

# Faith Digest

December 17, 2009

More Americans believe a statement about giving “justice to the poor and homeless” came from President Obama instead of its true source, the Bible.

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## Clergy drop in poll rating honesty and ethics of professions

December 17, 2009

Americans' views of the honesty and ethics of clergypersons has dropped to a three-decade low, according to the latest Gallup poll.

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## British Baptist Nativity effort invites public to “Get in the Picture”

December 17, 2009

Thousands of people around the United Kingdom are set to be involved in

an ecumenical initiative that invites people to take part in an “instant Nativity” this Christmas.

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## **For some, Christmas creche collecting is a consuming passion**

December 17, 2009

Creche collecting can be serious business—with a biennial national convention, commissioned works of art, online shopping and collections displayed in churches and museums each year.

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## **The cattle are lowing, but were they in Bethlehem?**

December 17, 2009

Many people are ignorant of the Bible’s specific details about the nativity, argue controversial scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan in their book *The First Christmas*.

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# **U.S. Christian leaders denounce Ugandan anti-gay bill**

December 17, 2009

Christian leaders in the United States with diverse viewpoints on homosexuality are joining forces to protest a Ugandan proposal to punish certain homosexual behavior with imprisonment or even death.

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# **Restorative Justice: Focus on Healing**

December 17, 2009

Restorative justice, which emphasizes healing of the victim, the community and the offender, is being implemented in different ways across the country.

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# **Relationships, reconnection foster restoration**

December 17, 2009

Relationship is at the heart of the restorative justice philosophy—restoring an offender's relationship with self, family and community.

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## **Strengthened family ties break cycle of criminal behavior**

December 17, 2009

Ministry to inmates' children and spouses can help keep families together through incarceration and after release. Generally, offenders are placed in prisons away from home—often across the state or even in another state.

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## **Zondervan pulls kung fu book; Is it âRickshaw Rallyâ**

# revisited?

December 17, 2009

Evangelical publisher Zondervan has pulled a leadership book featuring a kung fu theme after Asian-American Christian leaders led an online protest against its imagery.

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## Faith Digest: Appeals court upholds ban on religious songs

December 17, 2009

A federal appeals court in New Jersey has upheld a policy that allows secular holiday songs but prohibits religious Christmas carols in Maplewood-South Orange public schools.

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## Handwritten "Bible Across America" sells for \$15,000

December 17, 2009

The first handwritten copy of the New International Version Bible sold on eBay for more than \$15,000.