Church volunteer arrested for kidnapping, rape

Friday, March 5, 2010
A man who drove a church van for New Beginnings Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church was arrested by Caddo sheriff's detectives today for aggravated kidnapping and rape.

Robert James Washington Jr., 34, of the 800 block of Pinetree Drive in Shreveport, was arrested on a warrant obtained by Sheriff's Detective Jackie Winston. Washington was booked into Caddo Correctional Center. No bond has been set on his charges.

The 15-year-old male victim said he was walking to school in the rain on March 1 when Washington, whom he didn't know, stopped and offered him a ride in the church van. When they arrived at the school, the teen said Washington pulled a handgun and kept driving.

The teen was taken to New Beginnings Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church in the 100 block of Flournoy Lucas Road in the parish where he said Washington took him into the pastor's study, ordered him to remove his clothing, and demanded sex. Afterward, while still armed with the handgun, Washington drove the teen back to school. The teen said he fled from the van at a red light next to the school and sought help from a police officer whom he saw on the school campus.

The investigation conducted by Winston is still ongoing. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 681-0700.