SOUTH CAROLINA

# taking children's donations

LEXINGTON, S.C. - A 46year-old Gaston man and his 22-year-old nephew have been charged with breaking in a church and stealing \$25 children had collected in piggy banks for international missionaries, Lexington County deputies say

Edward Finley and his nephew Randall Lee Finley Jr. broke into the Dixiana Baptist Church in West Columbia Thursday and cut open the banks used to collect money for the church's \$500 Lottie Moon Christmas offering, Sheriff James Metts said.

The offering is part of the Southern Baptist Church's annual gift to support international missionaries.

The men also took lawn equipment from the church and broke into a home, deputies said.

The sheriff said the men told investigators they needed money to buy drugs.

Edward and Randall Finley both face charges of first- and burglary, second-degree grand larceny involving worth more than \$1,000, and two counts of criminal con-

After the church burglary, pastor Chris Platt and the youth minister met with the children, who decided to put a message to the thieves on the church sign. It read: "You're forgiven.

# Men charged with break-in, Take care of business

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> The Prophet's Column, Inc. 9626 Feldbank Drive Charlotte, NC 28216-2131

December, 2005 Newsletter - Part I J.M. Little, Teacher

My Dear Friends:

As we come to the close of another year, we exclaim: we are one year nearer Home. One year nearer the Coming of our blessed Lord. The greatest thing on all this world is just to know Christ as your Lord and your Saviour. Do you know Christ? Prior to this past Wednesday night, for three Wednesday nights straight, we were there at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Mooresville, teaching Christ and how God saves a poor, lost sinner. And we look forward to continuing next Wednesday night. It was the most amazing thing back there when I was in the religious world. God shined the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ into my darkened mind and heart (II Cor. 4:3-6), letting me see for the first time I was lost and had never known Christ. It was the most startling thing that ever happened to me. Do you understand what I am talking about? If not, you are not saved! You'll never be saved apart from Holy Spirit conviction. This is what I am setting forth. I am neither a prophet, nor a prophet's son. But I want to tell you: the world is gone! The homes, churches, schools and governments are all gone! Satan has taken them over lock, stock and barrel. Lying spirits have taken up their abode in the mouths of our leaders all across the world. Friends, as I walk with the Lord and He shows me all these things, I wonder: how long, oh Lord? With the whole world taken up with the spirit of the Antichrist, it can't be much longer. My friends, are you in Christ? If not, you must turn to Christ now! Tomorrow may be too late. There is literally no hope for mankind as a whole. It is hard to find a church member who knows Christ as a Living Reality to his heart. You go to church and profess, but there is no reality of Christ in your hearts. When a church or anyone gets away from the simplicity in Christ, they have to have something tangible to hold to. The beloved Apostle Paul lamented over the Corinthians getting away from the simplicity in Christ: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (II Cor. 11:3)

## God has a place on Alabama tags

Continued from page 8B

Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has replaced "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" as the tune most often sung during the seventh inning stretch of League Baseball

Hurst said "God Bless America" would not replace anything currently on Alabama car tags. State law requires that the phrase "Heart of Dixie" be on Alabama plates. "Heart of Dixie" historically appeared at the top of plates, but was moved to the bottom of the tag when former Gov. Don Siegelman had the plates redesigned and put "Stars Fell on Alabama," also a song title, at the

Hurst said he believes the plates could be designed so that there would be room for "God Bless America" without removing "Heart of Dixie" or "Stars Fell on Alabama." There have been efforts in recent years by some black lawmakers to remove "Heart

of Dixie" from car tags because they view it as a reference to the segregated

"This ("God Bless America") doesn't have anything to do with anything already on the tag," Hurst said. "Here we are in the times of 9/11. times of war and terrorists. It's a time for the nation to pull together and I think this is something that reflects how the majority of Alabamians feel."

Carol Moore Columbiana, president of the Atheist Law Center, said her organization would oppose Hurst's bill.

"It is entirely inappropriate to have it plastered over license plates. We have enough on license plates now that we don't need something else," Moore said. "We have a lot more serious problems in Alabama than what's on the license plates. We need to make sure our children in public schools can read what's already on the license

Hurst's bill won't be the only measure introduced in the regular session, which begins in January, that calls for putting God's name in a public place

Rep. Jimmy Martin, D-Clanton, said he plans to reintroduce a bill that would permit the posting of "In God We Trust" on classroom walls in Alabama public schools. Martin said he hasn't seen Hurst's bill, but likes the

"The concept of 'God Bless America' sounds like a good idea," Martin said.

The bill to post "In God We Trust" on classroom walls has been introduced the last two years, but hasn't received final passage

Martin said he believes putting the words on classroom walls will help restore discipline in schools.

"Anybody who recognizes God will be respectful of everyone," Martin said.

# The Charlotte Post

The voice of the black community

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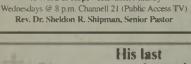
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