

The Golden Phone

A man, in Chicago, IL, decided to write a book about churches around the Country. He started by driving to the small village of Dupo, Ill., and started working his way southwest from there, intent on visiting the region's Bible belt.

Going to a small unique church, he began taking photographs and making notes. He spotted a golden telephone in the vestibule and was intrigued with a sign which read "\$10,000 a minute."

Seeking out the pastor he asked about the phone. The pastor answered that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he pays the price he can talk directly to God.

The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Little Rock, Austin, Phoenix, back through Houston, Baton Rouge and Jackson, Mississippi, he found more phones, with the same sign and got the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, during this return trip, he arrived at HeartLand in Ozark County, MO. There he saw the usual Golden Telephone, the sign read "Calls: 25 cents."

Fascinated, he asked michael, "I have been in cities all through the "Bible belt area" and in each church, I have found this golden telephone and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but, in the other churches the Cost was \$10,000 a minute. Here at HeartLand, your sign reads 25 cents a call. Why?"

michael, smiling, replied, "Son, you're in MISSOURI now. This is God's country...it's a local call."