention due to the high impact they would have. It's no different than life-vests and being trained to use them on an airplane. How many people have ever had to use the life-vest under the seat? Very few. But they are there, and those of us who are frequent flyers could recite the use instructions from memory.

That is why church security operators and trainers should continue training for deadly force incidents. Certain parts of the following really happened.

Here's the scenario;

You've been told by the family of a man outside your church that he has a gun and is making vague threats. You have locked your doors and called 911 (expect arrival in some minutes) but you can't warn congregants pulling into the parking lot.

Through a window, you see him pacing angrily as you watch innocent families parking and getting children out of cars, clueless of the danger.

What do you do?

### **Think About it**

That scene played out with some similarity to what you've just read (though, for one modification as an example, there was nobody at the church when it happened).

### Here's the real story;

Modesto (CA) Police had been called by the family of a man (Seever), saying he had told them he had a gun, and was making vague threats.

The first responding officer (Lamantia) saw a man fitting the description outside the Modesto Church of the Brethren in the vicinity. Lamantia exited his vehicle and approached Seever yelling for him to put his hands up and get on the ground. The following still pictures go with the scene. Pay attention to the elapsed time at top of each body cam picture;

TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:000



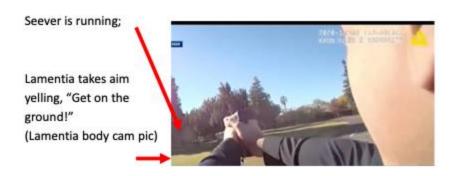
TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:020



## TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:770



TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:780



TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:820



# TIME: (MIN: 1,000th of min.) 00:850



In 850 / 1,000 of a minute (51 seconds) it was over.

Seever was unarmed and killed.

Lamentia is now terminated from service and charged with voluntary manslaughter.

Lives and families were changed forever in the blink of an eye.

What would you have done if you were an armed defender at a church where this type of thing happened? Answer very carefully.