

1



Rob Bell tries to legitimize universalism, prompting huge backlash. He later announces he's leaving Mars Hill Bible Church to work in TV.

2

States adopt 80 **abortion restrictions** in their 2011 legislative sessions, an all-time high (the previous record was 34).



3

Mideast Christians conflicted about the **Arab Spring**, especially as anti-Christian violence follows Mubarak ouster in Egypt.

10

The PC(USA) votes to allow noncelibate **gay pastors**, prompting defections from presbyteries. (Meanwhile, the United Methodists hold the line on same-sex unions amid a planned clergy revolt.)

SPOTLIGHT:

TOP 10 NEWS STORIES OF 2011

The events, people, and debates of the past year that have shaped, or will significantly shape, evangelical life, thought, or mission.

4

John Stott, evangelical statesman, pastor, and builder of the global church, dies at 90.



9

Largely Christian **South Sudan** votes for independence; persecution ensues for Christians in the Nuba Mountains and Khartoum.



5

Beijing's **Shouwang Church** holds outdoor services for more than six months, enduring mass arrests as it leads China's booming house churches in unprecedented demands for religious freedom.

6

HarperCollins, which already owns Zondervan, buys **Thomas Nelson**; it now has about 50 percent of the Christian book market.



8



Tim Tebow's prominent display of faith becomes one of the sports world's major talking points.

7

How best to translate "**Son of God**" in Bibles for the Muslim world becomes a flashpoint, prompting Wycliffe to clarify standards and missionaries to pledge more civility.

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