

# **Gordon pastor returns to Brazil amid visa backlog**

November 12, 2025

Albert Oliveira, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gordon, voluntarily returned to his birth country of Brazil after a visa rule change and years-long processing backlog blocked him from renewing his legal status.

---

## **Texas Baptists to vote on \$37.5 million budget**

November 12, 2025

Messengers to Texas Baptists' annual meeting in Abilene next week will consider a \$37.5 million total Texas budget for 2026 that depends on about \$28 million in Texas Cooperative Program giving from churches.

---

**Baylor nursing student experiences two medical**

# **miracles**

November 12, 2025

Mahala Griffin-Halvorson, nursing student at Baylor, gave birth to her son, Hudson, 13 weeks early, while her husband, Caleb, was in the hospital from serious injuries fighting a fire.

---

## **Initial disaster response team in Jamaica, others on alert**

November 12, 2025

A Texans on Mission emergency response team is in Jamaica to help coordinate relief efforts by churches after Hurricane Melissa devastated the island, and all other Texans on Mission disaster relief volunteers are on alert for possible deployment.

---

## **Ministries prepare to serve families losing SNAP benefits**

November 12, 2025

Community ministries and Texas Baptist churches with food pantries prepared for a sharp rise in needs after Nov. 1, when 3.5 million

Texans—including 1.7 million children—expect to lose food assistance benefits due to the ongoing government shutdown.

---

## **Proper view of Trinity offers insights into human nature**

November 12, 2025

A proper understanding of God's Triune nature offers insights into the nature of humanity created in God's image, theologian Rowan Williams told a gathering at First Baptist Church in Waco.

---

## **Jenkins speaks on 'Chosen' journey**

November 12, 2025

"This nail ... takes me to Italy," said Dallas Jenkins, creator of "The Chosen" hit TV series that follows the life of Christ. Jenkins held the Roman-era crucifixion spike in his hand while being interviewed during the Veritas Lecture sponsored by the Institute for Global Engagement at Dallas Baptist University.

---

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

November 12, 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.

---

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

November 12, 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.

---

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

November 12, 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.

---

# **Panelists identify dangers of religious nationalism**

November 12, 2025

Religious nationalism "cheapens" religion and exchanges genuine love of country for a blank check that justifies any action a country takes, panelists said during the Global Religious Freedom Gathering at Dallas Baptist University.

---

# **Prior emphasizes living in**

# **purpose without AI**

November 12, 2025

The craft of writing and the ethics of writing, just as with spiritual growth and maturity, offer no shortcuts, author Karen Swallow Prior said during her Oct. 16 lecture sponsored by the Institute for Global Engagement at Dallas Baptist University.