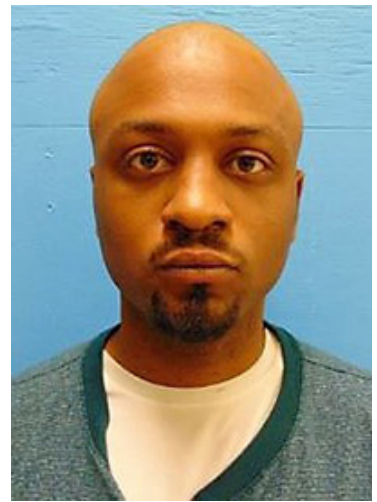


Baptist pastor cites divine protection after gunman's arrest

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VIDOR (BP)—“The Lord protected us,” the pastor of First Baptist Church in Vidor proclaimed after police arrested a masked gunman more than 250 miles away who cited the Southeast Texas church as his destination.

“There is an overwhelming recognition that the Lord protected us and provided for us,” Pastor Terry Wright said.



Tony Albert (Seguin Police Department photo)

Police in Seguin contacted the pastor after arresting 33-year-old Tony Dwayne Albert II. Law enforcement personnel said Albert was dressed in tactical-style clothing, had a loaded gun and said he was headed to the church to fulfill an unspecified prophecy.

“We’re very grateful that the man was caught,” Wright said. “We also know that he needs help. He has some problems, evidently, and we ... pray for his well-being, that through this, somehow or another, there be a spiritual impact in his life.

“I prayed for him this morning,” Wright added.

Albert said he was headed for First Baptist Church in Vidor, the Seguin Police Department reported after charging Albert with possession of marijuana and felony possession of a firearm. The 9mm handgun had been reported stolen from a residence in Vidor, police said, but Albert’s participation in the theft was not certain.

According to reports, police arrested Albert after responding to a call from a restaurant in Seguin.

The restaurant was on lockdown after staff noticed Albert carrying a gun as he exited the business.

Albert is being held in the Guadalupe County Jail and may face additional charges. The Vidor Police Department, the FBI, the Texas Rangers, the Guadalupe County District Attorney’s Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are assisting in the investigation.

Albert is a Houston resident and his connection to Vidor was not known, Seguin police spokesperson Tanya Brown said.