

# **Social networking and Christian community**

March 12, 2010

Social networking sites have tremendous potential for Christians as a place where community-building occurs according to ethicist Bill Tillman. At the same time, ill-chosen words can rupture relationships and damage character.

---

# **In Alabama, coach has more Facebook fans than God does**

March 12, 2010

University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban may not be bigger than God in Alabama, but he has more fans on Facebook.

---

# **Economic squeeze produces a new kind of seminarian**

March 12, 2010

When Newton, Mass., artist Paula Rendino needed fresh inspiration, she

sought her muse in an unlikely place—seminary.

---

## **Germansâ€™ mega Passion play is back, and Jews are watching**

March 12, 2010

With its focus on the last days of Jesus' life, a Passion play should, by its nature, arouse passions. But in Oberammergau, the world's most famous Passion play keeps stirring the wrong kind.

---

## **Author worries online communities are hurting real ones**

March 12, 2010

Jesse Rice, author of *The Church of Facebook: How the Hyperconnected Are Redefining Community*, warns that the new social media can encourage attitudes and behaviors that don't work as well in real life.

---

# Faith Digest

March 12, 2010

One year after a majority of Americans said they hoped the economy wouldn't affect their church giving, three in 10 Americans now say they are putting less in the offering plate, a Barna Group study shows.

---

## âA time to be born, a time to dieâ

March 12, 2010

Is a church's death inevitable? Who can give congregations permission to die? Should church members feel guilty for closing their facility's doors?

---

## Turnaround churches: Can Baptists learn from Anglicans?

March 12, 2010

---

If Christians in the United States think turning around a declining church is difficult, think of trying it in the Church of England, where tradition reaches back hundreds of years and hierarchical structure often hampers changes local congregations want to make.

---

## **For churches, how much risk really is too much?**

March 12, 2010

In the wake of the Catholic Church's clergy sexual abuse crises and several church shooting incidents in recent years, risk has become a hot topic for churches.

---

## **When churches die, can they live again?**

March 12, 2010

Phil Rodgers, retired from the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, has identified classic options churches often consider when facing their own demise. Unfortunately, 58 percent of the time, the church chooses to remain and do nothing—an approach that almost guarantees an inglorious end.

---

# **Nearly half of Americans admit to anti-Muslim bias**

March 12, 2010

Close to half of Americans admit to harboring prejudice against Muslims and negative feelings about Islam, a new study from the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies shows.

---

# **Analysis: What does the Bible say about lending practices?**

March 12, 2010

The dramatic increase of payday lender storefronts in Texas has left some Christians wondering how to respond. What does Scripture say about high interest rates? Can the church offer solutions?