

“Gun Law Reform Makes Sense!”

Written by By: Pastor James Nash
Wednesday, 30 January 2013 00:00



When the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Connecticut, occurred, it got the attention of America like never before. It probably riveted through the NRA (National Rifle Association) and the extreme gun lovers to start preparing for dialogue protecting their rights to own any kind of weapon. It is now spot lighted by the killing of twenty young children and six teachers. The battle is on! Can anyone recall the “Brady Handgun Act”? The Brady Handgun Act was an act of the United States Congress that instituted federal background checks on people that bought firearms in the United States. It was a provision by Jim Brady and his wife Sarah. When this act was proposed originally in 1987, National Rifle Association spent millions of dollars to defeat the bill.

The NRA won concessions against a five day waiting period on the back ground checks, to no waiting period at all! So after many sad, violent filled tragedies, of which many young and old have been either wounded or killed, some by mentally challenged, or irresponsible gun handlers or owners, it took the killing of Sandy Hook children to really hit home and bring serious gun reform back to the table, for stronger gun control laws. The parents of the twenty children will testify to the need for something to be done and now! For years gun control laws have been fought against and met strong and stiff opposition from gun owners. Law enforcement officers skilled and trained to handle weapons, from safety to firing and yet there have been many tragic and fatal experiences. So if in fact this can happen to those skilled and trained, then, guns in the hands of the untrained or unskilled individuals can be totally disastrous. Severe background checks should be put in place of course, but they reflect past or present behavior, not potential. People should have the right to have guns in their homes for their safety and protection only if something can be done to check the mental stability of the individual. If this person has a history of mental challenges, they should not be allowed a weapons permit under any circumstances.

Much conversation is given to arming teachers in our schools with guns. Going to a shooting range will not be a strong test as to how a teacher would react to an instant situation in a classroom. Where would the gun be, in their pocket, cabinet, desk or some other place where a

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student would know? I am for all trained and skilled law enforcement officers being placed in schools, rather than guns in teachers hands. That still does not guarantee 100% safety or security. When it comes to conversation about rapid firing assault rifles with magazines holding multiple shells, there is no need for those in the home. Talk is also given to banning magazines for these weapons which makes sense because without magazines these weapons are of no use except for displays. When I was in the Marine Corps, the M-1 Rifle and the (bar) Browning Automatic Rifle was very popular and were designed for rapid fire. These rifles had to be tightly secured in the shoulder and hands to prevent a situation where one of our own troops could be injured. The magazine would jam sometimes which rendered useless. A weapon, such as these have no business on the streets or in the hands of anyone. These assault weapons should not be in gun shops for purchase for fear of being in the wrong hands. Hunters do not use automatic assault weapons in the woods.

When President Obama stated now is the time for serious dialogue about guns, especially assault weapons that can fire multiple rounds in a matter of seconds or minutes, it started a rush on gun shops everywhere in our nation to purchase guns for fear of not being able to have one. Then the New York governor (Cuomo) put together laws that passed limiting what weapons, parts or who could possess them. I would love for Texas to put some sensible dialogue on this subject for gun lovers or owners. The NRA put out an Ad concerning President Obama's girls being protected at their schools when the rest of our children are not. If you think that's sad, one lawmaker (former) said if the President over rides the 2nd Amendment he could face impeachment hearings. What? Ridiculous, keep watching for I promise it will get worse. Houston needs to have talks on this topic for future possibilities, we have been blessed so far, but who knows if a Sandy Hook is on our schedule.{jcomments on}