

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

Oct. 13, 2006

## Local Minister Arrested on State Income Tax Charges

*Mobile-* Jonathan Leonard Yates Sr., 52, a local minister and pastor of the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, was arrested today after a Mobile County grand jury handed down a 13-count indictment against him on various tax charges Sept. 29, 2006.

The indictments against Yates consist of six counts of state income tax evasion for the taxable years ending 1995 through 2000, six counts of filing false tax returns under the penalties of perjury for the same periods, and one count of willful failure to collect and pay over withholding taxes for the year 2000.

Yates has been the pastor of the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church for over 30 years. The church, which operates a daycare, is located in the Maysville Community of the city of Mobile.

According to the indictments, on April 16, 2001, Yates knowingly filed false delinquent Alabama tax returns for the taxable years ending Dec. 31, 1995, through Dec. 31, 2000.

Each crime is punishable by jail terms ranging from three to five years and fines from \$10,000 to \$100,000. If convicted, Yates could receive a total of 43 years in jail and over \$1.2 million dollars in fines, or both.

Deborah Jackson, 53, the secretary of El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, was also indicted earlier this year for filing perjured Alabama income tax returns.

State income tax revenues are earmarked for the state's Education Trust Fund (ETF) and are one of the major funding components of the ETF.

This case was investigated by the Investigations Division of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

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