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Letter from Theodore Bilbo to Sam H. Smith; December 11, 1929.

Theodore Bilbo

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*Bilbo solicits donation for his Church
from Sheriff Sam Smith*

1929

MISSISSIPPI



JACKSON

THEO. G. BILBO
GOVERNOR

MRS. LULA WIMBERLY
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Dec. 11th. 1929

Hon. Sam H. Smith, Sheriff,
Pittsboro, Miss.

My dear Friend:

Down in the primeval forest, beneath the sighing pines in Pearl River County several years before the Civil War, Juniper Grove Baptist Church was organized.

It was located within just a few hundred yards of my father's old home. My father was a member of this church from the date of its organization until the date of his death. For thirty years he attended every meeting.

When I was fifteen years of age I too became a member of this old church. I now own my father's old home site and I am planning to build a home on this sacred spot where it is my purpose to live and die.

The members of this church are poor, honest, hard working farmers and it has become necessary to build a new house of worship. We need help from our friends everywhere and I trust you will not think I am imposing on you to request of you a donation for this cause.

The church will be of brick and concrete and will last a century. As my friend, I want the pleasure of presenting your name and contribution to the members of this faithful little band of God-fearing and God-serving people. Your donation will be appreciated, and I trust you will make it as large as the Lord's blessing upon you in worldly possession will permit. We are going to place in the vestibule of the church a bronze tablet upon which will be engraved the name and address of every man, woman and child who contributes to this cause.

The brick is already upon the ground and we need your help now. Assuring you of the sincere appreciation of not only every member of the congregation, but myself as well, I am

Faithfully yours,

Theo. G. Bilbo

P.S. Make this your Christmas present to the Lord's cause.

