

# **Study probes reasons people are leaving Christian churches**

May 1, 2009

The vast majority of former Catholics and former Protestants who now are unaffiliated with any faith have “just gradually drifted away,” the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reported.

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# **Research reveals: No substitute for a personal invitation to church**

May 1, 2009

An invitation from a family member or friend is the most effective way to get people to attend church, a new survey shows, casting doubt on several time-tested methods used by churches to attract new members.

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# **Faith Digest: Blair urges fight**

# **against Islamic extremism**

May 1, 2009

American diplomacy must be accompanied by a defeat of religious extremism in the Muslim world, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in Chicago.

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# **No plans to cut giving, religious donors say**

May 1, 2009

Despite the economic downturn, more than half of actively religious donors plan to give the same or more to charitable causes in 2009 as they did last year, a new survey shows.

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# **National Day of Prayer observance overshadowed by political drama**

May 1, 2009

The Obama White House is facing questions about how it will mark the

National Day of Prayer the first Thursday in May.

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## **Church budget-cutting: Prudent planning or excessive anxiety?**

May 1, 2009

Budget cuts are the order of the day. But are churches reacting more to fear than facts?

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## **Draft stem-cell guidelines still won't allow funds for cloning**

May 1, 2009

The Obama administration clarified its policy on embryonic stem-cell research April 17, issuing draft guidelines that will expand federal funding for the controversial research but retaining a ban on funding for its most ethically fraught versions.

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# **Protestant pastors divided on global warming**

May 1, 2009

Protestant pastors are sending a mixed message about the environment and climate change, according to a new survey by LifeWay Research.

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# **Faith-based council still finding its footing**

May 1, 2009

Advisers tapped to help guide the White House's revamped faith-based office say their role still is evolving as the initiative expands its portfolio and tries to find its footing in the young Obama administration.

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# **End of the world? Not in my lifetime, most say**

May 1, 2009

Despite any popular doomsday predictions, most Americans aren't concerned the end of the world will occur in their lifetimes, according to a

new study by LifeWay Research.

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## **Texas Baptists cautious in uncertain economy**

May 1, 2009

Six months into what pundits have dubbed “the Great Recession,” some Texas Baptist churches and institutions report belt-tightening measures, but few are ready to push the panic button.

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## **For churches, a right and wrong way to cut staff**

May 1, 2009

As many congregations grapple with declining contributions, some faith communities are following the lead of cash-strapped corporations by laying off employees. But the stakes are higher, congregational leaders say, when you’re putting someone’s spiritual leader out on the street.