



## NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



*P.O.Box 65798  
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### FEDERAL AND STATE CHURCH FIRE CONVICTIONS September 9, 1998 – October 5, 1999

#### ARKANSAS

1. **Universal Church of God (Shirley, AR)** -- In October, 1998, a white male (age 25) and a white female (age 23) pled guilty in federal court to arson and civil rights violations. The defendants were sentenced to 30 to 97 months imprisonment.

#### CALIFORNIA

2. **Gualala Baptist Church (Gualala, CA)** -- On February 25, 1999, a white male (age 43) was declared insane and committed for life to the California State Mental Health Institution.

#### FLORIDA

3. **Cross City United Methodist Church (Cross City, FL)** -- On June 2, 1999, two white females (age 13) pled guilty in state juvenile court to trespassing and were sentenced to 40 hours of community service.

On June 16, 1999, a white male (age 14) pled guilty in state juvenile court to arson and criminal mischief and was sentenced to a child services program.

4. **First United Methodist Church (Lakeland, FL)** -- On September 8, 1998, two white males (age 22) pled guilty in state court to arson and were sentenced to two years imprisonment and four years probation.

On the same date, a white male (age 21) was convicted in federal court of arson and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment followed by three years supervised release and 500 hours community service.

#### GEORGIA

5. **Hartford Baptist Church (Hawkinsville, GA)** -- On June 21, 1999, a white male (age 70) pled guilty in state court to vandalism to a place of worship and criminal damage to property and was sentenced to 10 years probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$105,584.

6. **Bethel Primitive Baptist Church (Pavo, GA)** -- On October 15, 1998, two white males (ages 18 and 25) pled guilty in state court and were sentenced to 20 years for burglary, five years for vandalism to religious property and three years for criminal gang activity.

7. **Crowell United Methodist Church (Butler, GA)** -- On May 25, 1999, a white male (age 26) was convicted as an adult in state court of burglary and arson. He was sentenced to 20 years incarceration and 20 years probation.

8. **Mt. Zion Holiness Church (Luthersville, GA)** -- On September 14, 1998, a white male (age 30) pled guilty in state court to first degree arson and burglary. He was sentenced to 10 years incarceration on each charge.

9. **Full Gospel Tabernacle Church (Hinesville, GA)** -- On August 24, 1999, two white males (age 19) pled guilty in federal court to arson and were sentenced to 60 months imprisonment followed by three years supervised release. Additionally, the defendants were ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$893,105.

### **IDAHO**

10. **Parkview Bible Fellowship (Boise, ID)** -- On October 14, 1998, a white male (age 8) was sentenced in juvenile court to informal probation and counseling for arson.

### **INDIANA**

11. **Partners United Methodist Church (Muncie, IN)** -- On December 28, 1998, a white male (age 19) pled guilty in state court to burglary and was sentenced to four years imprisonment. Two African American males (ages 13 and 18) were convicted in juvenile court of burglary and given suspended sentences.

### **KANSAS**

12. **Evangel Christian Center (Pittsburg, KS)** -- On June 29, 1999, a white male (age 15) was convicted in juvenile court of arson and sentenced to 1–3 years probation.

On September 13, 1999, a white male (age 17) was convicted in juvenile court of arson and sentenced to 60 months probation.

### **KENTUCKY**

13. **Fairview Christian Church (Williamstown, KY)** -- On July 19, 1999, two white males (ages 17 and 18) pled guilty in state court to third degree arson and were sentenced to 60 months imprisonment.

On the same date, a white male (age 18) pled guilty in state court to two misdemeanor counts of criminal mischief and was sentenced to two years probation.

On the same date, a white female (age 17) pled guilty in state court to one count of misdemeanor criminal mischief and was sentenced to two years conditional discharge.

### **MICHIGAN**

14. **Faith Baptist Church (Lambertville, MI)** -- On December 5, 1998, a white male (age 23) was convicted in state court of breaking and entering and accessory after the fact. He was sentenced to 5½-10 years imprisonment for breaking and entering and 3-5 ½ years imprisonment for accessory after the fact.

On the same date, a white male (age 23) was convicted in state court of breaking and entering and arson of real property. He was sentenced to 5½-10 years imprisonment for breaking and entering and 5½-10 years for arson of real property.

### **MINNESOTA**

15. **St. Olaf Catholic Church (Minneapolis, MN)** -- On October 20, 1998, an African American male (age 24) was convicted in state court for arson and sentenced to 90 days imprisonment.

### **MISSOURI**

16. **Oak Street Church of Christ (Eldon, MO)** -- On May 14, 1999, a white male (age 24) was convicted in state court for Class C arson and committed to a state institution for psychological treatment.

### **NEW JERSEY**

17. **Church of Jesus Christ (Jersey City, NJ)** -- On September 9, 1999, an African American female (age 50) pled guilty in federal court to mail fraud in connection with the October 23, 1996 arson of the Church Upon the Rock and the Church of Jesus Christ.

### **NEW MEXICO**

18. **Roswell Latter Day Saints (Roswell, NM)** -- On July 20, 1999, a white male (age 50) was sentenced in federal court to 60 months imprisonment for arson, 120 months imprisonment for use of fire in commission of a felony, and 12 months imprisonment for seven counts of damage to religious property. Additionally, he was sentenced to 180 months supervised release.

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

19. **Gospel Fellowship Holiness Church (Wilmington, NC)** -- On July 22, 1999, two white males (ages 11 and 12) were convicted in state court of arson and sentenced to one year of probation and 64 hours of community service.

20. **Pilgrim Church of South Tyron (Charlotte, NC)** -- On August 6, 1999, an African American male (age 29) was sentenced in state court to 25-39 months imprisonment for burning of a church.

21. **St. Francis Episcopal Church (Rutherfordton, NC)** -- On October 23, 1998, a white male (age 18) was convicted in state court of church burning and sentenced to 29-44 months imprisonment.

### **OHIO**

22. **Alpha and Omega Seventh Day Adventist Church (Warren, OH)** -- On July 20, 1999, an African American male (age 19) was sentenced in state court to two years imprisonment for aggravated arson and breaking and entering.

### **OREGON**

23. **Cottage Grove United Methodist Church (Cottage Grove, OR)** -- On December 12, 1998, a white female (age 39) was sentenced in state court for arson to 50 months incarceration and 36 months supervised release. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,500.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

24. **Northmont United Presbyterian Church (Pittsburgh, PA)** -- On December 1, 1998, a white male (age 26) was convicted in state court for arson and sentenced to 9-18 months imprisonment.

25. **Evangelical Christian Church (Birdsboro, PA)** -- On November 17, 1998, a white male (age 20) was convicted in state court for arson and sentenced to three years probation.

On December 11, 1998, a white male (age 19) was convicted in state court for arson and sentenced to 5-12 months incarceration.

26. **St. Matthew AME Church (Philadelphia, PA)** -- On July 1, 1999, an African American male (age 53) was convicted in state court for arson and sentenced to 18-36 months imprisonment.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

27. **New Salem Baptist Church (Pacolet, SC)** -- On October 7, 1998, a white male (age 24) pled guilty in state court to second degree arson and was given a 20 year suspended sentence and a two year active term. He was further ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$400 and serve five years probation following his release from prison.

28. **Covenant Baptist Church (Gaston, SC)** -- On March 9, 1999, a white male (age 26) was convicted in state court of third degree arson and given a 10 year suspended sentence and five years probation

## **TEXAS**

29. **Abiding Savior Lutheran Church (Corpus Christi, TX)**

30. **McCardle Road Church of Christ (Corpus Christi, TX)** -- On November 11, 1998, a white female (age 15) was convicted in federal court of conspiracy and damage to religious property.

31. **Bethel Methodist Church (Greenville, TX)** -- On January 20, 1999, a white male (age 21) was sentenced in federal court to five years imprisonment followed by four years supervised release for arson.

On May 26, 1999, a white male (age 21) was sentenced in federal court to five years imprisonment followed by three years supervised release for arson.

32. **Freedom Fellowship Church (New Boston, TX)** -- On December 16, 1998, a white male (age 31) was sentenced in federal court for arson and received 60 months imprisonment followed by three years supervised release.

33. **Community Pentecostal Church (San Antonio, TX)** -- On November 2, 1998, a white male (age 38) was convicted in state court for arson and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

34. **Cullen Missionary Baptist Church (Houston, TX)** -- On February 8, 1999, a white male (age 45) pled guilty in state court to arson and was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment. His sentence was enhanced due to his motive being ruled hate-related.

35. **United Kingdom of Jehovah's Witnesses (San Antonio, TX)**

On September 15, 1999, a white male (age 36) pled guilty in state court to arson and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment and fined \$2,500.

## **VIRGINIA**

36. **Leesburg Christian School (Leesburg, VA)** -- On December 20, 1998, a white male (age 21) was convicted in federal court of arson and sentenced to five years imprisonment followed by three years supervised release.