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**ATF OFFERING \$5,000 REWARD IN ARSON FIRE AT WEST COAST BAPTIST CHURCH IN VISTA, CALIF.**

VISTA, Calif. – Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today that a \$5,000 reward will be offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for an arson fire at West Coast Baptist Church.

On Oct. 24, 2008, at approximately 7:00 a.m., a fire occurred at the West Coast Baptist Church located at 1525 Buena Vista Dr. in Vista. The fire was contained to the rear of the 5,500-square-foot church. The fire damaged the Spanish Ministry and Nursery sections of the church. Damage was estimated at approximately \$100,000.

West Coast Baptist Church began its ministry in 1972. Located in North San Diego County, near Camp Pendleton, the church serves a congregation of over 400 worshippers. In addition to religious services, the church also runs a school on site serving grades K-12.

Investigators with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Vista Fire Department have determined that the fire was deliberately set. Investigators are working to locate suspects and determine a possible motive for the fire.

“ATF is dedicated to safeguarding the American public by enforcing federal laws related to arson,” Torres said. “We are asking for the public’s help in our effort to apprehend and convict those responsible for this heinous crime.”

Anyone with information on the crime should contact ATF at (888) ATF-FIRE or (888) 283-3473.

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