



I N S T I T U T E F O R
C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E
E D U C A T I O N

March/April 2013

In the News - Our Take on What it Means to
You

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Greetings!

I wrote the column below for our church newsletter in May 2011, and recently received a very touching email from a woman who lost her sister and great nephew in the Tuscaloosa tornado which hit two years ago this month. I thought it might be worth sharing the column with you this month, as many families were forever touched by the tragedy throughout the state two years ago.

A Moment of Silence

Our phone rang. "Mom, get on the Internet and go to the live streaming of the news out of Birmingham, there is a massive tornado heading right for us. Right now we are safe, and have taken refuge in the basement of one of the buildings on campus....."

Just as the Internet flashed an image of the massive tornado bearing down on Tuscaloosa, the phone went dead. Seconds, minutes, then an hour passed with no word from our daughter. For reasons God only knows, the phone rang again.

"Dad we're safe, but it is pitch black in this basement, and we don't know if it is safe to try to make our way out." "Is there another tornado coming our way?"

There was, but it passed about 20 miles south. Then the day of horrific damage and tragedy was over. Nighttime came quickly and cast an eerie pall over the city and the campus. Morning sunshine pierced through the veil of darkness and grief.

Scores were missing. One of them was a student at the University of Alabama, Ashley Harrison, a senior from Dallas, Texas, set to graduate two weeks after the storm. She was an honor student, worked at a law firm and had accepted a job with UBS in Washington, D.C. She was an athlete. And she was a daughter.

Her parents never got the call saying "I'm safe."

Swept from the closet in which she and two other students took refuge, her lifeless body was found 300 yards away, 2 days after the storm had passed. Her mother, having flown in from their home in Texas, spent the first day after the storm walking amidst the debris with posters of her daughter, "Have you seen her?" she pleaded with anyone who would listen.

Her mother's moment of silence will last a lifetime, and we can only pray that one day the silence will be filled by the sweet sound of the memories of their daughter. But now the silence is deafening. Especially now. The memorials and funerals are over, the routines are back to normal.

Her parent's phone will never ring again with the voice of their daughter on the other end, saying "I'm safe!". Silence may be their enemy for some time to come. But just like the sun streaming through dark and ominous clouds, God's voice will break through the silence, and they will hear their daughter again.

They will hear her laugh. They will hear her ambition. They will hear her through God. And there can be no better sound!

I got the following email response from a friend and coworker here in Cincinnati, who lost her sister and great nephew in the Tuscaloosa tornado, and to whom I had sent my sympathies. From her response, I know God is speaking through and in her.

Email I received May 2011:

"Morning Jim and thank you so very much for your sympathetic words. While my family is devastated at the loss of our oldest sister and her remaining children are mourning so deeply, we know a man that stilled the waters and calmed the raging sea. His name is Jesus and He will never leave us nor forsake us. My sister and my great nephew are experiencing

the most pleasant peace one could ever experience. Thank you for caring enough to take time out of your schedule to show it. Much love and be blessed. "

Email I received last month from the same person:

Afternoon Jim! Having found your original email in the "midst" has brought tears and joy again. I think of my sister constantly and I hear her humble cry. I think of her praying to God at that time for the sake of both herself and her great grandson. Today is her 63rd birthday and I still wait for the phone to ring. Through it all, her faith and the faith that I have is sustaining me. I often think back to what she must have gone through and what was so out of her control. I can hear her praying mercifully to Jesus and maybe even reciting the Lord's prayer. I hear her humble cry. Yes, I miss her, didn't know my 3-year old great great nephew that well but I had MANY years with my sister and such fond memories. This April 27, 2013 will mark two years yet it still feels like yesterday.

As the anniversary of that terrible day in Alabama history approaches, many families and communities will be facing similar memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

This month we also feature an article by fellow ICJE Board Member Stan Tippins on Risk Factors of Violence.

Until next month,

Jim Rechel - Newsletter Editor

Heroin Overdose Suspected in Death of UA Student in Tuscaloosa

March 21, 2013

Heroin overdose deaths are skyrocketing across the country, and Alabama is not immune to the trend. The recent death of an Alabama student found dead in his apartment last week is another reminder of the increasing trend of heroin related deaths.

When a Cincinnati man was found murdered in Birmingham last week, it reminded me of an outstanding in depth report that was recently published relative to the overwhelming impact heroin addiction was having on communities.

Link to the thought provoking article: [Special Report - Chasing the Dragon](#)

Psychological and Biological Early Risk Factors of Violence



Assistant Professor Stan Tippins Sr., (2013).
Criminal Justice Department/Legal Studies Department Faulkner University

Predicting violent crime is becoming more sophisticated and perhaps more accurate. The general public and victims could reduce fear levels, improve public safety, and increase understanding relative to early risk factors if they know what to look for. With increased understanding of psychological factors along with implementing creative new approaches to deal with sudden danger concerns everyone.

Psychological Predictors of Violent Crime

Assessing psychological problems as they relate to criminal justice is difficult. The current political climate simply demands equitable assessments when dealing with citizens. With respect to current politics, one should not abdicate personal safety for the sake of political correctness. The pressing question is-where is the balance? The natural response to this is individual constitution. Individual constitutions might include those basic desires to live in harmony and living without fear. Therefore, individual constitutions should be affixed in ones mind long before potentially harmful events surface. Most people fully understand that it is extremely difficult to predict when a mentally unstable person might threaten lives. The Sandy Hook Shootings in New Jersey proves that unpredictability is a reality.

According to Moore & Hogue (2000) the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) are well-respected tools for classifying maladaptive behavior. Unfortunately, the average citizen will not learn the DSM-IV or the ICD-10. Furthermore, those with maladaptive disorder or mental disorder are usually identified during incarceration (Moore & Hogue, 2000). Reality teaches that the mentally ill are not relegated to prisons or mental institutions. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, many of these state-run facilities are closing because of budgetary issues. That's right, those suffering with mental illness are being transferred to community-based treatment facilities. That means they could be living next door, attending local churches, walking through local parks, or attending local schools.

Biological Risk Factors

Human emotion must be included with risk factors associated with sudden public violence. Emotions affect behavior-and for most, they are difficult to hide. Bartol & Bartol (2012) cited (Tengstrom, Hodgins, Grann, Langstrom, & Kullgren, 2004). The authors propose that 11.3 % of men and 2.3 % of women that develop schizophrenia become violent; however, schizophrenics that commits violent crime constitute a very heterogeneous group (Bartol & Bartol, 2012). There is a stigma associated with people who develop schizophrenia; however, most people with schizophrenia are not violent toward others, but are withdrawn and prefer to be left alone (Bartol & Bartol, 2012). Furthermore, research has shown that those with paranoid and psychotic symptoms are more violent if medications are discontinued (Bartol & Bartol, 2012). Applying this information along with other quantifiable facts relative to mental disorders could lower risk factors associated with sudden public violence.

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has been collecting data on personal and household victimization since 1973. Research has revealed that women report being victimized more frequently than men. Bartol & Bartol (2012) said men encounter stranger offending more often than women, which might explain why those exchanges are more aggressive and potentially harmful.

Analysis and Suggestions

Upon examining the aforementioned information, one could correctly assume that women are victimized within an intimate partner relationship. Therefore, predictions relative to victimization should focus on issues having to do with domestic relationships (Koenen et al., 2003). Most would agree that one behavioral pattern does not satisfy the scientific definition for mental illness; but, active observation over time is the about the best one can do. Dr. Lou Harris suggests that humans can detect behavioral anomalies if one pays attention to "behavioral cues".

It is important for citizens to leave law enforcement in the hands of peace officers; however, personal safety is-"personal safety!" Schools, churches, and businesses should select several people for training in how to actively listen to conversation, observe behavioral patterns, and the utilization of Internet searches on those who demonstrate abnormal behavior. Finally, churches, schools, and businesses should know if an employee or church member is going through a nasty divorce, because domestic violence could spills over into public facilities.

Where Are We Going as a Team and as an Organization?

In a recent thought provoking article, the concept of vision leadership is explored. As organizations of all sizes are confronted with doing more with less, I think you will find it an interesting article for dealing with the future issues confronting all of us.

Perspective on Leadership: [Vision](#)

High Tech Thieves Target Automobiles

A neighborhood of cars with remote keyless entries were all broken into with only a keyless device in the hands of the crooks.

High Tech Auto Thieves: [Auto Thieves](#)

Watch Hackers Steal a BMW



There has been an unusual spike in the number of BMWs stolen in the UK this year, with some sources suggesting the number may be 300 cars or higher. The cars are being stolen without activating car alarms or immobilizers.

The article and video: [Hackers Steal BMW](#)

ICJE / AUM Training

Law Enforcement Training

List of Classes and Registration Link: [ICJE / AUM Seminar List and Registration](#)

Call Center Fraud Attempts



Fraudsters are constantly testing new methods and now are using Skype in their attempts to pose as bank customers. Last month a Georgia bank was the target of this Skype fraud attempt.

Read more: [New Wave of Call Center Fraud](#)

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