

“Unchurched” studies seek to understand why people leave

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Seeking to develop strategies to prevent formerly active members from leaving through the so-called “back door,” LifeWay Research has conducted surveys to better understand why people leave.

Study finds large churches can do better at retaining members

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Large congregations are more likely than small churches to emphasize evangelism and recruitment of new members but significantly less likely to contact members who stop attending, according to a recent study.

Faith Digest: Crystal Cathedral in trouble

October 29, 2010

The Crystal Cathedral, the gleaming Southern California megachurch

known for its Hour of Power television broadcast, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from creditors.

Who's in Charge?

October 29, 2010

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. But when it comes to ways Christians handle a church's day-to-day administrative chores and make decisions about budget and buildings, Baptist churches demonstrate remarkable diversity.

Author finds faith and fanaticism in devotion to college football

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Chad Gibbs' new book, *God and Football: Faith and Fanaticism in the SEC*, tracks college football's near-religious following in the heart of the Bible Belt.

A quiet faith lurks behind Colbert's comedic bluster

October 29, 2010

Stephen Colbert's on-air persona is a bloviating, holier-than-thou, conservative Catholic. But some of his fellow Christians say he is a serious, covert and potent evangelist for their faith.

Can a church be congregational in polity and have elders?

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The concept of the priesthood of the believer gave rise to the congregational form of church governance—each member having a say in the decisions the church makes, from calling a pastor to determining the color of the nursery walls. But that can often be unwieldy and slow.

Governing multi-site churches like franchising a business

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As some congregations reach out to minister beyond their church campus, many have chosen to begin second or third or more sites under the church umbrella. Adding more sites usually means adjusting the congregation's governing structure.

Faith Digest

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A Sikh employee of AutoZone has sued his employer, asserting he was harassed for wearing a turban.

Who are Evangelicals?

October 29, 2010

When Billy Graham, Jim Wallis, Rick Warren, Al Mohler and Brian McLaren can all be called "evangelical," some observers wonder if the term has lost its meaning.

Pew report: Christians lack knowledge about world religions

October 29, 2010

Atheists, agnostics, Mormons and Jews appear to have a better understanding of world religions than Christians, according to a recent nationwide Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life survey.

Mayberry Bible study asks: "What Would Andy Do?"

October 29, 2010

Joey Fann, who has written *The Way Back to Mayberry*, a study guide for small groups in churches, wonders what the calm lawman of Mayberry would make of America's current collective agitation.