



OPEN LETTER TO THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY OF INDIANA

In the last five years, our country has experienced a marked increase in the number of church fires and explosions. While many of the fires and explosions were accidental, a substantial number were criminally inspired.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and many state and local law enforcement agencies have worked very hard to prevent church fires and bombings, and to solve those that have occurred. Joining with law enforcement, many churches have successfully assessed their church's vulnerabilities and taken steps to reduce the threat posed by the criminal arsonist or bomber. As a result of that combined effort, the numbers of church fires and explosions were substantially lower last year.

The FBI and ATF would like to take this opportunity to supply your church with the enclosed Church Threat Assessment Guide. While you may have already received a copy of this booklet, please use the enclosed guide to again review the ways to reduce your church's vulnerability to arson and bombing attacks. The booklet also contains valuable law enforcement contact numbers. **Now** would be an excellent time to help ensure your church's continued safety through effective planning.

Please contact us if we may assist in any fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Rawlins".

Richard A. Rawlins
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Columbus, Ohio Field Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Bell Jr.".

John E. Bell
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Indianapolis Field Division

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