

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

January 6, 2026

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

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## **Obituary: Eloy Felan Jr.**

January 6, 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 6, 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 6, 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 6, 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 6, 2026

Melchor "Mel" Gomez, pastor, community leader and longtime Hale Center

restaurateur, died Jan. 2, 2025, in Hale Center. He was 70.

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## **Obituary: James Lynn Scarborough**

January 6, 2026

James Lynn Scarborough, Southern Baptist minister and longtime associational leader, died Dec. 30 in Mineral Wells. He was 78.

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## **Obituary: Sergio Ramos**

January 6, 2026

Sergio Ramos, ministry leader and pillar of the Tyler County community, died Dec. 27 in Conroe. He was 82.

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## **Turning Point USA event**

# **exposes rifts in Christian right**

January 6, 2026

Speakers at AmericaFest in Phoenix painted Charlie Kirk as a spiritual unifier who connected disparate parts of the American right and reached out to progressives.

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## **Pastors discuss Texas-Ukrainian partnership details**

January 6, 2026

Texas Baptist pastors and ministry leaders learned more about a four-phase plan for partnership between Texas and Ukrainian Baptist churches during a Dec. 18 Zoom call.

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## **Around the State: Wayland selects 2026 Willson Lectures speaker**

January 6, 2026

Wayland Baptist University has selected Ronald Angelo Johnson, associate

professor of history and Ralph & Bessie Mae Lynn Endowed Chair of History at Baylor University, as the featured speaker for the 2026 Willson Lectures scheduled Feb. 10-12 at the university's Plainview campus.

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# **NFL players call attention to religious persecution in Nigeria**

January 6, 2026

A group of NFL players sent a letter to Capitol Hill on Dec. 19, urging U.S. leaders to take steps to curb violence against religious groups in Nigeria, including Christians.