

The Mississippi Baptist

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Seminary holds video conference with other countries

from the Jacksonville Daily Progress

JACKSONVILLE — Elton McCann, a teacher at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, teaches 21 students from several different countries. Not one of them shares a classroom with him.

McCann said it's all thanks to some technology donated to the seminary following efforts by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary.

"This is fairly new," McCann said. "It was installed four months ago and this is the first class, from here, we've taught like this."

The subject of his lessons is pastoral ministries and pastoring

a small church. McCann teaches classes in Costa Rica, Mexico and Arkansas from his classroom in Jacksonville. Because the students come from Honduras, Mexico and Costa Rica, Translator Ricky Williams is there to assist McCann.

"We have to work this around their schedule," Williams said of the universities where students listen to McCann's lessons. "We rent their studios for about \$800 for eight hours a day, five days a week."

There are a few things to keep in mind during these lessons. For one, there's only one view screen



Seminary staff using new state of the art conferencing equipment

Fishing Stories

From BMA Seminary Evangelism Class Work

The week of June 7-11, 2010, Dr. Charley Holmes, Dr. Philip Attebery and Bobby Gilmore (EE coordinator for Arkansas and a member of Springhill Baptist Church in Greenbrier) taught a seminary extension class on the Central Baptist College campus. Among the twenty-plus students was B. J. Sullivan. On Tuesday B. J. led a team witnessing in a city park. Upon arrival they noticed a man in his early twenties playing with his son and daughter. After introductions, the man began sharing some details of his life. He was from New Orleans and had met and married a girl from Conway and returned to Conway

to settle into family life. They noticed that he had gang-related tattoos on his hands.

His family had recently attended a church in Greenbrier; however, he couldn't recall what church it was. When asked about his spiritual life, he stated that he thought he would go to heaven some day because he was changing for the better and becoming a good person. The team proceeded to share the gospel with this gentleman, and he asked a few questions along the way. It was apparent that he was glad to hear that Christ forgives even sinners

continued onpage 2

in the Jacksonville classroom, so McCann and Williams can only see one off-site classroom at a time.

"We ask all of them to turn off their microphones so there is no background noise," Williams said. "They speak and that location pops up on the screen."

All the students are able to hear input from students in another location, as well as the teacher's words. McCann said he gives his lesson without interruption and a question and answer segment follows. Time is given separately for each country's class.

Williams said a downside of this type of instruction is the teacher can't have face-to-face interaction with his students outside of the classroom setting.

McCann said despite this draw-

back, the technology is a needed tool.

"We have been going to countries personally to teach, but we were limited," McCann said. "Our goal is to prepare these guys for education. Some of them are working on their master's degrees."

He added the tools allow him to essentially be in more than one place at once.

Williams said this is the first of two classes scheduled to take place in this fashion in 2010. Another is set for August, while January, 2011, could see a televised class as well.

The equipment pieces, which includes everything from the desktop system, cameras, view screens and speakers to wiring and microphones, are priced at about \$30,000, seminary officials stated.

Which One Is Lost?

Luke 15.11-32

This is the “23rd Psalm of Luke.” I believe most of us read this passage more than any other in Luke’s Gospel. I have heard more sermons from this story than any other of the twenty-four chapters. Books with myriads of embellishments parade on countless shelves regarding this story. It is a universal and timeless characterization of us all.

Yes, it is a story of a younger son. He is the one that gets most of the attention in the circles where I was born and lived my younger life. Yes, it is the story of a father. He is the one who longs for the younger son to return and the older brother to rejoice and join the celebration. I understand his point of view more clearly as I come to the point of grandfatherhood in my own journey. Yes, it is the story of an older brother. His obdurate heart would not

let him celebrate the joy of the father in the return of the younger brother. I see this in my own experience



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

and observe this in the life of my family, community, and church.

This story has been called the “Parable of the Prodigal Son” for so many years I have trouble focusing on any character other than the younger sibling. Yet that is not all there is to this passage. The father must be considered a prime player; for it was he who welcomed the prodigal home. He repeatedly and repeatedly kissed the swine dirt encrusted son! It was the father who repeatedly and repeatedly called to the obstinate son

at work to come into the party.

Which son was lost? To be certain the younger son was a prodigal, but only for a specific time. He repented to return to the father. So it seems he was found to be no longer counted lost. The older brother never left home, his work, and his being with the father. Yet, his spirit would not let him cooperate with the father or the joy the father wanted for him in the home. It seems to me this is the lost son; this older brother is the one lost to the family, to relationships, to a life-filling experience of forgiveness, and to the father.

“I will not come in to the celebration. You cannot make me come in to the festivity. I will never come to the party. I will not be a participant so long as my brother is welcomed like this.” Yes, he was lost. The older brother is the “Prodigal Son,” for he never found

home. Even though he was at the house and with the family, his heart was not there. His soul had no connection to his father, his younger brother, or to his home.

So many times I have been an older brother in my response to the grace and mercy of God at work in Christ. I have said “No!” to the joy and celebration of the marvel of the redemption of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people who are certainly and amazingly changed in repentance. God, forgive me for being an older brother, lost to the wonder, love, and praise of Your holiness as You work in my world in my day and in my time. I want to come in to the party. I want to join the celebration to share joy with the Father and with my brothers and sisters as we all take into account grace upon grace in our lives.

And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.

And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven,

and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father.

But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Fishing Stories

from page 1

like him as he made references to the way he had lived on the streets of New Orleans. While sharing the section of the gospel presentation concerning Christ and the forgiveness we receive through His death, burial and resurrection, the team could see a growing yearning to know more.

After the presentation, but before he was asked if he would like to trust in Christ for eternal life, his wife walked up. The team introduced themselves and they asked her what church they attended. She said they attended a Nazarene church in the Greenbrier

area. They talked to her about her children and her job and then explained what they were doing. B. J. asked her two questions seminary students are trained to use to diagnose whether someone knows Christ. She stated that she had trusted in Christ alone for eternal life. B. J. then asked her husband if he would like to trust in Christ. He said, “Yes,” and they began to clarify what this meant. During this process the team noticed that the gentleman's wife had tears running down her face. She was wearing sunglasses, so it was a little difficult to notice at first.

After the man prayed to accept Christ, he asked his wife if she was okay. She then told the seminary students that she had prayed that very morning that her

husband would accept Christ. It was obvious that she was in awe of God's answer to her prayer. The team was elated that God had answered the woman's prayer by providing them with a divine appointment to share the gospel. It seems that many times our classes' number of divine appointments grows as they become more dedicated to their preparation.

Would God give you a divine appointment to witness if you prepared and made yourself available to Him?

God bless,
B.J. Sullivan



Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

swampland in Kemper County. Naturally, I knew nothing of what God was doing and that a college was being formed that would have such an influence on my life and would be a place that God gave me as a major part of my ministry for Him.

This just confirms what the Bible teaches about God, that He first loved us before we loved Him. He is working on our behalf when we don't even realize it. He is so good to all of us, takes care of us, and provides for our future. We can't imagine what all is ahead of us that He has to show and give to us. I feel that the story of my life at Southeastern has been duplicated in hundreds of others. No one has to convince me that Southeastern Baptist

College is worthy of our support and that God's Hand is upon it. Please forgive my selfishness in talking about this, but I just wanted to praise God for His goodness to all of us. We do not have to worry about our future. He has all of it under His control and has told us about it. His Word is true and needs to be a part of the education of children and adults.

Special Emphasis

Please remember to pray for the college and all the employees during this emphasis time. Each one at the college feels that this is where God wants them to serve Him. I am asking that all churches do the best they can financially during this time. Please know that everything is needed, and

we feel God will provide through His people. Pray that God will send many more students to Southeastern. Recommend it to people you know.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts have been sent recently to purchase library books in memory of Mr. Windell G. Blackwell and Mrs. Ruby Wilson.

We appreciate those who remember their loved ones by giving to the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College and pray that God will comfort and bless those families.

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

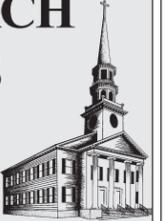
A Personal Note

Recently I was thinking about Southeastern Baptist College and how much of my life has been connected with it as a student, employee, and pastor of churches who have supported it. In thinking again about the beginning of the college and the research I did of those days, I realized something that I had never thought of before.

At the annual session of the BMA of Mississippi in

October, 1947, the messengers unanimously approved the establishment of a church owned and operated college. I am sure that a lot of discussion and some work was done before that motion was presented. The new thought that came to me was that during that summer before the motion passed and while the obvious discussions were being made is when I was saved as a boy 12 years old in the wooded

CHURCH NEWS



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

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Kirk & Toni Shelton



Mid-Central Association Meeting

On May 15, the Mid-Central Association held its regular meeting at Rock Creek Baptist Church. Bro. Billy Higginbotham welcomed everyone and brought a short devotion from 1Corinthian 3:9-17.

There were 31 in attendance. The minutes were read by Bro. Bobby Carr. The Treasurer's report was read by Ricky Smith. Bro. Fulton Lindsey gave a brief report on the Prison Ministries. Bro. Dwight Lindsey gave a brief report on the Youth Department.

Bro. Bill Raines shared a letter he had received from John Lindsey, our missionary to Africa. After business was concluded Bro. Wayne Stockstill brought an uplifting message from Zecharia 2:87. We then enjoyed a good time of food and fellowship.

The next Mid-Central Association meeting will be held July 17, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Billy Higginbotham, Moderator
Joyce Williamson, Reporter

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Look Younger Instantly! Feel Better Fast!

Billions of dollars are spent every year on products that promise to make us feel better. They promise to make us look years younger. It wasn't so long ago that these products were marketed only to the senior adult population. However, with Americans being totally consumed with their appearance, these products are being snatched up by everyone. If you can come up with a cream, a drink, or a piece of equipment that will give people energy, or suck fat out while you eat like a pig; then you will make millions. Each of these type of products are new, improved and the result of "scientific breakthroughs". People will believe anything if you add the word "scientific" to it. I have no doubt that there might be some of these products that are scientific breakthroughs.

I am skeptical about these claims for every product. Of course, if they don't try and sell you a product because of it's miraculous science achievement, it will be marketed as a discovery from a far away land. How come there are no products being discovered in the forest of East Texas or the



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

Smoky Mountains? These miracle cures to make you look better always come from the jungles of some foreign country, or a remote oriental island that the seller is sure that few people in America have ever visited or known it even existed. I am actually curious to see an interview with whomever these people are who ventured into the remotest part of the South American Amazon jungle, found some unknown plant, and began to rub it all over their body and eat it. What a miracle! By eating this plant, I now can jump a picket fence. By smearing the leaves of this plant on my body, my stomach and thighs just shrank. And all of it happened while I slept and still ate at McDonalds every day in downtown Juji Muwangi. Maybe we should let Geraldo interview some of these people. I wonder how many rub some herb on their

face and are never heard from again.

I said all of this to tell you that I know of a cure for old age. I have discovered a way to look younger instantly, feel better forever and have unlimited energy and power. And this won't even cost you a dime. It's free. What is this miracle "cure all" and the fountain of youth all rolled in to one?

Salvation through Jesus Christ. Once we are saved by the blood of Jesus, we have a miracle cure for what ails us. We have a home in heaven where we will never grow old. There will be no more frail and infirmed bodies. We all get a new glorified body. People won't be all bent over with arthritis and osteoporosis. People that were so sick before they died here on earth will be up running around and praising God in heaven. Those that could not breathe will be able to shout and sing and never lose their breath. Those who could not walk well, will leap with joy and fall down before the throne.

There will be no jealousy or envy in heaven, so we will all look awesome. You can say to your neighbor, "My you look good in your new glorified body". They can then turn to you and say, "Well so do you." No one will feel shame over their body in heaven. No one will make a joke about your hair, your wrinkles or your weight. I can only imagine! Our new glorified bodies will be forever full of energy. Do you think we will ever be exhausted in heaven? Do you think while all the saints gather at the

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



throne to praise Him who sets upon the throne, that you would be back in your dwelling place because you just didn't feel good. You were tired, and all the beautiful flowers and trees of heaven have given you a sinus headache. You can't make the praise session today because it is Spring time and you have allergies.

The good thing is there will be no more allergy seasons. The ages will just roll. There will be no tornado warnings so that we have to all run from the throne and go seek shelter. We will be directly under the shelter of the arm of God." It's too hot. It's too cold. It's too humid." These words will never be uttered again. Perfect weather. Perfect bodies. Perfect time of celebration that never ends. Perfect Father sitting on His throne. Perfect Savior who made it all possible seated at the right hand of the throne. No more hurt feelings. No more aches or pain. No more night, for the light of the lamb will shine so bright forever.

I am not saying that you shouldn't buy your wrinkle cream. I am not saying that you shouldn't buy one of those spring loaded contraptions that you put under your chin and press it to your neck, and automatically look 30 years younger. I am just saying aren't you glad this isn't our home! Be content with such things as He has given you. Stop beating yourself up about the way you look. Don't be obsessed with wrinkles, fat and hair loss. Those are just friendly reminders that this life is but a mist. Our real life begins when we get home to heaven, and it will be constantly wonderful - forever! God thinks you are beautiful. He doesn't judge you by worldly standards. He doesn't care so much how you look now, because He knows how you are going to look someday. Look better instantly. Feel better quickly. Have wrinkles removed permanently. Get saved! You are instantly beautiful to the Lord, and soon, and very soon, you will look awesome in glory!



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BMA of Mississippi Christian Ladies Retreat
 Camp Garaywa - Clinton, Mississippi
 September 10-11, 2010

Big Girls Growing Up In Christ

Retreat Speaker Anita Akers

WMA T-Shirts Available

Pine Grove Baptist Church WMA are offering "retreat themed" T-shirts for \$12.00 each. Proceeds will benefit our local, state, and national projects. If you are interested in buying a shirt please contact Olivia Steele at 601-297-8435 or Jessica Haden at 662-251-0455. All orders must be received by July 16th. Don't forget to wear your shirt at the Mississippi Ladies Retreat.

Calling all former
 students of
 Southeastern
 Baptist College

We need your help. Each summer we publish a four-page paper as an insert for the Mississippi Baptist paper. The focus for the paper this time is our alumni. In other words, it's about YOU. Please send to me your info based on the questions below.

Name (Including maiden for the ladies): _____

Date(s) attended Southeastern: _____

Degree, Major and/or emphasis: _____

Education following Southeastern: _____

Family: _____

Occupation or ministry: _____

In two- four sentences, state your most memorable event(s) while at Southeastern. (Okay preachers, don't preach. Just a few lines):

The deadline for your input is July 7 in order to make the July 15 edition. I know time is short, but you can email to one of the email addresses below or mail to my attention at:

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Hwy 15 N
Laurel, MS 39440

Also, if you have any contact info on any other former students, please send to me.

Thanks so much for your help.
 Joseph Harris
 Executive Vice President
 joharris@comcast.net or houdini59@att.net

As the days grow cooler, it is a perfect time to join our sisters for a spiritual retreat. Camp Garaywa is a year-round retreat center located in the city limits of Clinton. It is a peaceful area of God's beautiful creation.

Registration is from 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Friday, September 10. First session begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. with program at 7:00 p.m. The retreat will continue through lunch on Saturday, September 11.

The registration fee (which includes three meals) is \$40 per person. Accommodations vary depending on type of room. Rooms in Patterson Place (an upscale motel type building) have two queen beds and rent for \$120 per night, i.e. \$120 for 1 person; \$60 per room for 2 people; \$40 per person for 3 people; or \$30 per person for 4 people. Accommodations in other parts of conference center are single beds with shared bathrooms costing \$25 per person. For the adventurous ones, there are cabins with bunk beds with outside bath houses which are \$15 per person (must supply on linens).

Other activities include a White Elephant silent auction; a craft workshop to make a fall door decoration on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.; time to make new friends; door prizes and vendors with information and merchandise of interest

(Anyone interested in a booth should contact Sharon Lindsey at 662-401-6573)

To get the rooms of your choice, please register immediately

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email add _____

REGISTRATION FEE (\$40) _____

WORKSHOP: 300 pm, Friday September 10 (\$\$15.) _____

ROOMS:

Patterson Place: 1 per room (\$120) _____

2 per room (\$60 ea.) _____ 3 per room (\$40 ea.) _____

List Names Of Ones Rooming With You _____

Single Beds (\$25 ea.) _____ Outside Cabin (\$15 ea) _____

Room cost _____

Total enclosed _____

Please make your check or money order payable to Mississippi State WMA and mail with registration form to:

Mrs. Beth Caldwell,
 1661 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
 601-947-6011

For more information contact:

Sharon Lindsey, Retreat Coordinator
 662-862-5889 Email slindsey157@yahoo.com

Cut off date for registration is Friday, August 10, 2010

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616

Rayburn Freeman, Director



New Heart Baptist Mission News

The Lord has blessed Jo Ann and myself with the help of others to get the mission building complete. We have also finished the apartment that's joining the mission, where we are now living. Up until the present we have not had a lot of time for visitation and working in the community. Although God has given us the opportunity to work closely in the lives of 2 local families. Now that we have completed most all of the physical work and have gotten moved in and have the holidays behind us, we are very excited about having more time to put in visitation and Bible study.

The past few months God gave us the opportunity to preach in many of our churches and several of our associations. I want to thank each church and pastor for the invitations, for there is nothing I enjoy

more than preaching the word of God.

Because of your support financially and with your prayers we began services on December 6, 2009, having 85 in attendance. In this first service, including my wife and I, we had five to join in the mission. During our second service on December 13, God gave us a very special blessing with my brother David being saved and joining with us. On December 20th we had another couple to join with us, they have a four year old boy and a one year old girl. On December 27th, Travis, a young man who we met back n October and have had almost daily contact with accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. There is a family of six that has attended every service, pray for them that God can have His way in their life. This is a family we met when we first came to this area. Our attendance for

the month of December excluding the first service, has been between 26 - 31.

Our regular meeting time on Sundays is 10:00 am. We are planning after the first of the year to began a Sunday school class. We also plan to begin a Sunday evening service. Jo Ann has already started a children's church, having between 4 to 8 every Sunday.

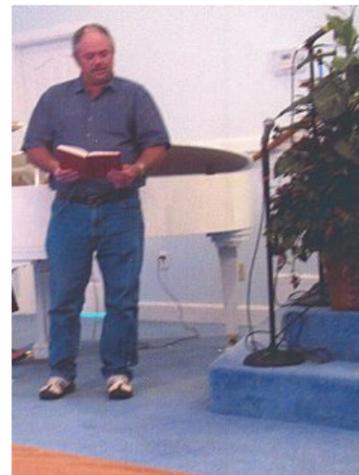
Please pray for us as we continue to work in this area. For it is such a blessing to serve our Lord and Savior. We also count it an honor to work as your state missionary in the south Hattiesburg area. If anyone reading this have friends or family living in this area who do not have a church home, we would love to visit them. Please contact us at 601-934-3661. We will be very happy to reach out to them.

Jo Ann and I desire your prayers for us and New Heart Mission, that God

continues to bless and open doors of opportunity.

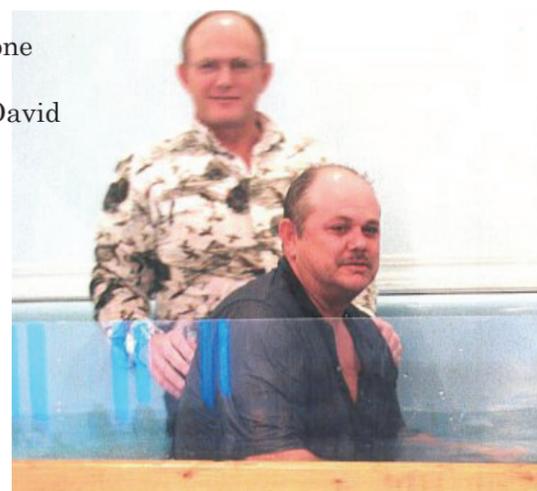
Thank you and May God richly Bless all of his churches.

*Your Missionary In Christ,
 Ray Boone*



Recent Scenes From New Heart Mission

Bro. Ray Boone baptizing his brother David



Announcing: Online Classes at Southeastern Baptist College Beginning Fall 2010

BI-231- BIBLE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

This course is a study of the cultures of Bible lands important in the instruction and interpretation of the Bible. Over 300 verses from the Bible are studied to illustrate many of the customs. Three hours credit.

HI-431- HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

A study of the history of Christendom is presented. Three hours credit.

BI-332- BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

The history of the Bible is related to the geography of Bible lands. Three hours credit.

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Recognized by Council on Higher Education Accreditation, CHEA.

Southeastern is recognized by the US Department of Education as a Title IV school for participation in Pell Grants.

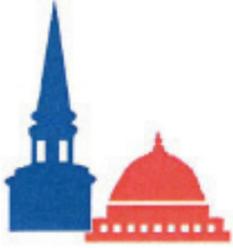


Southeastern Baptist College Laurel MS
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Above: VBS workers with kids
 Below: Teaching during VBS





Dr. John M. Adams

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U.S. Supreme Court Rules Gay, Diveristy Rights Override Religious Freedom

WASHINGTON, (LifeSiteNews.com)

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a Christian student group does not have the right to restrict its membership to practicing Christians, in a decision Christian rights groups are calling a significant blow to religious freedom.

The court decided 5-4 Monday in the case *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* to uphold a California law school's denial of official recognition of a Christian student group. The Christian group refused to agree to let non-Christians and those engaging in a "sexually immoral lifestyle" to become voting members or leaders.

The case has received national interest as the guidelines, which bar openly-practicing homosexuals from the group, came to be perceived as discrimination against homosexuals.

The majority decision, authored by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, ruled that the UC Hastings College of Law's decision was a fair application of its anti-discrimination policy. In what may

set a grim precedent, the liberals on the court upheld the "rights" of non-discrimination according to sexual orientation over rights of religious freedom by comparing Christian beliefs to racist beliefs: Justice John Paul Stevens asked, "What if the belief is that African-Americans are inferior?"

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which filed an amicus brief in the case representing numerous Christian campus organizations, called the outcome an "extremely disappointing decision" that "significantly damages the constitutional rights of religious organizations."

"The majority of the Supreme Court missed the mark in understanding that it is fundamental to religious freedom that religious groups are free to define their own mission, select their own leaders and determine their own membership criteria," said Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the ACLJ.

"By permitting a discriminatory decision by the federal appeals court to

stand, the Supreme Court decision represents, as Justice Alito correctly concluded in the dissent, 'a serious setback for freedom of expression in this country.' And, we, like Justice Alito, hope this decision will be an aberration and not a shift in First Amendment jurisprudence."

The case involved a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit siding with the Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. Hastings denied official recognition to a student group – the Christian Legal Society (CLS) – after CLS said it could not abide by the school's non-discrimination policy. That policy forbids student groups from discriminating on the basis of, among other things, "religion." CLS says its religious beliefs prevent non-Christians from exercising control over the group by becoming voting members or serving in leadership positions.

In a dissent written by Justice Samuel Alito, and joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Scalia and Thomas,

Justice Alito concluded that the majority decision "is a serious setback for freedom of expression in this country."

"Our First Amendment reflects a 'profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open,'" wrote Justice Alito, citing the 1964 case *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*. "Even if the United States is the only Nation that shares this commitment to the same extent, I would not change our law to conform to the international norm. I fear that the Court's decision marks a turn in that direction. Even those who find CLS's views objectionable should be concerned about the way the group has been treated - by Hastings, the Court of Appeals, and now this Court. I can only hope that this decision will turn out to be an aberration."

In its amicus brief filed at the high court, the ACLJ contended that religious groups are constitutionally protected in following religious beliefs.