



ACCUSED: Anne Jacobs

Church fraud case nears resolution

JADE WITTEN

Court Reporter

THE FRAUD case in which a former employee of the Old Apostolic Church of the Western Cape is alleged to have embezzled more than R500 000 while working for the church could be finalised on Friday.

Annie Jacobs, 38, who is accused of defrauding the church of R572 586,85 between September 2004 and December 2005, waited at the Bellville Regional Court for about five hours yesterday, only to hear that the case had been delayed again. It was the fourth postponement in as many weeks.

At the first postponement, the court heard that the defence was awaiting a correctional officer's report. At the second and third, the senior State prosecutor was not available to sign off the plea agreement.

Yesterday, prosecutor Zurena Ganief-Geswindt told the court that plea negotiations had "unfortunately" not been completed because of a dispute about the amount of money Jacobs was willing to repay.

Jacobs indicated in the plea agreement that she would plead guilty, but the agreement must be signed off and heard in court before she can be sentenced.

Her Legal Aid lawyer, Carmelita Samuels, said it was hoped that everything would be sorted out by Friday when Jacobs next appeared.