



THE DIETRICH BONHOEFFER INSTITUTE

**BREAKING NEWS ADVISORY**

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**STATEMENT BY REV. DR. ROB SCHENCK ON MASS SHOOTING IN BORDERLINE BAR AND GRILL IN THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA**

(Washington, DC) November 8, 2018 – The mass murder of another dozen Americans, including a long-time sheriff’s deputy, once again after being sprayed with semi-automatic weapon fire, should be reason to couple our prayers for the victims and their families with concrete action.

This latest atrocity, at a California country music dance venue popular with students, again has even veteran police officers overcome by emotion as they try to describe the horrific carnage. News reports indicate the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks attracted college students, country music fans, and line dancers. It was yet another case of Americans going about their everyday lives only to have them ended by a fellow citizen armed with evil intent and a weapon designed for killing.

As people of faith, we most certainly turn to prayer as our first priority. Bringing the families of the loved ones who lost their lives so tragically and unexpectedly before our gracious God is important because we know that it is His peace and comfort that is needed at this time – not only for grieving families, but also for the survivors who witnessed the atrocity first-hand.

But there is something else we must do.

As we pray, we must ask the Lord, “What would you have me to do?” We can’t always assume that God will use someone else to answer our prayers. God’s will may very well be to use us to answer the prayer!

James 2:14-17 says, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

The time to act is now. One way we can act upon our faith is by signing the Prayer Petition that many of our fellow evangelical leaders have already done. I encourage you to go to [put in link] and read this important statement that is derived from our faith and our desire to see the end of innocent lives taken by senseless gun violence.

It’s time that our nation hears the cries of the faithful who are calling out to end the ongoing slaughter of Americans who are simply living their daily lives and being killed when going to school . . . going to church . . . going to a movie . . . going to work . . . going to dinner . . . going to a concert . . . going to dance . . . going to meet friends.

We cannot come to a place where Americans must be afraid to go about their normal lives. We cannot allow mass shootings to be the reason for us to be afraid to go about everyday tasks or enjoy fun and friends, and even worship. We must act to end this new and terrible “normal.” This is time to match our prayers with our concrete actions, individually and together.