

# **Barna Reveals American's 2011 New Year's Resolutions**

What's your New Year's resolution? Getting closer to God? Losing weight? Earning more money? Barna Group set out to discover the New Year's resolutions of Americans in a survey of more than 1,000 adults.

Not surprisingly, at the top of the list are resolutions related to weight, diet and health (30 percent), followed by money, debt and finances (15 percent) and personal improvement (13 percent). Other Americans listed overcoming an addiction (12 percent), job and career (5 percent) and educational (4 percent).

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## **FindaChristianJob.com Helps Fight Unemployment**

The number of Americans filing for their first week of unemployment benefit fell below 400,000 for the first time in more than two years last week. That's good news amid one of the longest job droughts in the nation's history.

But what about unemployed people looking for jobs at ministries, in churches and in other Christian fields?

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# India's Christians Suffer Spike in Assaults in Past Decade

NEW DELHI (CDN) – Christians in India faced a spike in attacks in the past decade, suffering more than 130 assaults a year since 2001, with figures far surpassing that in 2007 and 2008.

This year Christians suffered at least 149 violent attacks, according to the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI). Most of the incidents took place in just four states: two adjacent states in south India, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and two neighboring states in north-central India, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, noted EFI in its report, "Religion, Politics and Violence: A Report of the Hostility and Intimidation Faced by Christians in India in 2010."

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## Yoga, IHOP, Dog Fights and Punk Rock

Just because the war on Christmas is over—at least for now—doesn't mean there aren't other battles going on in Christendom. People are debating about everything from yoga to trademarks to dog fighting and beyond. Here are a few quirky stories I read in my quest to deliver you the news that matters most.

[Should Christians practice yoga?](#) *The Wall Street Journal* is stirring up quite a debate with its article by the same title.

What's in an acronym? Plenty, apparently. But the *Los Angeles Times* reports that the International House of Pancakes [dropped its trademark suit](#) against the International House of Prayer. Did prayer help?

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## **Vietnam Grants Last-Minute Permit for Christmas Event**

HO CHI MINH CITY, (CDN) – Granted permission only five hours before a scheduled Christmas event, house church leaders turned an empty field into a rudimentary stadium and welcomed some 20,000 people for a time of worship and evangelism on Sunday (Dec. 26) in Vietnam's largest city.

The last-minute permission for the event in Ho Chi Minh City reflected the byzantine manner in which authorities have applied Vietnam's religions laws. The central government's Bureau of Religious Affairs (BRA) in Hanoi, the body charged with managing religion in communist Vietnam, gave permission for the event to the newly registered Vietnam Assemblies of God (AOG) organization in early December. The Vietnam AOG represents a large grouping of mostly unregistered house churches in the Vietnam Evangelical Fellowship (VEF).

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## **Tensions High in Nigeria**

# after Christians Killed in Bombings

LAGOS, Nigeria (CDN) – Tensions continued to mount in the Christian community in Maiduguri, capital of Borno state in northern Nigeria, following the killing of a Baptist pastor and five other Christians on Christmas Eve.

The Rev. Bulus Marwa and the other Christians were killed in the Dec. 24 attacks on Victory Baptist Church in Alemnari and a Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) congregation in Sinimari by the outlawed Islamic Boko Haram sect opposed to Western education.

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# Pennsylvania Supreme Court Reviews Abortion Rules

In some states, minors seem to need parental consent for body piercings—but not for abortions. Several family and legal groups have taken issue with that law.

Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) attorneys, along with Americans United for Life and ADF-allied attorney Randall Wenger, submitted a friend-of-the-court brief to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the first-ever review of a law requiring parental consent for a minor's abortion.

The Pennsylvania Family Institute, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and 70 state legislators are among those who support the law protecting a parent's right to be involved in their child's decision regarding abortion.

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# Rebel Group in Bangladesh Prevents Christmas Worship

LOS ANGELES (CDN) – One of the two main political parties of the indigenous people in Bangladesh's southeastern hill tracts prevented Christians from celebrating Christmas, sources said.

The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), which has demanded that Christian converts return to Buddhism, threatened tribal Christians of at least seven churches in Khagrachari district, some 300 kilometers (180 miles) southeast of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka.

A source requesting anonymity told Compass that a local leader of the UPDF, a regional party seeking autonomy, warned Christians not to hold a Christmas gathering.

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# 25,000 Young Adults Gather at IHOP Conference

It's all about one thing at the International House of Prayer's (IHOP) Young Adult Conference—and that's Jesus.

Dubbed onething, the annual worship and teaching conference is drawing 25,000 young adults to Kansas City Convention Center this Dec. 28-31.

"There are moments in history when a door for great change is blown wide open," says Mike Bickle, conference founder and

director of IHOP-KC. “We are in the early days of seeing sweeping changes that will confront the status quo in the Church and in society. It is in these strategic moments that the disciples of Jesus will become the hinge of history, that pivotal point that determines which way the door will swing.”

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## **Bible.is Hits One Million Download Mark**

One million downloads. That’s the latest milestone Bible.is is reporting.

After just five months on the market, the free audio-based Bible app created by Faith Comes By Hearing, has become a quick hit on the iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Android-based mobile devices.

Bible.is offers text and audio in a large number of languages. Faith Comes By Hearing reports that people from 166 countries have engaged in God’s Word through the app, with an average listening time of 36 minutes per person.