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Mass Murders Are Nothing New

Editorial Comment by Warren Krug

The world and especially the United States was shocked when on December 14 a gunman killed his mother and then 26 teachers and young children at an elementary school in Newton, Connecticut.

Oh, if only such a human-caused tragedy were rare. In one sense, it is. Regarding shootings in schools, if one considers the number of schools in the U.S. (125,000 according to one report I read) and the number of days each year a typical school is in operation (around 180 days), then such an event as Newton is indeed quite rare.

On the other hand, mass shootings and other mass murders are nothing new. Discovery News in a recent post provided a long list of such despicable events including...

In 1764 a teacher and 10 students were shot dead in Greencastle, Penn.

In 1893 11 people including an infant were killed with guns and swords in Osaka, Japan.

In 1913 a man in Germany stabbed his wife and four children to death before driving to another town where he opened fire on 20 people, killing at least nine.

Here in Wisconsin, we have had our share of recent massacres—the Aug. 5 shooting at a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin that left six dead and four wounded and the Oct. 21 shooting at a Brookfield, Wisconsin spa that resulted in three deaths and four injuries.

Murders go back a long ways, all the way to the beginning of history when Cain murdered his brother, which surely must have represented the largest percentage of the world's population ever wiped out at one time by a murderer.

Whether these murders were precipitated by truly evil people or by people with a certain degree of mental disease, the ultimate cause is still the same—the introduction into the world of sin which has ever since caused the whole universe to be in a state of misery (Romans 8:22).

The solution to sin and its consequences is Jesus Christ. Jesus took our sins upon Himself (Isaiah 53:4-6) and made it possible for us through faith to look forward to a heaven where murder and every other sin will be a thing of the past.

God be praised. LSI

—Warren Krug, editor