

# Langworthy pleads guilty, avoids prison

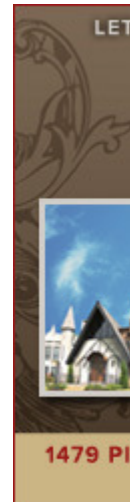
*Ex-music minister, choir director receives suspended sentence*

UPDATED 6:54 PM CST Jan 22, 2013

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**JACKSON, Miss.** — Former Clinton High School choir director and music minister John Langworthy avoided prison Tuesday after pleading guilty to five of eight counts of gratification of lust.

### LANGWORTHY TRIAL TO GO FORWARD

A Hinds County judge rules that a trial on



sex-crime charges against a former Clinton High School choir director and music minister will go forward.

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Former Clinton minister John Langworthy has been arrested

Langworthy was sentenced to 10 years on each of the five counts, but under the plea agreement, he will not go to prison. Hinds County Circuit Court Judge Bill Gowan suspended the 50-year sentence.

Langworthy, 50, was accused of molesting five boys between the ages of 6 and 13 between 1980 and 1984. The incidents happened while Langworthy was babysitting each of the children at his sister's home in Jackson and at his dorm room at Mississippi College, according to the indictments.

Two of the victims testified during Tuesday's hearing.

"I want you to know I do not hate you. I have forgiven you. In fact, my

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in Clinton and is now facing gratification of lust charges, police say.



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heart is sad for you in many ways," said one of the victims.

The victims said Langworthy used his position and influence in the church to gain access to them.

"These aren't isolated incidents. This is a manipulative pattern. It's sick and depraved," one of the victims testified.

The victims, now grown men, said they wanted Langworthy to know how his actions impacted their lives.

"You have caused more pain and agony in my family than any situation outside of my dad passing away this year," one of the victims told Langworthy from the witness stand.

Prosecutors said the victims agreed to Langworthy's suspended sentence.

The men said Langworthy has never apologized to them. Langworthy had no comment as he left the courthouse on Tuesday.

In 2011, Langworthy confessed to the Morrison Heights Baptist Church congregation that he had "sexual indiscretions with younger males" prior to moving back to Clinton.

Last December, a judge dismissed a motion filed by Langworthy's attorneys that argued too much time had passed for him to face charges.

Langworthy left Clinton Public Schools and Morrison Heights in 2011.

Langworthy also received five years of probation, must register as a sex offender and is barred from contact with any of his victims.

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