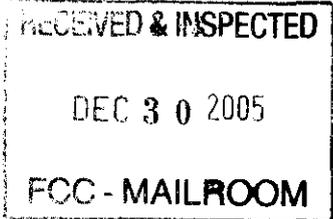


CGB-CC-0140

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Attention: CGB Room 3-B431  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554



## **Petition for Exemption from Closed Captioning Requirements**

### **Introduction**

Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church is a world wide ministry based in Shreveport, Louisiana. Greenwood Acres is known as one church in two locations. One sanctuary and the family life center is located at 7480 Greenwood Road, Shreveport, LA 71119. A second sanctuary is located at 2800 N. Hearne Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71103. Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr., PhD is Pastor/Teacher. He first preached at Greenwood Acres in 1981 when it was known as Greenwood Acres Missionary Baptist Church. Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church was established in 1959. The church's missions are to bring the Word of God across the pulpit and the airwaves to save the lost and strengthen those who already know the Lord, strengthen the ministry in economic development, have a greater outreach ministry toward the poor and downtrodden through feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, etc. and be a community where none suffer lack.

Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church's television program is titled "Know Your Bible". The television ministry helps the church achieve its mission by reaching those who are shut-in and not able to attend services, those who may just be flipping through the channels and happen upon a life-changing message as well as those who may attend another church, but want to hear from Bishop Caldwell for additional spiritual enlightenment. It is also a way for members to see or record a message when they are not in attendance at a particular service.

Each episode of "Know Your Bible" is thirty minutes long. The message is actually delivered and videotaped in a one hour sitting and then aired on two consecutive Sundays in half hour increments. The program airs every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on KSLA-TV 12. It is videotaped in one of the two sanctuaries before a live congregation. Bishop Caldwell provides a title to each message and then gives numerous chapters and verses of scripture as foundation, support and revelation. The show has aired on KSLA since 1986. Scott Crain, who owns a local production company, and has worked in the market for twenty plus years, shoots and edits the broadcast. He is hired by the church to produce a broadcast quality program. Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church was the first predominately African-American church to air a half-hour program on a major broadcast station in the Shreveport market. The church welcomes all and the broadcast is viewed by people from all walks of life. Demographics are young and old from various races. "Know Your Bible" airs on the radio in various markets across the United States as well as in Africa with millions of people hearing the Lord's word through Bishop Caldwell.

For the reasons set forth below, Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church hereby requests an undue burden exemption from the closed captioning rules for "Know Your Bible", pursuant to 79.1 (f) of the Commission's rules.

### **Nature and Cost of Closed Captions**

"Know Your Bible" is time sensitive and must air in a timely manner. Preparing closed captioning would present a delay in post-production and getting the program to the station by the deadline of Thursday afternoon of each week for airing on Sunday morning. It will also present a heavy financial burden of at least an additional \$335 per episode. See attached quote from Scott Crain Video Productions.

### **Impact on the Operation of the Program Provider**

Such additional costs would make it quite difficult on the church. Greenwood Acres pays Scott Crain Video Productions \$ 500 per episode, which includes the videotaping, computer editing and delivery of tape to the station for airing each week. This comes to about \$26,000 per year. Having to also pay for closed captioning services would increase the church's production costs by 61 percent. Scriptural references are provided in large text at the bottom of the screen periodically throughout the program.

### **Financial Resources of the Program Provider**

Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church is a not for profit ministry and does have tax-exempt status. See attached financial statement of the church. The church's source of income is the tithes and offerings of the congregation. The notes on the buildings, the media ministry (including the television broadcast), as well as the staff and utilities are among the major expenditures of the ministry.

### **Type of Operations of the Program Provider**

Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church is mainly a non-profit religious institution. The church's major activities are three services every Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. as well as mid-week services on Thursdays at noon and 7 p.m. The church also has various ministries and outreaches including television, radio, music, youth, dance, clothing, jail, hospital, door to door, ushers, marriage enrichment, singles, Men in Black and Eagles Camp. The church also maintains a website.

### **Conclusion**

As shown by this Petition and its attachments, the Commission should grant a waiver of the closed captioning requirements in this case, because requiring closed captioning would create an undue burden. The costs of captioning would be excessively high and would have a significant impact on Petitioner's operations. The Petitioner's type of operations and financial resources are different in kind and magnitude from a mainstream programming provider. Because of the significant difficulty and expense of providing

closed captions, a waiver under 79.1(f) is warranted. If more information is needed, please contact me at the address provided below.

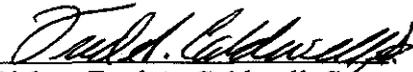
Respectfully submitted,  
Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church  
By:



Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr. Pastor  
7480 Greenwood Road  
Shreveport, LA 71119  
(318) 938-1885 Phone  
(318) 938-7358 Fax

#### DECLARATION

I, Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr. am Pastor/Teacher at Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA, and I have reviewed the Petition for Exemption for Closed Captioning Requirements filed on behalf of Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church in this matter, and upon information and belief, believe the statements regarding our organization and "Know Your Bible" to be true and accurate.



Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr.  
Pastor/Teacher

12/22/05  
Date