



FAITHLIVINGCHURCH

Monday, January 28, 2013

Co-Chairs and Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

My name is Ron Thomas, Senior Pastor of Faith Living Church for 32 years, one of Connecticut's local family churches. We're made up of several hundred men, women, boys and girls. I'm also the father of 3 boys and 1 girl, grandfather to 2 girls and 1 boy.

Please do not do anything (such as bans, higher ammo taxes etc...) that would prevent us or hinder us, the law-abiding citizens of Connecticut from protecting ourselves and our families from violent crimes, (which come in many forms from the heartless criminals who prey upon the weak).

Sad to say, but true, there will always be sick, vicious, animal-like criminals in this world who attack the helpless.

When my family moved across town to the base of Ragged Mt. in Southington, CT, I visited neighbors to introduce myself. One elderly lady told me she had just received a note from another neighbor up the street, that a pack of coyotes had viciously killed and eaten her kitten. In the 8 years we have lived there, several neighbors have shared similar stories of small, beloved dogs and cats that have been attacked & eaten.

In light of the packs of coyotes that live and roam in our community, it would be unfair, heartless, even cruel to disarm our kittens, have their claws removed or even limit the number of claws that they may possess. Kittens need their claws to fight for their lives (All 9 of them) and to scamper up a tree out of harms way. Taking claws from a kitten may save your furniture, but it would not stop the vicious attacks from wild animals, but would likely render the kitten helpless and more prone to attack.

Please allow kittens to keep and bear their claws as needed and do no less for the law-abiding citizens of CT.

Don't take away the best means we have of deterring violent crime and protecting our loved ones from vicious, heartless, animal-like criminals that have already attacked and killed many far and near.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ron Thomas