



## The Sight no one wants to see!

Ten thousand dollars in damages for three hundred dollars worth of copper - a sight seen somewhere all over the USA virtually every day. The cause? High demand for scrap copper, drug addiction, and lack of personnel by law enforcement agencies! The good news is there is something YOU can do about it!

Crime in the City, Crime in the Country, and Crime in the Community is an increasing problem as arson, burglary, copper theft, and vandalism are increasing threats for unprotected structures with churches being a primary target. In March of 2012, two Baptist churches were targeted in a single night in Gadsden, Alabama. It is interesting to note that police report the events were unrelated (i.e. two different sets of thieves) and the events took place between Sunday night and Monday morning. This tells us that the churches had no alarm reporting capability and that one event involved copper theft while the other involved electronic equipment. Interestingly, another church, just a few miles away reported being hit by copper thieves twice in two weeks! See [www.myfoxa.com/story/17106825/thieves-victimize-houses-of-worship](http://www.myfoxa.com/story/17106825/thieves-victimize-houses-of-worship) for more details.

Several things we know. The typical thieves are male and female, Caucasian, not too smart, and addicted to drugs, mainly Methamphetamines. The advantage they have over law enforcement is time and mobility. In many Alabama counties, there may be only a single deputy sheriff on duty in rural areas after 11 pm. You can do the math! However, if detection, reporting, and response can be accomplished quickly, the odds can quickly shift from the bad guys to the victims. That is why *The Guardian Program* was developed by Falcon Direct!

Falcon Direct has a long history of in developing effective partnerships between local citizens and law enforcement. Working with the Greenville PD, Falcon Direct developed a unique device to provide wireless surveillance called the *CrookCatcher* over a half decade ago. This system was enhanced to provide a merchant alarm system for the Evergreen PD, and later a courtroom security system developed for the Alabama Office of Courts. This technology is the basis for the electronics used as a part of *The Guardian Program*.

The heart of the system is an electronic detection and reporting system known as *AlarmAlert*. When attached to an air conditioning unit and installed in the church to detect intrusion, the system transmits a recorded alarm message to associated personal 2-way radios assigned to church elders. With a range of several miles, the *AlarmAlert* provides instant notification to the elders who can then take the necessary action to obtain vehicle identification and alert 911 for dispatching of an officer.

The *AlarmAlert* system uses a special VHF frequency that can be added to the radios used by law enforcement officers if desired. This allows officers in the immediate area to be aware of the incident even before being dispatched by 911!

The cost of the *AlarmAlert* system for the typical church is \$1,500 which can be paid for over a six month period at no interest for qualified purchasers. Additional details on request. If desired, Falcon Direct will work with church groups to apply for endowments and/or grants to pay for systems for all churches within a county. No guarantee can be made that the grant application will be approved, but the minimal cost of \$500 can be shared by participating churches. Falcon Direct will gladly meet with county ministerial associations, denominational groups or civic clubs on request. To schedule a speaker, please contact Burch Falkner at 205.854.2611.

**Falcon Direct**

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More information at <http://SaferCommunities.blogspot.com>