

# **Latino evangelicals celebrate Maduro's capture**

January 7, 2026

Since the U.S. government's Jan. 3 capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, many Latino evangelical Christian communities in the United States have been celebrating what they call a spiritual victory as well as a political one.

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# **Nigerian Christian responses to U.S. Christmas strike**

January 7, 2026

Nigerian Christians express appreciation for U.S. military action against Islamic militant targets in far northwestern Nigeria on Dec. 25.

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# **Philip Yancey, beloved evangelical author, retires after**

# **admitting affair**

January 7, 2026

Philip Yancey, a beloved evangelical author and speaker, will retire from public ministry after admitting to a long-term affair.

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## **Baptist ministries respond to U.S. strike on Venezuela**

January 7, 2026

Baptist world leaders are responding to the developments taking place in Venezuela after the U.S. entered Venezuela to capture Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro.

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## **Attacks on Christians continue in Nigeria**

January 7, 2026

More have been killed in Christian villages in northeastern and northcentral Nigeria since Christmas, according to numerous reports.

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# **Studies reveal disappearing religious gender gap**

January 7, 2026

A study by Pew Research Center shows shifting religious demographics among young men and women. Young women, previously considered “more religious” than young men, are now considered roughly as religious as men in the same age group.

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## **On the Move: Curry, Denton, Medley, Ruwaldt**

January 7, 2026

Ministerial changes noted for Lubbock Area Baptist Association, Brenham, Amarillo, and Palestine.

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# **Obituary: Eloy Felan Jr.**

January 7, 2026

Eloy Felan Jr, senior pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Lubbock, died Jan. 2, at age 80.

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## **Celebrating Churches: Pioneer Drive breaks ground on new worship center**

January 7, 2026

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene, as part of celebrating their next 70 years, broke ground on a new worship center Sunday morning, Dec. 14.

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## **Around the State: ETBU beach volleyball serves in Honduras**

January 7, 2026

East Texas Baptist University's beach volleyball team returned on Dec.14 from Roatan, an island in Honduras, as part of ETBU's Tiger Athletic Mission Experience.

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# **Richard Smallwood, ‘Total Praise’ writer, dies at 77**

January 7, 2026

Richard Smallwood, a singer and pianist best known for his contemporary gospel music hit “Total Praise,” died Tuesday, Dec. 30.

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# **Obituary: Melchor “Mel” Gomez**

January 7, 2026

Melchor “Mel” Gomez, pastor, community leader and longtime Hale Center restaurateur, died Jan. 2, 2025, in Hale Center. He was 70.