



THE PAIDEIA LETTER

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WE NEED MORE THAN “THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS” FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



Abundant Life
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Once again—on Monday, December 16, 2024—an American school has been attacked by a troubled student who chose to express her particular grievances by killing another student and teacher and wounding several others before taking her own life.



Once again, it is a Christian school, as are **Feather River Adventist School**, Oroville, CA, where a 56-year old derelict shot two children on December 5, before killing himself; and **The Covenant School**, Nashville, TN, where in 2023, an angry transgender graduate murdered six children and teachers before being shot by police officers.

Each time, we hear a platitudinous call for “thoughts and prayers” in behalf of those who mourn. Of course, we need the comfort of believing in a loving God to sustain us, but we need far more: We need action as well as prayers!

Americans have had ample time and sad experience to encounter and prevent such massacres. The raw fact is that an astonishing number of school or college shooting incidents occur each year. According to *USA Today* (December 17, 2024), the Madison event was **the 323rd gun-related on-campus crime in 2024**. Since 1966, **“there have been 2,969 incidents, 2,372 victims wounded, 854 victims killed, and 1,108 total deaths, including shooter deaths.”** Yet we seem to care only about the mass murders and deliberate assassinations.



Perhaps the first on-campus slaughter that many of us can remember occurred in 1966, when a former Marine went on a killing spree in Austin, TX. After stabbing to death his wife and mother, he commandeered the observation tower at the **University of Texas** and, shooting at random, killed more than a dozen persons and wounded 31 others.



Three decades later, on April 20, 1999, two teenagers, pathologically afflicted by evil influences, planned to bomb their **Columbine High School**, in Littleton, CO. When the bombs failed to explode, they opened fire in the cafeteria, killing twelve schoolmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

Twelve years ago, a deranged man in Newtown, CT, committed the worst atrocity to date, first killing his mother at home, then 26 young children and adults at the **Sandy Hook Elementary School**. Further horror awaited in Parkland, FL, where 17 died, and Uvalde, TX, where 22 were killed.

