

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE SHOGUN INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MARTIAL ARTS

SHOGUN INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE #1
SUMMER 2026

TRADITION.
DISCIPLINE.
RESPECT.

THE VALUES THAT
MAKE US STRONGER

將軍

ONE
FEDERATION.

MANY ARTS.
ONE PURPOSE.

SUMMER
TRAINING
TIPS & MINDSET



FEDERATION OF MARTIAL ARTS

UNITED IN TRADITION. DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE.

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Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza Event *RECAP!*

Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza – Event Recap

This year's Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza Martial Arts Seminar delivered an unforgettable weekend of high-level training, powerful knowledge, and incredible martial arts spirit. Practitioners from a variety of styles came together to share techniques, traditions, and ideas in an atmosphere filled with respect, enthusiasm, and brotherhood.

Throughout the event, participants experienced dynamic training sessions led by skilled instructors who brought decades of martial arts knowledge to the floor. From practical applications and traditional forms to powerful striking and grappling concepts, every class offered valuable insights that inspired both beginners and seasoned martial artists alike.

Beyond the techniques, what truly made the weekend special was the camaraderie. Martial artists trained side-by-side, forged new friendships, and strengthened the bonds that unite the martial arts community. The energy in the room was electric, reminding everyone why gatherings like this are so important for keeping traditional martial arts alive and thriving.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the instructors, organizers, and the dedicated martial artists who helped make the event such a tremendous success.

If you missed this year's Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza, you won't want to miss the next one. The training, the friendships, and the experience are something every martial artist should be a part of.

Start making your plans now—next year's event promises to be even bigger and better!

Pictures from the Event



Pictures done by Raye Jackson Photography.

Congratulations to Our Members

The S.I.F.M.A. would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following members on their recent achievements. These recognitions have been submitted by fellow members in appreciation of their dedication and accomplishments within the martial arts community.

If you would like to have a fellow member recognized in a future issue, please submit the information to Chris Braun at bkma_kenosha@yahoo.com. Submissions must be for individuals who are current S.I.F.M.A. members with approved certification.

Shogun International Federation of Martial Arts Promotion "Shogo Title" Certification

Red Belt:

Ang Shiha	9th Dan -	Federation Commissioner	USA Charter Director
Jenkins Kyoshi	9th Dan -	Eastern Charter Director	
Hanshi Colahan	9th Dan -	Okinawan Kenpo	USA Federation Ambassador
Dr. Derrick Whitlow	9th Dan -		Southern States Commissioner

Peppermint Belt:

Bond Kyoshi	8th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	Commissioner
Santiago Miller	8th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Ambassador
Courtney	8th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Commissioner
Braun C. Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Midwest Charter Director & Executive of Affairs
Eby Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	
Ring Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	
Hidalgo Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	Federation Commissioner
T.Croan Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Federation Commissioner
Kremeier Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Ambassador/Commissioner
Lugrand Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Ambassador
Sallis Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	
Siegele Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	
Pulley Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	Commissioner
Willis Kyoshi	7th Dan -	Aiki-Bu-Jitsu	Commissioner

Black Belt:

Braun M. Renshi	6th Dan -	Kempo Karate	
C. Croan Renshi	5th Dan -	Okinawan Karate	Commissioner
Solis Renshi	5th Dan -	Okinawan karate	Commissioner
Song Renshi	5th Dan -		
Scholl Renshi	4th Dan -		Representative for Texas and Arkansas
Reyes Renshi	4th Dan		Representative for Florida & Sport Karate Coach

The title Shōgō (称号) is a traditional Japanese honorific title awarded in many classical martial arts and budō organizations. Unlike a dan rank, which measures technical skill and progression, a shōgō recognizes an individual's character, teaching ability, leadership, and contribution to the art.



Looking Ahead: 2027 Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza

This year's Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza Martial Arts Seminar was nothing short of outstanding. With over 140 dedicated martial artists coming together at the headquarters of the Shogun International Federation of Martial Arts, the energy, discipline, and shared pursuit of growth created an experience that truly embodied the spirit of our arts.

From intense training sessions to the exchange of knowledge and camaraderie, the 2026 event set a powerful standard. And now, we turn our focus forward.

We are proud to officially announce that the 2027 Traditional Gregarious Extravaganza will take place on April 23rd & 24th, 2027, once again following close to the same format of this year's seminar with also the same returning grandmasters including GM Billy Blanks, GM Curtis Jordan, Professor Sugar Crossen, and Shihan Aj Ang, GM Shogun Brown and more!

However, there is one important detail for those planning to attend: Participation will be limited to just 205 spots.

Based on the overwhelming response and growth we've seen, we fully expect these spots to fill quickly.

This seminar is more than just training—it is an opportunity to sharpen your skills, deepen your understanding, and stand shoulder to shoulder with martial artists who share the same commitment to discipline, respect, and personal evolution. This event offers a rare environment where tradition meets intensity and growth is inevitable.

If you are serious about your training, now is the time to act.

We strongly encourage all interested participants to begin making arrangements early. Secure your place. Plan your travel. Prepare yourself physically and mentally to be part of something that continues to grow in both scale and impact each year.

More details regarding registration and scheduling will be released soon—but those who wait may find themselves on the outside looking in.

Mark your calendar. Prepare your mindset. Claim your place.

We look forward to training with you in 2027.



Professor Gregg "Shogun" Brown

Professor Gregg "Shogun" Brown is a highly respected martial artist, instructor, and leader known for his powerful presence and unwavering dedication to the traditional values of the martial arts. With decades of training and teaching experience, he has built a reputation for blending discipline, honor, and practical combat knowledge into every aspect of his instruction.

As a senior figure and driving force behind the Shogun International Federation, Professor Brown has influenced countless students and instructors, helping to preserve and promote authentic martial arts across generations. His teaching style is both demanding and inspiring—pushing students to exceed their limits while instilling the character, respect, and perseverance that define a true martial artist.

From the desk of

Shogun Brown

Okinawan Shuri Karate (Shuri-te)

I wish to share the Tai Sabaki training that I acquired in Okinawa with you, the reader.

Shuri-te originated in the Shuri area of Okinawa (home to the royal castle) and is one of the two main historical branches of Okinawan karate (the other being Naha-te). It evolved into modern styles like Shuri-ryū (including Matsubayashi-ryū). Key traits: Fast, light, natural footwork and breathing.

Straight-line stepping with emphasis on speed and timing.

Evasion + aggressive forward pressure rather than standing and absorbing hits.

What is Tai Sabaki (体捌き)? Tai Sabaki literally means "body management" or "whole-body movement." It is the skill of shifting your entire body (feet, hips, torso) to: Step off the line of an attack (evasion/dodging). Reposition instantly into an advantageous angle.

I learned that footwork often flows with straight-line into a counterattack. It pairs closely with Irimi (入り身), "entering the body/space" advancing toward the opponent to close the distance and neutralize their attack while they're off-balance.

In old-style Shuri-te specifically: You dodge the enemy's strike (Tai Sabaki) then immediately charge in (Irimi).

Techniques like Tsuki-Uke (punch-block) attack while deflecting.

It feels light and explosive — think "dodging a sword blade without ever letting it touch you" rather than blocking head-on.

Contrast with Naha-te (Gōjū-ryū roots): slower, heavier, rooted stances with "artificial" breathing and crescent-stepping to absorb power.

Shuri-te avoids contact altogether when possible and uses natural movement.

Imagine how it looks in practice, your opponent punches straight at you: You pivot or slide offline (e.g., 180° or 90° body turn). Your whole body rotates smoothly so the punch misses by inches. You're now beside or behind them, already launching your counter (often a punch or strike while "entering").

In my humble opinion, this is why Shuri-te feels fast and evasive compared to more stationary styles. Visual examples of the movement here are illustrations of Sabaki-style footwork and historical Shuri-te training.

Happo Sabaki (八方捌き). A multi-directional body shifting drill — very close to Tai Sabaki in action. Notice the pivoting footwork and whole-body repositioning.

My traditional lineage is Okinawan "Sakagawa Tode" Shuri-te group training in front of Shuri Castle — the birthplace of this light, evasive movement style.)

Tai Sabaki appears in many karate systems today (Shotokan, Shitō-ryū, etc.), and some styles even have dedicated Tai Sabaki kata (Kata/Kata Bunkai), but its roots and purest expression in Okinawan karate trace back to old Shuri-te.

If you're training it, focus on smooth hip rotation, natural stepping, and always ending in a strong counter position. It's one of the reasons traditional Okinawan karate is so effective for real Self-Defense and Counter Attacks. I also use it in my Tactical training with Modern Weapons. Chamber-Te and Aiki-Bu-Jitsu Kuzushi.

Professor Gregg "Shogun" Brown

The Power of Tradition in Modern Martial Art

By CR Braun

In a world that moves faster each day, where technology reshapes how we learn, communicate, and live, martial arts stand as something rare; a living bridge between the past and the present. While training methods may evolve and schools adapt to modern needs, tradition remains the foundation that gives martial arts its true power and meaning.

Tradition is not simply about wearing a uniform, bowing when entering the dojo, or practicing techniques passed down through generations. Tradition is the **spirit** that connects practitioner to teacher, student to lineage, and discipline to purpose. It reminds us that martial arts were never meant to be just physical systems of combat, but pathways toward personal development and human excellence.

Modern society often emphasizes speed, results, and efficiency. Students may ask, “What works fastest?” or “What helps me win?” **While effectiveness is important, tradition teaches us that mastery is not measured only by victory, but by a person’s character and willingness to stay strong when times get tough.**

The rituals of martial arts such as bowing, addressing instructors respectfully, maintaining dojo etiquette, may appear simple on the surface. Yet these practices cultivate humility, focus, and awareness. These practices prepare the mind before the body ever moves.

When a student bows, they acknowledge respect: for the art, for their training partners, for the opportunity to learn and for those that came before us. This moment transforms training from exercise into practice with purpose.

Every technique practiced today carries the wisdom of those who trained before us. Generations of martial artists refined movements through hardship, experience, and dedication. Tradition preserves these lessons so that each new student does not begin from zero but stands upon a strong foundation.

Understanding lineage creates gratitude. It reminds practitioners that they are part of something larger than themselves — a continuing story rather than an individual pursuit.

In modern martial arts, innovation should not replace tradition but grow from it. Progress becomes meaningful when rooted in respect for what came before.

Today’s world offers constant distraction and instant gratification. Martial arts tradition provides a counterbalance. Structured training, repetition, and patience teach students to value steady progress over quick success. These lessons extend far beyond the dojo. They shape leaders, mentors, and responsible members of society.

One of the greatest strengths of traditional martial arts is the sense of belonging it creates. Shared customs unite practitioners across schools, cultures, and even countries. A martial artist can walk into a good dojo anywhere in the world and recognize familiar values: courtesy, discipline, and mutual respect.

Preserving tradition does not mean resisting change. Martial arts must remain alive and responsive to modern students and modern challenges. Safety standards improve, teaching methods evolve, and new knowledge enhances training.

However, when tradition is lost, martial arts risk becoming merely fitness programs or competitive activities without deeper meaning.

The goal is balance; honoring the wisdom of the past while responsibly guiding the art forward.

Each practitioner carries tradition forward through their actions. Every time an instructor teaches with integrity, every time a senior student helps a beginner, and every time a student trains with sincerity, tradition lives on.

Tradition is not preserved in books or certificates. It survives through behavior, attitude, and examples that is shown in each one of our students.

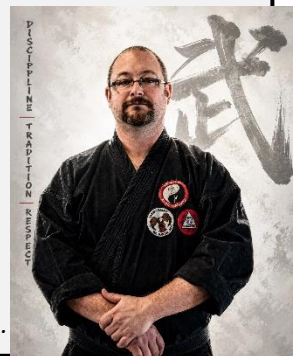
In modern martial arts, the true power of tradition lies in its ability to transform individuals while connecting generations. It reminds us that while techniques may change, the core values of respect, discipline, humility, and perseverance remain timeless.

And as long as these values are practiced, the spirit of martial arts will continue to thrive; not only as a system of training, but as a way of life.

Braun Kyoshi has been training in the martial arts since 1986, dedicating more than 40 years to the study, practice, and teaching of traditional martial arts. Beginning with Kempo Karate, he has since trained in multiple systems, including Aikido, Pankration and Feeding Crane Kung Fu, continually expanding his knowledge while honoring the traditions of the martial arts.

As the founder and chief instructor of Braun's Karate and Martial Arts in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Braun Kyoshi is committed to helping students build confidence, discipline, respect, and character. He is also known as the "Frozen Crane," a nickname inspired by his Wisconsin roots and his love of training outdoors—even during the winter months.

Braun is also a trauma nurse, firefighter, veteran, and a family man.



New Online Kobudo Classes Being Offered

Train in the ancient warrior traditions of Okinawan weaponry from anywhere in the world with the **Shogun International Federation of Okinawan Kobudo-Ryu** under the direct instruction of Grandmaster Gregg "Shogun" Brown.

Our live online Okinawan Bo-Jitsu and Kobudo classes are designed for students of all skill levels — from complete beginners to advanced martial artists seeking deeper traditional knowledge and authentic training.

Develop mastery of the Bo staff through a complete structured curriculum featuring fifteen traditional Okinawan Bo-Jitsu kata, including Shihonuke, Chou no Kun, and many more. Students also receive extensive training in a wide range of classical Okinawan weapons, including Tonfa, Kama, Eku, Nunte-Bo, Sai, Sectional Staff, Nunchaku, Sword, and Bokken.

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Students progress through a structured ranking system beginning at Yellow Belt and advancing through Godan (5th Degree Black Belt). Qualified students may test in person for Shodan (1st Degree Black Belt) certification under the direct supervision of Grandmaster Gregg "Shogun" Brown.

These well-organized online classes preserve the living traditions of Okinawan Kobudo-Ryu while building practical skill, coordination, power, discipline, and warrior spirit. Discover the beauty, history, and effectiveness of the ancient farming tools that became legendary weapons of self-defense.

Become part of a living martial arts tradition and begin your journey today.

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Email: shogun@shoguninternationalfederation.com
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- Advanced
- 2nd to 5th Degree Black Belt

KUMITE FIGHT SETS

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- Sai-Bo
- Tonfa-Bo
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- Kama-Sai
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4 PHASES OF A FIGHT

By Eric Willis



Eric Willis (shown here teaching a technique at the 2026 Shogun International event) is a lifelong martial artist, military veteran, and respected combat sports instructor based in Topeka, Kansas. As the owner and head instructor of Go Hard Fighting, he has dedicated more than 30 years to martial arts and military combative training.

Through Go Hard Fighting, Willis teaches a wide range of disciplines including Boxing, Kickboxing, Wrestling, Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, and Traditional Okinawan Kenpo Karate. His mission is centered on building confidence, discipline, and skill for students of all ages and experience levels — from youth self-defense and bully-proofing programs to advanced competitive MMA training. Known for his strong ties within the combat sports community, Willis has also worked alongside and hosted notable fighters such as Jason Von Flue, further strengthening his reputation as a dedicated martial arts leader and mentor.

So on my 51st year career in the martial arts I have been teaching about the 4 Phases Of A Fight. These phases never change. They are the same and consistent in all types of fighting situations. Be it a street fight, boxing match, wrestling tournament, TKD, Point fighting, or jiu-jitsu match.

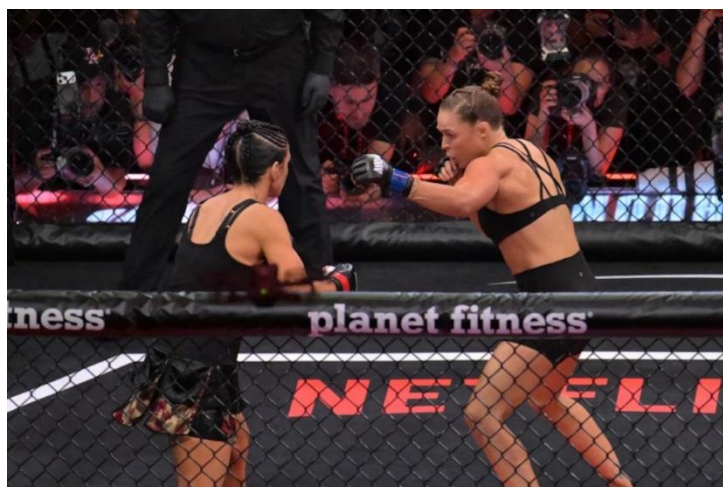
Point being it will be the same in every situation. To be successful in these endeavors one must master the 4 Phases Of A Fight. The recent Main event Fight between Ronda Rousy and Gina Carrano was a perfect example of all 4 Phases in a 17 second winning match for Legend Ronda Rousy.

Phase 1 " Close The Distance, Phases 2 get the Takedown, phase 3 Establish Dominant Position, phase 4 Finish the fight.

Phase 1 can happen with either fighter closing the distance normally this starts with one fighter moving forward with a offensive move or attack. With the other fighter closing the distance with a movement going forward as well , but there is usually a level change to establish the 2nd phase to establish the Takedown. Once that has occurred the defensive fight now starts to establish the 3rd phase

The 3rd phase is establishing dominant position, be it Side Mount, Full Mount or back Mount. The 4th phase is finish the fight. With Ronda's victory, she finished with her patented arm bar. My advice to anyone looking to have a well rounded fighting style or discipline they must include all aspects of stand-up to ground fighting. Wrestling, Judo, jiu-jitsu and boxing and or kickboxing or Muay Thai.

All of these systems or disciplines can be very successful both in competition as well as self-defense. Having a good background in as many of these systems is vital to success through a very important strong foundation in stand-up, ground fighting using joint locking, nerve attacks, to strangulation techniques using a opponent's clothing.





The martial arts world is filled with schools, organizations, and promises — but few carry the warrior spirit, brotherhood, and legacy of the Shogun International Federation. More than just a federation, Shogun International is a worldwide family of martial artists dedicated to preserving tradition while forging stronger fighters, instructors, and leaders for the future.

Joining the Shogun International Federation means stepping into a network built on respect, discipline, loyalty, and relentless self-improvement. Whether your path is Karate, Kung Fu, Kickboxing, Kenpo, or self-defense, the Federation unites warriors from different systems under one banner — a banner that stands for honor, growth, and martial excellence.

Members gain access to seminars, certifications, elite instructors, and a powerful support system designed to help schools and students thrive. But beyond the training, Shogun International creates something far greater: a sense of belonging. It is a place where old-school martial values still matter, where hard work is respected, and where students are pushed to become stronger in mind, body, and spirit.

This is not about collecting trophies or chasing belts. It is about becoming part of a legacy. A legacy of warriors. A legacy of leadership. A legacy that refuses to die.

The question is not whether you are ready to join the Shogun International Federation.

The question is — are you ready to rise?

Join today by calling/texting Brown Hanshi at (913) 638-3490 or by email at shogun@shoguninternationalfederation.com

Upcoming Events

Want your event known by more people? Send us your event information and we will put it here to be read by all S.I.F.M.A. members. This is a free service for all of our members.

Contact Professor Gregg "Shogun" Brown or Renshi Chris Braun to promote and post your events on our website and the *Bakufu-Do Dispatch* newsletter.

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The History of Martial Arts in Biblical Antiquity

Written by Bishop Shifu Dr Derrick P Whitlow I

As both a 9th Degree Black Sash Martial Artist in Both the Chinese Kung Fu and Okinawan Kempo Martial Arts systems, my research as a Bishop, Professor and Scholar of Biblical Antiquities in the Archaeological record has lead me to observe the history of the Martial Arts in Biblical Antiquity. The particular events of the Old Testament Antiquities involving the Conquest history of the days Ancient Israel. The Children of Israel would come into possession of the Land of Canaan not only through a spiritual relationship with the Sovereign Most High, but from the legacy of the Martial Arts and Sciences dating back from 2500 BCE in Classical Africa to 1000 BCE in what is now known as Ancient Palestine of the Near Eastern landscape.

According to Israelite history from the time of the Judges to the time of Prophets, even to the reign of Kings Saul and David, the presence and knowledge of the Martial Arts was a natural phenomenon of existence behind either the success or failure of Israelite war efforts against surrounding nations they faced pre-exodus and amidst the post-settlement eras of the land of Canaan. Unfortunately, it was through the false interpretations of Western Theological inventions and the excessive nature of unjustifiable human violence initiated by the greed, slavery, and hypocrisy of religious institutions and governments in the Western hemisphere that Western Christianity has taught a non-violent agenda of a hypothetical non-violent ideology of existence among the Ancient Israel that has not proven to be present in the Archaeological records of Biblical Antiquity.

Interestingly enough, every human civilization including the Children of Israel invested in the knowledge of self-defense through the Martial Arts. However, the Martial Arts was tempered by self-discipline along with a just relationship with the Sovereign Most High. Only by Divine inquiry with the Sovereign Most High and good judgement through power of the Spirit of God Almighty, did the Children of Israel enact a just war against their enemies. Most importantly, the Judges and Prophets of Israel along with the Children in addition to other nations of Antiquity understood that as long as evil was present in the world, self-defense was a divine rite of self-autonomy and sovereignty of every individual and human kingdom.

Since the unjust presence of the Trans-Atlantic Slave world initiated by Racism, Sexism, Classism, and Religious Bigotism and Intolerance much of the World's balance involving peace and the necessity of self-defense has been Theologically Hijacked by misinformation and disinformation for the dominance of Western values that are justified through the canonization and misrepresentation of the Holy Scriptures. This has created a conservative agenda of Falsehoods in Western Christian Theological Interpretation. These Theological falsehoods have created great harm to people living the human experience amidst crime ridden urban and rural areas in our country and around the international community as well. These unbalanced notions and gross misrepresentations of self-defense and the Martial Arts continues to put the Western Christian Church in a position of disfavour and disbelief by the masses of critical thinking people in a world of rape, individual and collective molestation, murder, and criminality.

According to the Aramaic-Hebrew translation of the 6th Commandment, it does not say "Thou Shall Not Kill", but its original reference is "Thou or You Shall Not Murder." Killing contextually is based upon a self-defense or preservation situation, but murder is based upon an unjustifiable circumstance that is unreasonable in every way. In a just rendering of Biblical academic facts and even in the New Testament; Christ told his disciples at one point not to take up the sword or purse, but in another New Testament Scriptural reference he told his disciples to take a sword and purse along with going safely in groups of two. Unfortunately in the minds of the spiritually imbalanced religious fanatic often cloaked as a Conservative Christian of Non-violence, the need to be holy has been grossly misrepresented by the improper use or misunderstanding of the context of the Martial Arts in holy writ. The Martial Arts and Sciences have been given to humanity by the Sovereign Most High not to abuse other people but for the purposes of protection and learning the lessons of Spiritual warfare through righteousness and self-discipline against evil.

King David was not only taught discretion through the power of the Spirit of the Sovereign and Almighty God of the Universe; but Biblical Antiquity forever has buried underneath the records of sand, Bronze, and Iron the fact that King David was also taught the Martial Arts as a Shepherd and Tutored by the Prophet Samuel in the War Arts as well. Perhaps this is why King David said, "Blessed be the Lord of Host that Teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight.*"

The Martial Arts was tempered by self-discipline respect and honor to be a blessing for humanity. The Sovereign Most High gave the Martial Arts as Blessing to teach humanity Self-defense and self-control through righteousness and self-discipline against evil and transgression that everyone might learn on the ancient path of righteousness surrender to the Sovereign Most High who is the Great Shifu and Sensei of the Universe.



Bishop Shifu Dr. Derrick P. Whitlow I, Ph.D., is a theologian, biblical archaeologist, martial arts master, and head instructor of Whitlow's Academy of Wu Gung Tao & Martial Sciences in Huntsville, Alabama. With decades of experience in traditional martial arts and biblical scholarship, he specializes in exploring the historical connections between biblical antiquity, self-defense, and martial arts while promoting the values of discipline, faith, and righteous living.

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