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Latest: Crosspoint Church Petitions Supreme Court Over Maine's LGBT Rules for School Tuition Aid

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Inimical to a public education"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Crosspoint Church, which operates Bangor Christian Schools in Maine, has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the state from shutting its school out of a taxpayer-funded tuition aid program unless it adopts LGBT policies that clash with its Christian beliefs. The church filed its petition for a writ of certiorari on Friday 20 November 2026, about four months after the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against it. The justices have not yet said whether they will hear the case.

For one small church school in Bangor, the choice Maine offers is brutally simple: keep the faith that shapes every classroom, or take the public money that helps local families afford school. Crosspoint says it should never have to choose, and it is now asking the nine justices in Washington to agree.

Maine runs one of the oldest school choice programs in America. In towns without a public school serving certain grade levels, the state pays tuition so families can send their children to an approved private school. For years the fight has been over whether Christian schools may take part at all.

The Supreme Court already answered that question once. In 2022, the justices ruled 6-3 in Carson v. Makin that Maine could not prevent parents from using the state tuition program to send their children to Christian schools. The case was brought by parents from Bangor Christian itself, who had sued the state over a ban on tuition assistance for children sent to a private school with religious elements in its curriculum.

But the victory did not end the fight. After the 2022 ruling, Democratic Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey said Crosspoint's school was still ineligible for the program, this time over its religious stance on LGBT issues. In a 2023 statement, Frey said the education provided by the schools at issue was "inimical to a public education", arguing that they "promote a single religion to the exclusion of all others, refuse to admit gay and transgender children, and openly discriminate in hiring teachers and staff."

Crosspoint sued Maine officials in March 2023, denouncing the new requirement as a "poison pill". In February 2024, U.S. District Judge John Woodcock denied the church's request for a preliminary injunction, ruling that the complaint was unlikely to succeed. Woodcock wrote that the educational antidiscrimination provisions "do not violate the Free Exercise Clause because they are neutral, generally applicable, and rationally related to a legitimate government interest."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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