

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700**
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253. Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.state.al.us. Website: www.asc.state.al.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (February 20, 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 Mark Steven Cooper and his wife April Sunday Rutledge Cooper pled guilty, before the Honorable Ben Fuller, Circuit Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, to charges surrounding financial activities involving the proposed expansion of Daystar Assembly of God. Mark Steven Cooper was also sentenced today, but sentencing for April Sunday Rutledge Cooper will be held on April 4, 2003.

Mark Steven 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. April Sunday Rutledge Cooper pled guilty to 1 count 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.

The Alabama Securities Commission Enforcement Division opened its investigation on the Daystar matter in July 2001, and this case was investigated with the Prattville Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The investigation revealed the alleged misappropriation of funds by Mark Steven Cooper, Elaine Jenkins Turner, Donald Cayton, Leonard Miller, William Till, April Sunday Rutledge Cooper and Kelly Vickers raised on behalf of the Daystar Assembly of God Church by the sale of certificates of deposit and loans proceeds for development of the church. 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.

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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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If you have questions or require more information contact:

Daniel G. Lord
Education and Public Affairs Manager