

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (July 24, 2003) - Honorable Randall Houston, District Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Honorable Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission and Prattville Police Chief Alfred W. Wadsworth announce today that Nancilu Carpenter, Donald Cayton, Leonard Miller, William Till, and Kelly Vickers pled guilty before the Honorable Ben Fuller, Circuit Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, to charges surrounding financial activities involving the proposed expansion of the former Daystar Assembly of God located in Prattville, Alabama. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for September 11, 2003.

The following is a list of the defendants and charges they pled guilty to:

1. Nancilu Carpenter pled guilty to one count of theft of property in the first degree.
2. Donald Cayton pled guilty to one count of theft of property in the first degree.
3. Leonard Miller pled guilty to one count of theft of property in the first degree.
4. William Till pled guilty to one count of theft of property in the third degree.
5. Kelly Vickers pled guilty to one count of theft of property in the third degree.

Elaine Jenkins Turner and David Gordon cases will be tried on August 18, 2003.

The Alabama Securities Commission Enforcement Division opened its investigation in the Daystar matter in July, 2001. The investigation revealed the alleged misappropriation of funds raised by Daystar Assembly of God Church in the sale of certificates of deposit and loans proceeds for development of the church by Mark Stephen Cooper, Elaine Jenkins Turner, Donald Cayton, Leonard Miller, William Till, April Sunday Rutledge Cooper and Kelly Vickers. The investigation further showed alleged fraud perpetrated by these individuals as well as Nancilu Carpenter against local banks and lending institutions. Finally, the investigation revealed alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act and Theft of Property in the 1st Degree from the sale of promissory notes of a company called Qtrex by Elaine Turner and David Wayne Gordon. Total loss from all of these alleged acts is approximately \$3 million dollars.

April Sunday Rutledge Cooper was sentenced at a hearing held on April 4, 2003, before the Honorable Ben Fuller, Circuit Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, to charges surrounding financial activities involving the proposed expansion of the Daystar Assembly of God located in Prattville, Alabama.

April Sunday Rutledge Cooper pled guilty to 1 count of Theft of Property 1 in February. She was sentenced to the custody of the Department of Corrections for a period of 10 years. Further, she was fined the sum of \$10,000, ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$117,330 to the Daystar

Church and MIT Lending, and ordered to pay \$1,000 to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

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In February 2003, Mark Steven Cooper, husband of April Cooper, pled guilty to 1 count of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; 1 count of Sale of Unregistered Securities; 1 count of Securities Fraud; 7 counts of Theft of Property 1.

Mark Steven Cooper was sentenced to 31 years in the penitentiary, fined \$35,000 and ordered to pay court costs, \$10,000 to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Fund, and restitution of \$2,529,262.87.

Mark Steven Cooper was indicted on sixty-eight counts of Theft of Property in the 1st degree; seven counts of Sale of Unregistered Securities; seven counts of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; and fourteen counts of Securities Fraud by the August 2002, Autauga County Grand Jury. April Sunday Rutledge Cooper was indicted on four counts of Theft of Property in the 1st degree.

Randall Houston, District Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, said, "I feel sorry for the sincere members of the former Daystar Assembly of God Church, who lost their building and personal money as a result of this crime. Justice will be served to those who commit crimes against members of our community and we will do everything in our power to have some restitution returned to these victims."

Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, said "These pleas show the total and unprecedented cooperation of law enforcement authorities in this case."

The Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) cautions potential investors to thoroughly check out any investment opportunity. Contact ASC for inquiries regarding securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, the registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud, or obtain consumer information:

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