

# **Speaker Johnson defends ICE agents against clergy**

October 30, 2025

House Speaker Mike Johnson dismissed religious freedom concerns about clergy protesting mass deportations being shot with pepper rounds and pepper bullets by Department of Homeland Security agents, saying the agents have conducted themselves in a “measured” manner.

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## **On the Move: Clark**

October 30, 2025

Staff changes noted for Tri-County Baptist Association

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## **Around the State: Film highlights religious freedom repression in Ukraine**

October 30, 2025

A documentary highlighting faith, resistance and repression in occupied Ukraine titled No God but Theirs will be featured in a screening on

Tuesday, Nov. 4, at First Baptist Church of Plano at 7 p.m.

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## **Americans skeptical about paranormal phenomena**

October 30, 2025

Many homes in the United States may be decorated with images of ghosts and witches for Halloween, but most U.S. adults doubt they actually exist. Surveys from Gallup and Pew find broad skepticism for psychics, ghosts, astrology and witches.

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## **New York man fired for insisting on Billy Graham Rule**

October 30, 2025

For years, a Southern Baptist layman abided by the Billy Graham Rule—vowing never to be alone with a woman who was not his wife. Now he's suing his former employer, alleging the company failed to accommodate his religious beliefs and then fired him because of those beliefs.

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# **Study examines ‘Belonging Under the Bridge’**

October 30, 2025

A yearlong study of Waco’s Church Under the Bridge reveals lessons about how to create a welcoming community where people who never felt accepted in church can find a place where they belong.

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# **Samaritan’s Purse to play a larger role in Gaza aid delivery**

October 30, 2025

Franklin Graham confirmed Samaritan’s Purse, the international humanitarian relief organization he heads, is ramping up its role in delivering aid to Gaza as the embattled Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is being shut down.

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# **U.S. missionary reportedly kidnapped in Niger**

October 30, 2025

An evangelical Christian missionary from the United States was kidnapped late Oct. 21 in Niamey, Niger, less than 100 yards from the presidential palace, CBS News reported.

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# **Matt Queen joins church staff in Irving**

October 30, 2025

Matt Queen, the former interim Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary provost who pleaded guilty a year ago to making a false statement to federal investigators, has joined the staff of Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving as associate pastor.

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# **Ministry offers trauma healing**

# **to women in Ukraine**

October 30, 2025

More than 1,000 women in Ukraine recently attended conferences, workshops and seminars designed to offer Christ-centered trauma healing.

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# **Call to ban foreign entities from targeting churches**

October 30, 2025

Texas Baptists' Christian Life Commission is urging church leaders to sign a letter calling on the Department of Justice to prohibit foreign governments from using tracking technologies to send targeted messages to worshippers in U.S. churches without their consent.

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# **Growing number believe religion gaining influence in U.S.**

October 30, 2025

After years of decline, a growing number of Americans believe religion's

influence is on its way back, a new study from Pew Research Center suggests.