

Practical Lifesaving Solutions Review – Burnett Chapel Church of Christ

On Sunday, September 24, 2017, at approximately 11:00 am, Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, arrived at the Burnett Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, Tennessee armed with a handgun and ***"fired upon the church building,"*** according to a State of Tennessee affidavit.

Samson first killed Melanie Smith, 39, as she walked to her car. After fatally shooting Smith, Samson entered the main door, at the rear of the church, and ***"began indiscriminately shooting,"*** where he wounded seven others. Samson was said to have worn a type of neoprene mask, similar to what a skier might wear.

According to a Nashville Police spokesman, a church usher, Robert Caleb Engle, 22, confronted the gunman and was ***"pistol whipped"***, causing significant injury to his head. The spokesman added, ***"There was a significant struggle between the two...During the struggle, the gunman shot himself, probably not intentionally, in the left pectoral muscle."***

Engle, a licensed gun owner, then went to his vehicle, retrieved his firearm and returned to the church and maintained custody of Samson until the police arrived. Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson said of Engle on Sunday afternoon: ***"He's the hero — he's the person who stopped this madness."***

Engle deflected credit stating, ***"The real heroes are the police, first responders and medical staff and doctors who have helped me and everyone affected."***

Five victims and the gunman were treated at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, said a hospital spokesperson. By Monday morning, one patient remained in critical but stable condition, according to the medical center. Four remaining patients were all listed in stable condition.



Blake Langford, 21, got a text from his father telling him not to come to the church where his family attended after the shooting. ***"My grandmother hid under a church pew. My stepmom and my aunt, they barricaded themselves in the bathroom,"*** Langford said he learned from his father, who arrived at the church seconds after the shooting ended. Forty-two people were at the church at the time of the shooting.

Police found four guns believed to be Samson's; a rifle and a pistol in his vehicle, along with two other pistols carried with him into the Church.

The church's minister, Joey Spann, and his wife, Peggy, were among the injured. Spann is a Bible teacher and coach at the school, according to the statement. Witnesses said Spann, shouted, ***"Run, run, gunshots!"*** as congregants hid under pews or in bathrooms.

Aaron had said earlier that police weren't aware of any relation between Samson and the congregation, but he said Sunday evening that some churchgoers recognized his name and said he had attended the church about a year or two ago.

"They did not know who it was until they heard the name, and some of them gasped when they heard the name," Aaron said.

Samson, who appeared to go by ***"Bulda"*** and often signed his Facebook posts ***"B,"*** posted several times to social media in the hours leading up to the shooting.

"You are more than what they told us," one post said. A second post read, ***"Become the creator instead of what's created. Whatever you say, goes."*** Samson's final post read, ***"Everything you've ever doubted or made to be believe as false, is real. & vice versa, B."*** Under political views, Samson wrote, ***"Your votes mean nothing."***



Summary

Whether driven by acrimony toward the church or its parishioners, mental illness or a combination of factors, Sampson was motivated to shoot and kill as many people as he could. Were it not for the intervention and heroic actions of Robert Engle, many more people would have been killed and/or wounded. Churches, similar to movie theatres and arenas are generally open venues with little cover or concealment for those under attack by an active shooter. In this instance, people used what cover could be found in and amongst the church pews, in the bathrooms and those able to escape did so. Again, the ***“run, hide, fight”*** principles continue to be utilized.

We at PLS continue to advocate public access bleeding control stations at businesses, schools, houses of worship, etc. All venues where people work and/or congregate have the potential to become targeted by ***“active shooters.”*** Through basic first aid training, providing people with the products to stop the bleeding and prevent shock we can all potentially save a life that otherwise might not survive until law enforcement and emergency medical personnel arrive.