

# THE Gun Owners

40 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2015

## GOA Members Making a Difference

— *While media acknowledges GOA activists are a major force*

by Erich Pratt

It has been a good year for liberty.

Your support of Gun Owners of America has allowed us to remain on the frontlines, fighting to regain our lost freedoms.

And in many respects, we're better off today than we were one year ago.

**Constitutional Carry.** Two more states enacted GOA-backed laws, enabling citizens to carry firearms concealed *without permits*.

Having worked hard in both states, GOA welcomes Kansas and Maine into the Constitutional Carry club!

**States vetoing federal gun control.** Another GOA-supported effort bore fruit in Tennessee, when the Volunteer State enacted legislation to veto federal restrictions within their borders.

This followed on the heels of a devastating defeat to the Brady Campaign,



when a judge threw out their lawsuit challenging a similar law in Kansas which imposed felony penalties on anyone enforcing gun control.

**Victories before the Supreme Court.** Gun Owners of America and its foundation (GOF) have been very effective in the courts. As reported in the last issue of *The Gun Owners*, we were part of three critical victories before the Supreme Court this year.

Currently, GOA is challenging the

federal machine gun ban in the federal courts. (The brief can be read in its entirety here: [www.tinyurl.com/prtq89t](http://www.tinyurl.com/prtq89t).)

### GOA activists work hard to repeal gun control

One of GOA's goals is to repeal any restriction that violates the "shall not be infringed" language of the Second Amendment.

And we are happy to report that this was accomplished on several fronts this year.

At the federal level, who can forget the crushing blow to the Obama Administration after it attempted to ban very popular AR-15 ammunition?

GOA submitted comments against the ban on "green tip" M855 ammo and activated grassroots activists in opposition to the ban.

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## Not Guilty on All Counts!

— *How Gun Owners of America trounced the ATF in court*

by Rob Olson

Bob Arwady sure knows what it's like to be put through the wringer.

Over the past 15 years, the ATF has twice accused Bob of having committed numerous gun-related crimes.

Twice Bob has refused to "take the easy way out" by pleading guilty to something he did not do.

Twice he has chosen instead to put his fate in the hands of a jury of his peers.

And twice he has come out unscathed, being found not guilty on all counts.

In addition to two rounds of criminal charges, the ATF had also revoked Bob's federal firearms license years ago for minor record keeping violations, ending decades of Bob's successful — and law abiding — business in Houston, Texas.

For more than a decade now, Gun Owners of America has been at Bob's side, providing legal assistance, paying some legal bills, and offering friendship and support as Bob has endured this living nightmare.

Also, since early 2014, Gun Owners Foundation's legal team has assisted in

Bob's legal defense against these most recent charges, drafting numerous motions to dismiss the charges, along with other legal pleadings.

Over the past year, Gun Owners sent a member of its legal team to Houston four times to assist in Bob's defense in federal court.

### ATF: Breaking the law in the name of the law

In order to better understand Bob's case, a little history is helpful. Years ago, after ATF revoked Bob's dealer's

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## GOA Members Making a Difference

Continued from page 1

Gun Owners worked in concert with other pro-gun organizations and, in the end, the ATF received more than 300,000 comments in opposition.

The Obama administration was forced to raise the white flag and pull its anti-gun regulations.

### Deregulation of firearms sweeps the states

The anti-gun Left thought that the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012 would launch a nationwide push for more gun control.

But to their dismay, the number of pro-gun laws enacted by states has, since then, exceeded the number of anti-gun laws by an almost two-to-one margin.

In Wisconsin this year, Republican Governor Scott Walker signed a measure that GOA had lobbied for — a bill to repeal the 48-hour waiting period on purchasing handguns.

In fact, Gov. Walker joined a team of Republican Governors in repealing gun free zones in more than half-a-dozen states — including Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas

## Defeating the ATF ammo ban



GOA mobilized opposition to the ATF ban on ammunition and rallied the grassroots through Internet, Facebook and various media sources.

The number of permit holders has increased over the last eight years by almost 200 percent — which means there are roughly 13 million concealed carriers who are permitted.

And there are untold millions more who can “constitutional carry” without asking permission.

All of this is, in large part, due to favorable laws that states have passed in recent years.

### Media says GOA is a major force in the gun rights movement

Gun owners are experiencing greater gun rights freedoms today, and media pundits are taking notice of GOA’s role.

In July, *NewsMax* published a report listing the *Top 100 Gun Rights activists* in the country.

And sitting atop the great majority of the list — at Number Two — was Gun Owners of America and its Executive Director Larry Pratt.

While the President takes aim at restricting Second Amendment

rights, *NewsMax* reported, GOA is one of the most “influential” pro-gun rights advocacy groups defending Americans’ right to keep and bear arms.

But truth be told, this is a testimony to the million-plus members and

activists that GOA represents — our members who mail their postcards and take action on GOA’s alerts.

Because after all, GOA members and activists are the voice of Gun Owners of America.

GOA members are the reason that *National Public Radio* could say that Gun Owners of America “flooded” the phone lines on Capitol Hill before a crucial vote.

It’s because of our members that the *New York Times* lamented in 2013 how GOA was able to flip Senators who “appeared to be on the

fence about supporting bills to expand background checks.”

So realize that this acknowledgment of GOA’s effectiveness is really proof that grassroots activism works — and that the independent spirit of the American people is still alive and well.

### GOA opposing the President’s gun confiscation agenda

GOA thanks you for your support as we look forward to the new year and its challenges.

The President has praised Australia’s gun confiscation laws, suggesting that the United States should consider their example.

Obama is already attempting to disarm millions of seniors, in the same way that many veterans have lost their gun rights.

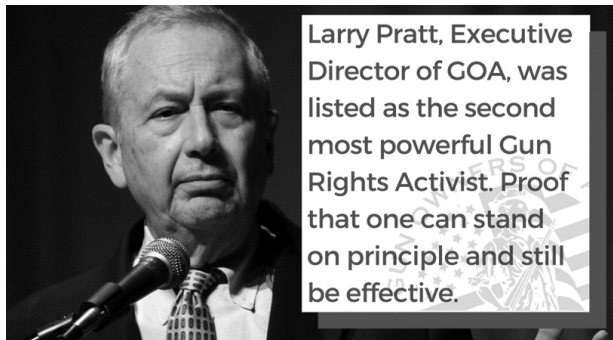
But he’s crazy if he thinks that gun owners are going to sit idly by while he collects our firearms from us.

Gun Owners of America will resist the President’s efforts, every step of the way, and we will work to block his agenda in the Congress and through the courts. The ultimate goal is the repeal of every infringement on the books — including those that were enacted in 1968 and 1934.

At the state level, GOA wants to enact even more Constitutional Carry laws throughout the country, while encouraging those same states to veto anti-gun federal laws within their borders.

Let’s make 2016 another good year for liberty. ■

## Media Recognizes GOA’s Strength



*NewsMax* published a report this year placing GOA’s Larry Pratt at Number Two out of 100 in a list of the top Gun Rights activists in the country. This is a testimony to the million-plus members and activists that GOA represents, as they are truly the voice of Gun Owners of America!

and Wisconsin.

These Governors are arming their respective guard units, allowing them to carry guns while on duty.

More Americans than ever are now carrying firearms concealed.

# GOA in the News

## Battling in the Marketplace of Ideas



**GOA awarded the role of Giant Slayer.** A PBS *Frontline* documentary in January highlighted the role that GOA members played in killing Obama's signature gun control legislation in 2013. And throughout this year, GOA spokesmen were called on frequently — in the aftermath of several shootings — to explain how armed individuals could have saved lives. During just a two week span, GOA representatives appeared in almost 1,000 different media outlets to defend 2nd Amendment rights.

## Gun-free zones are killing us



by Erich Pratt appearing in USA Today (October 4, 2015)

Our hearts go out to the victims and the families of the Umpqua Community College shooting. Last week's events were very tragic, and all Americans are mourning with the residents of Oregon.

But most Americans find it very offensive to hear the president use a tragedy like this and instantly turn it into a political opportunity.

The White House is calling for "common sense" gun control, which is insane, given that the criminally minded don't obey the law.

Every public mass shooting since 1950, except for two, has occurred in a gun-free zone. This shooting is no different.

The Umpqua Community College is a gun-free zone, as are the locations of many recent shootings: the Lafayette, La., theater; the Charleston, S.C., church; the military recruiting center in Tennessee.

Guns were outlawed at all these locations, and yet the killers ignored the bans. Plus, the shooters passed background checks — as did the Oregon shooter, who passed several background checks in purchasing his firearms.

Albert Einstein defined "insanity" as doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results. Clearly, the call for more gun control is insane — it doesn't work.

And that is why Gun Owners of America agrees with the 86% of police who say these types of incidents would be prevented if the potential victims were not disarmed.

Consider just a partial list of the locations where armed citizens have stopped bad guys in their tracks over the past year: in a bar in Youngstown, Ohio; on a street corner in Chicago; at a barber shop in Philadelphia; in a church in Florida; at a food processing plant in Oklahoma; and at a hospital in Darby, Pa.

And then, there was the attempted mass shooting in 2012 at the Clackamas mall in Oregon. When a gunman began killing people in the mall, Nick Meli drew his concealed firearm and pointed it at the gunman, thus spooking him into taking his own life.

Nick Meli was breaking the "no guns policy" at the mall, but there are many survivors who are glad he did.

Gun-free zones are the problem. Let's repeal them.

*Erich Pratt is the director of communications for Gun Owners of America. The self-defense cases referenced in this article can be found on GOA's Facebook page or at [www.gunowners.org/self-defense-corner](http://www.gunowners.org/self-defense-corner)*

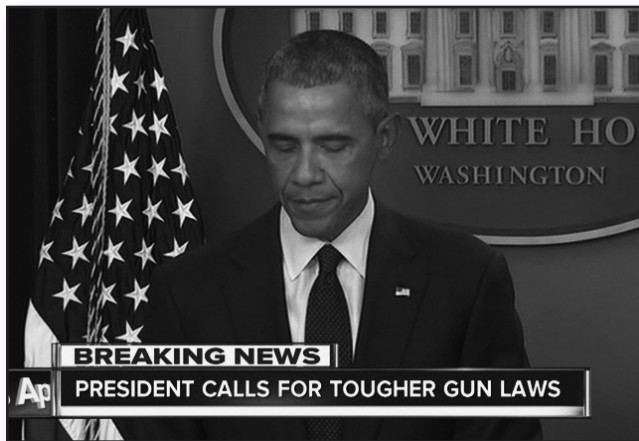




# GOA ON THE FRONT LINES

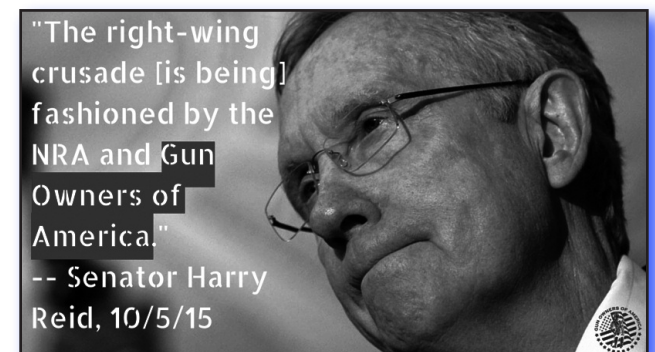


▲ **Gun Owners educating the next generation.** While GOA's Erich Pratt spoke to several groups of college students this year, he entered the "lion's den" in September when he debated the gun rights issue in front of 400 (mostly anti-gun) college interns in the nation's capital. But Pratt stumped his Bloomberg-backed opponent — who is also a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting (pictured on the left) — by asking what gun control law could have possibly stopped any of the mass shootings this summer. The Bloomberg spokesman had no answer.



▲ **GOA countering the President's lies.** When the President called for more gun control after the Oregon community college shooting this Fall, Gun Owners of America responded. GOA issued a ten-point response to each of the President's lies and misstatements, providing ammo for gun owners and media outlets to use — see [www.tinyurl.com/p8db4cw](http://www.tinyurl.com/p8db4cw). *USA Today* also printed an abbreviated version of GOA's response (see page 3).

▲ **A GOA Life Member who's as tough as nails.** Indiana Sheriff Brad Rogers (right) is one of the most constitutionally-minded law enforcement officials in the country. When asked about President Obama's remarks on gun control in October, Rogers — who is the Sheriff of Elkhart County and a GOA Life Member — said he would defy any anti-gun Executive Order issued by the President. Rogers also noted that there are "quite a few pro-Second Amendment chiefs out there [who] vowed not to enforce any anti-Second Amendment laws or orders."



▲ **Senator Reid attacks GOA.** Frustrated that gun control has not passed the Senate, Minority Leader Harry Reid blasted Gun Owners of America this year for waging a "right-wing ideological crusade." Reid has been frustrated at GOA for blocking the Left's ability to use recent shootings to "push for more stringent gun laws." In 2013, Reid blasted GOA for being "way to the right of what the NRA is" — because that, he said, "makes it hard for the NRA to be reasonable."



# GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



▲ **Repealing the machine gun ban.** Gun Owners of America (and its foundation) are challenging the machine gun ban of 1986. An analysis of the GOA brief in *Hollis v. Lynch* — as well as the brief itself — can be seen at [www.gunowners.org/machine-guns.htm](http://www.gunowners.org/machine-guns.htm).

▲ **Helping GOA-supported candidates get elected.** ▶

Governor-elect Matt Bevin (right) is pictured here with GOA's Erich Pratt. Gun Owners of America jumped behind the pro-gun Bevin long before he was ever a frontrunner in the Bluegrass State. But GOA's support helped rally support for Bevin in the primary and the general election — and to pull off a “come from behind” victory in November.



▲ **GOA social media converting anti's to the pro-gun side.**

Remember the now-famous debate between GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt and Piers Morgan? Three years later, the video — posted on the GOA YouTube page — is the “gift that keeps on giving.” Said one college student after watching the debate for the first time this October: “At first, I agreed with Piers Morgan, but as the video goes on, I saw that limiting the use of firearms is not the answer.”



▲ **Leading the charge on Concealed Carry.** Gun Owners of America is the ONLY national gun organization lobbying for truly pro-gun concealed carry reciprocity at the federal level. This is the Stuzman-Cornyn bill which would protect citizens living in Constitutional Carry states. At the state level, GOA assisted Kansas and Maine this year in becoming the most recent states to enact permitless carry.



## Are you a GOA Life Member yet?

Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.



When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

**LIFE MEMBER**

**Gun Owners of America**  
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## Not Guilty on All Counts!

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license, he transferred his remaining firearms to his personal inventory — exactly as ATF procedures instruct.

Over the years, Bob sold guns out of that inventory — just like ATF said he could. Each time Bob would make a sale, he would go above and beyond the requirements of the law, and use a local FFL to ship the gun to the buyer's FFL. Each and every sale was perfectly lawful, and utterly above reproach.

But along came ATF, and accused Bob of being “engaged in the business” of dealing in firearms without a license! For selling his own guns! ATF had literally no evidence to support that charge, but of course that mere technicality never fails to stop ATF.

ATF also charged Bob — along with Bob's longtime employee and friend Paul — with having committed a straw purchase, because they had bought three stripped AR-15 lower receivers from a dealer they had known for decades.

But this was no straw purchase. Paul had filled out the paperwork as the one taking possession of the receivers. Bob simply paid the bill. Bob even showed the FFL his Texas concealed carry permit, to show that he was good-to-go as well.

However, ATF claimed that a straw purchase happens anytime one person fills out the paperwork, and another person pays! Thus, said ATF, an employer in a case like this cannot even buy his employee a gift!

Never mind that Bob could have simply paid Paul another \$500 in salary. Never mind that both men are eligible



**Victory in court.** When the dust cleared, it took four lawyers, six years, hundreds of hours, and tens of thousands of dollars to clear Bob Arwady's name. GOA Members should be proud for the role they have played in protecting Bob (inset) and his family against the ATF.

firearm owners. Never mind that they told the FFL who sold Paul the receivers exactly what they were doing, and the FFL agreed the sale was perfectly legal.

ATF's own website says that Bob could have given Paul a \$500 gift card to buy the receivers, but ATF claimed that Bob could not take the same \$500 and pay for Paul's receivers at the store.

This is what happens when dealing with an agency that consistently refuses to be bogged down by inconveniences such as the law, truth, or common sense.

### United States v. Arwady Goes to Trial

Just days before trial, the federal prosecutors — realizing the weakness of their case — finally decided to drop the bogus “engaged in the business” charges against Bob, but left the two charges about the so-called “straw purchase.”

One count was for making a false statement on the ATF Form 4473 — checking the box that says you are the

“actual transferee/buyer.” The other count was for conspiracy to make that false statement.

The case went to trial on October 20, 2015. ATF's entire basis for charging Bob and Paul with multiple felonies was that “Paul got the guns, but Bob paid.”

That's it.

The defense pointed out that since the guns went to Paul, he is exactly the person who should fill out the 4473. The whole point of the form is that the person who is going to get the gun should fill out the form!

### The Verdict

After a two day trial and a masterful defense put on by Bob and Paul's defense lawyers, the jury retired to deliberate. The jury took a while longer than anyone thought it would.

Come to find out, the jury was just confused. It seemed to them that the government had *literally no evidence at all of any crime* — and the jury simply found that unbelievable. So they went over everything again, to make sure they understood everything.

Confidently reaching their verdict, the jury returned. The jury foreman announced himself and confirmed that the jury had reached a verdict.

As it turns out, the jury foreman was an Army Veteran, himself a multiple gun owner, has a Texas Concealed Handgun License, and rates himself an eight out of ten on gun knowledge. God sure was smiling on Bob, on that

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## How to Place GOA



**GOA has received numerous inquiries from members asking how they can place Gun Owners of America in their will or estate plans.**

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_; or
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

## Not Guilty on All Counts!

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day, in that Texas courtroom.

Next, the judge read the verdict — NOT GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS.

Bob broke down into tears. He had been drug through the mud for six years, but finally was vindicated for the second time.

Only minutes after the verdict was read, Bob's first call was to Larry Pratt, to thank him and GOA in a gracious and heartwarming phone call.

### The Aftermath

Bob now must pick up the pieces and move on with his life. But now being over 70 years old, that is easier said than done.

Bob was a successful businessman, but ATF has done its best to destroy Bob's business and his life, including ATF's seizure of his entire business

inventory, all his records, some very valuable guns, and charging him with criminal offenses that he did not commit.

Moreover, Bob's health, and his wife's health, have suffered at the hands of some truly terrible government "servants."

When the dust cleared, it took four lawyers, six years, hundreds of hours, and tens of thousands of dollars to clear Bob's name. GOA Members should be proud for the role they have played in protecting Bob and his family against ATF.

Of course, losing the case against Bob is no skin off ATF's back. Despite having wasted what is likely hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars pursuing an innocent man, ATF employees will head right back to the office the next morning, free to pursue their next victim.

With your support, GOA will be

ready.

As of the date this article was written, ATF has yet to return any of Bob's firearms. In our experience, ATF often drags its feet when ordered to return guns. In far too many cases for it to be a "coincidence," ATF "loses" or damages guns — often greatly diminishing their value or rendering them unusable. Because hey, if they can't put Bob in prison, at least they'll ruin his expensive collection.

Gun owners can make donations to Gun Owners of America so that we can continue to help people like Bob Arwady. And they can contribute to the Foundation by either going online at [www.gunowners.com](http://www.gunowners.com) or by giving through the Combined Federal Campaign. (See the CFC ad on this page.) ■

*Rob Olson is one of the Foundation attorneys for Gun Owners of America.*

## HIT THE RIGHT TARGET! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fundraising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn't find a group that wasn't attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate **Gun Owners Foundation (GOF)** as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use **Agency Number 10042** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program to protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate that your gift be to **Gun Owners Foundation**. Many local United Way Campaigns allow **Gun Owners Foundation** to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to **Gun Owners Foundation** by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep **GOF** in mind when making your donation. Thank you very much.





## Christians and the Use of Force

by Larry Pratt

Greg Hopkins is a pistol-packing Sunday School teacher who, as an attorney, conducts self-defense seminars.

He has written a book, *A Time to Kill*, challenging the notion that Christians should have nothing to do with the use of force. I had the

opportunity to interview him on my weekly show, *The Gun Owners News Hour*.

Hopkins raises interesting questions to challenge pacifists: Should they allow non-pacifists to protect them? Is it OK for the defenders to go to hell so the Christian pacifists can be "holier than thou"?

And, of course, how does it bring glory to God to allow men and women, who are made in His image, to be victimized by thugs and terrorists?

To ask these questions hopefully is to answer them.

From Virginia Tech to Umpqua Community College in Oregon, we have seen people die while waiting for cops to arrive. This unfortunate view was reinforced by lethal laws or regulations that mandated these schools be "gun free zones."

Many people have died because they obeyed disarmament laws which only embolden murderers. These terrorists wait to strike until they're confident they can kill a lot of people before a good guy with a gun comes on the scene.

Such was the case at the Darby, Pennsylvania, hospital in 2014. A patient, who was intent on killing several of the medical staff, never expected to find one of his victims carrying a concealed firearm. After all, the hospital was a gun-free zone.

But Dr. Lee Silverman was carrying a handgun — against hospital policy — and, according to police, saved countless lives by pumping three bullets into the perpetrator's chest.

The concept of self-defense should not be a foreign one to Christians. Jesus told his disciples to buy a sword if

they did not already have one (in Luke 22:36).

And two thousand years earlier, Abraham was attacked, and his nephew was kidnapped. Abraham's response went far beyond a tongue lashing. At great risk to themselves, he and his armed servants attacked the five thugs — aka, kings — and rescued his nephew Lot. (See Genesis 14.)

In the example of Abraham, we see the use of deadly force, up until the point where the bad guys stop. The war was over when Abraham got Lot back. Our modern laws on self-defense mirror what Abraham did.

Proverbs 24:11 says that we are to rescue those who are being led away to death. As Hopkins points out, our modern laws reflect these biblical mandates.

Hopkins' book has a powerful presentation of the godliness of self-defense. He gave a review copy of the book to a friend of his, who shared it with his pastor.

After reading the book, the pastor confessed that it had changed his views. He was no longer a pacifist. Indeed, he bought a gun with his new understanding of Scripture.

An application of Hopkins' teaching was seen when South African Charl van Wyk used his gun to foil an armed invasion several years ago. Charl was worshipping at a church one evening when several armed invaders assaulted the congregants with machine guns and hand grenades.

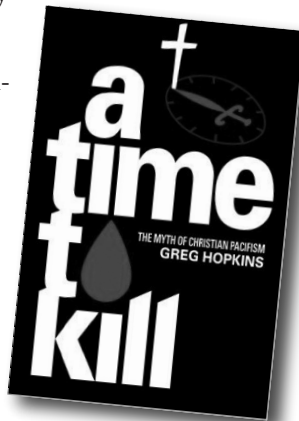
While 11 people were killed, there would have been even more if Charl had not used his snub-nosed revolver to shoot (and hit) one of the attackers — thus, forcing them to call off the assault.

Later, after the danger had passed, Charl visited one of the thugs in jail and presented the gospel to him. Obviously, the message of Christ is not inconsistent with the use of force in self-defense.

As Charl's assailant said from jail: "First Charl gave me a bullet, then a Bible."

That latter point is dealt with in the treatise *What Does the Bible Say about Gun Control* on the GOA web site. Go to [www.gunowners.org/fs9902.htm](http://www.gunowners.org/fs9902.htm)

And my interview with Hopkins regarding his book, *A Time to Kill*, can be heard here: [www.tinyurl.com/pxnmqwp](http://www.tinyurl.com/pxnmqwp) ■



### THE Gun Owners

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