

# Early religious experiences shape why people stay or leave

December 16, 2025

Pew Research says while a majority of Americans still identify with their childhood faith, a third have switched—including 20 percent who now say they have no religion.

---

# Texas no longer national leader in executions

December 16, 2025

Texas no longer is the national capital of capital punishment, but it still is among the handful of states responsible for about three-fourths of the executions carried out in 2025, a report from the Death Penalty Information Center revealed.

---

# Obituary: Ben W. Mieth Jr.

December 16, 2025

Ben W. Mieth Jr., supporter of global missions and Wayland Baptist University, died Dec. 8 in Glen Rose. He was 92.

---

# **Clergy Act advances from House committee**

December 16, 2025

The House Ways and Means Committee unanimously voted to advance the Clergy Act, H.R. 227, which would provide ministers who opted out of Social Security a one-time window to opt back in.

---

# **Doug Wilson demonstrates growing national influence**

December 16, 2025

Critics say Christ Church's renown has less to do with God than with Pastor Doug Wilson's dedication to Christian nationalism and his ties to like-minded officials in the Trump administration and among its allies.

---

# **Baylor receives major Lilly grant for Truett Seminary**

December 16, 2025

Baylor University received a \$9.76 million Lilly Endowment grant to launch and provide financial support for the Ministry for Life initiative at Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary.

---

# **BUA organiza el retiro 'Llamados al Ministerio'**

December 16, 2025

La Universidad Bautista de las Américas en San Antonio acogió el retiro "Llamados al Ministerio" de los bautistas de Texas los días 5 y 6 de diciembre.

---

# **BUA hosts Called to Ministry retreat**

December 16, 2025

Texas Baptist youth gathered Dec. 5-6 on the Baptist University of the

Américas campus in San Antonio for a Called to Ministry retreat.

---

## **Wisdom-Martin announces WMU retirement plans**

December 16, 2025

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national Woman's Missionary Union, announced Dec. 10 she will retire in January 2027, marking 36 years of ministry service.

---

## **Around the State: HCU holds ceremony for new STEM facility**

December 16, 2025

Houston Christian University hosted a ceremony Dec. 2 marking the completion of the structural phase of the Smith Engineering Science and Nursing Building.

---

# **Isaiah 41, Psalms 23 and 91 among top Bible app passages**

December 16, 2025

For the fourth time in the last six years, Isaiah 41:10 was the most downloaded Scripture of the year on the YouVersion family of Bible apps, which according to its founder has been installed on 1 billion devices nationwide.

---

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

December 16, 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.