

# **Documentary claims age-graded Sunday school harms families**

January 6, 2012

A controversial new documentary movie *Divided* contends age-graded Sunday school and youth ministry are doing more harm than good.

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# **Sunday school an evolving institution**

January 6, 2012

Sunday school plays such an important role in Baptist life a typical churchgoer might be tempted to think it always has been around. In fact, it is a relatively modern and evolving invention.

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# **Matthew West shares life stories through songs**

January 6, 2012

For his album, *The Story of Your Life*, singer/songwriter Matthew West

took an unusual approach to find inspiration. He posted a note on his website asking people to share their life stories and said a select few would be turned into songs.

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## **Some see Crystal Cathedral's purchase by Catholic diocese as calculated risk**

January 6, 2012

Even by the depressed metrics of Southern California's real estate market, most observers believe the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange negotiated a pretty sweet deal when it purchased the iconic Crystal Cathedral, the longtime pulpit of the Robert Schuller and backdrop to his popular Hour of Power television broadcasts.

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## **Faith Digest**

January 6, 2012

With a last-minute vote, Congress saved the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that was about to shut down.

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# **‘The world didn’t end in 2011’ and other year-end observations**

January 6, 2012

It was supposed to be the year the world ended. Twice. And 2011 had enough tumult, anxiety and unrest to make people think maybe the end is nigh after all.

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# **Bin Laden’s death rated 2011 top story by religion newswriters**

January 6, 2012

The death of Osama bin Laden and the reactions it produced among people of faith was rated the No. 1 religion news story of 2011 by the nation's leading religion journalists.

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# Charitable giving up slightly but still ailing

January 6, 2012

Charitable giving is trickling back up as the economy heals, but it could take years to return to pre-recession levels, nonprofit leaders say.

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# Advent a make-or-break chance for churches, visitors

January 6, 2012

Deck the halls and cue the pageant! The weeks before Christmas mark a time in American churches when the lapsed and the curious who seldom darken the door just might drop by for a taste of the season's spirit.

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# Christmas ornaments change lives in Thailand

January 6, 2012

Thai Country Trim employs dozens of rural Thai women who work from

their home to make Christmas ornaments, enabling them to make an income as they care for their children.

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## **Parents, pastors wrestle with place of Santa at Christmas**

January 6, 2012

Where to place Santa Claus in the original Christmas story can be a perennial dilemma for both parents and pastors.

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## **Christmas symbols are in the eye of the beholder**

January 6, 2012

When is a candy cane not just a candy cane? For some people, its red and white stripes might signify the sacrifice and purity of Jesus, or maybe just a 19th-century candy-maker's twist intended to dazzle his grandchildren. Both stories are alive and well on the Internet.