

# **Willimon offers Advent reminders to Texas pastors**

December 9, 2025

Advent should remind justice-minded Christians their “yearning” and “longing for more” is rooted in the awareness God’s kingdom has come, but it also is yet to come, theologian Will Willimon told religious leaders on a Zoom call convened by Pastors for Texas Children.

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# **Decline of religion remains stalled, but no revival yet**

December 9, 2025

A decades-long religious decline remains stalled for now, according to a report based on data from two Pew Research Center surveys. However, young Americans remain less religious than their parents or grandparents, with just over half (55 percent) claiming a religion.

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# **Children deserve the best,**

# **BGCT president asserts**

December 9, 2025

Debbie Potter, newest president of the BGCT, addresses children's ministry and more in a Baptist Standard interview.

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# **Indian Christians call for religious freedom protections**

December 9, 2025

Two thousand Christians gathered in India in November to urge the government to protect religious freedoms as violence and legalized discrimination increase in the world's most populous country.

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# **Religious dissidents subjected to mistreatment in prison**

December 9, 2025

Oppressive governments not only violate freedom of religion by imprisoning adherents of disfavored religions, but also subjecting them to harassment and even torture during their incarceration, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports.

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# **District Court issues decisions for seminary and Patterson**

December 9, 2025

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary remains dismissed from claims of defamation in a case involving the school and its former president, Paige Patterson, with the latter being allowed to file again for summary judgment, a U.S District Court decided.

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# **Christmas means extra giving for churchgoers**

December 9, 2025

For many churchgoers, Christmastime means giving time. Most say they regularly donate money and items to their churches as well as to local and national ministries and nonprofits.

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# **Class-action suit filed to halt Ten Commandments displays**

December 9, 2025

Eighteen families filed a class-action lawsuit Dec. 2 to stop the display of a prescribed version of the Ten Commandments in all classrooms of every Texas school district not already involved in related litigation or subject to an injunction.

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# **African Christian leaders and health nonprofits fill gaps**

December 9, 2025

African Christian leaders attending a conference with faith-based health organizations called for countries on the continent to do more to replace U.S. Agency for International Development funds cut by the Trump administration.

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# **Around the State: HPU to build**

# **\$6 million tennis center**

December 9, 2025

Howard Payne University will soon begin construction on a new \$6 million tennis center.

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# **Nigerian president declares security emergency**

December 9, 2025

Nigeria's president responded to a surge in violence and abductions by declaring a nationwide security emergency, ordering the massive recruitment and deployment of law enforcement officers and armed forces personnel.

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# **Coppell church's Christmas Store serves families**

December 9, 2025

For one week each December, the fellowship hall at Valley Ranch Baptist Church in Coppell turns into a Christmas shopping destination through its annual "Christmas Store."