



2010 Year in Review

Have you ever felt out of touch during home assignment? This review is designed to give you information which we at EFCA EQUIP believe will help you feel more in tune with what people on the street and in the churches in the U.S. are talking about. Click on the red arrows to read more online. Download this resource at www.efca.org/equip/YearReview.

News in the U.S. Church

Stories

- Haiti and Cape Town top the list of Christianity Today's top 10 news stories of 2010 ➡
- Three lists of top religion stories of 2010 from The Gospel Coalition ➡, Religion Newswriters ➡, and The Huffington Post ➡. Stories include controversies with Islam, Cape Town and the repeal of "Don't ask, don't tell" for the US military.
- A number of MKs who attended boarding schools associated with New Tribes Mission and other agencies have made allegations about sustained child abuse. Read more at Leading from the Sandbox ➡ and Christianity Today ➡ ➡.

People

- Philip Ryken, pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, is appointed to succeed Duane Litfin as president of Wheaton College ➡.
- John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, and a widely-read evangelical author, took an eight-month leave of absence that ended in December. Read more at Desiring God ➡ and Christianity Today ➡.
- Ergun Caner is no longer the president of the seminary connected to Liberty University due to discrepancies in some of his biographical claims ➡.
- Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus, died on May 19 at age 78 ➡.
- Clark Pinnock, evangelical theologian and author, died on August 15 ➡.
- Vernon Grounds, evangelical scholar and longtime leader of Denver Seminary, died on September 12 at age 96 ➡.
- Tim Tebow is an outspoken Christian and was the Heisman trophy winner in 2007. He is the quarterback for the Denver Broncos. His parents are missionaries and he was raised as an MK in the Philippines ➡.

Issues and Trends in the U.S. Church

- The Barna Group's six "megathemes" for U.S. churches in 2010 included a growing theological illiteracy, a wider view of tolerance influenced by postmodernity and an increasing inward focus for churches ➡.
- Multi-site churches are a growing trend in the U.S. 9 Marks Journal discussed the pros and cons of these churches ➡.
- "Family-integrated church" is a movement to eliminate age-specific ministries (such as youth groups) and do all church ministry in multi-generational contexts. View a site that promotes this movement ➡ and a critical review of a book that advocates it ➡.

- “Hipster Christian” is a label given to those involved in a movement among some younger believers to be culturally relevant. Some criticize the movement for being too accommodating to popular culture ➡.
- CNN Belief Blog asked 11 religious leaders for their predictions for 2011 ➡.
- Top 25 songs used in churches: ➡
- Top new worship songs viewed at worshiptogether.com: ➡

Items related to missions

- Summary of Cape Town meetings: ➡.
- Short-term mission trips may be shifting from overseas to domestic due to economic and security concerns ➡.
- Blog for women serving cross-culturally: ➡.
- A somewhat irreverent but very transparent view of life of a young missionary: ➡.

Issues and Trends in U.S. Society

- Andy Crouch lists ten trends in the U.S. over the past 10 years, such as connection, place and cities ➡.
- Don Sweeting’s trends going into 2011 — 7 billion people, globalization and more ➡.
- Top 5 topics on twitter: 1. Gulf oil spill 2. World Cup, 3. Inception 4. Haiti earthquake 5. Vuvuzela. See full Top 10 list: ➡.

Books

- New edition of Operation World, updated from 2001 edition ➡.
- Justin Taylor collected top book lists of 2010 from bloggers, such as Kevin deYoung, Trevin Wax and Andy Naselli ➡.
- The Christianity Today Book Awards are given in ten categories. For 2010, the winner for Missions/Global Affairs was Mark Noll for *The Shape of World Christianity*. For Church and Pastoral Leadership it was a tie between Jim Belcher for *Deep Church*, and Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck for *Why We Love the Church*. See the full list of winners: ➡.

Media and Technology

Cool websites

- Listen to music for free at Pandora.com (U.S. only). Pandora is a personalized internet radio service that helps you find new music based on your musical preferences ➡.
- Join worshiptogether.com for free to get access to worship resources, a song search, news and worship songs ➡.
- Visit CNET.com to discover the latest in tech and consumer electronics. CNET provides the latest news, reviews, videos, podcasts, software, and downloads, making tech products easy to find, understand and use ➡.
- Helpful tool for managing multiple passwords needed for multiple websites: ➡.

Ideas for using technology to make presentations

- View a short article on how one missionary goes about making great presentation using technology ➡.
- ChristianPhotos.net offers photos, presentations and brochure templates for free for Christian purposes ➡.
- Much of the advice in this article for making business presentations is applicable to making presentations for a church audience ➡.

Airline tickets and travel

- Top 5 best airfare search engine websites: ➡.
- Travelzoo.com bills itself as the most trusted publisher of travel deals. With over 21 million subscribers, it is the largest publisher of travel deals online ➡.
- Kayak.com helps you find the best travel choices easily by searching through hundreds of travel sites at once ➡.

Phones

- A good, basic article on the pros and cons of pay-as-you-go and monthly contract phone plans: ➡.
- Pay-as-you-go buying guide helps you determine what features you need and which you don't: ➡.
- Helpful cell phone buying guide: ➡
- iPhones, Google, and BlackBerry are some of the biggest names in smartphones, with Android topping the list: ➡.
- "App" was named the 2010 new word of the year by the American Dialect society. It's short for "application software" made popular by iPhone and the tagline "there's an app for that" ➡.

Technology trends of interest

- Email is being redesigned to more closely resemble tools like Facebook, texting and instant messaging: ➡.
- *The Shallows* discusses the impact of new media on our ability to focus and the opportunities this presents ➡.
- 2011 will be marked by new developments that will shape the fabric of our behavior, culture and identity. View "10 Ways Social Media Will Change in 2011" ➡.
- Many use the Internet to watch TV and films. Read about "Which Media Streamer Is Right for You?" ➡
- The Huffington Post presents the most visited websites in 2010: ➡.
- Greater Europe Mission e-Dot ministry is using technology to reach people in Europe with the gospel: ➡.
- *Socialnomics* is an essential book for those who want to understand the implications of social media, and how businesses can tap the power of social media to increase sales, cut marketing costs, and reach consumers directly ➡.
- *Wired* magazine's 2011 gadget trends: ➡.

Pop Culture

- The Chicago Tribune's 44 best and worst of pop culture in 2010: ➡
- The Huffington Post's *Best TV of 2010*: ➡
- View the list of top grossing movies of 2010 ➡ and reviews from Christianity Today of the top 5: *Toy Story III* ➡, *Alice in Wonderland* ➡, *Iron Man 2* ➡, *Eclipse* ➡, and *Inception* ➡.
- Top selling albums of 2010: ➡
- Most watched YouTube videos of 2010: ➡
- Visit commonsensemedia.org to view ratings and reviews for TV shows and movies ➡
- Silly Bandz — hot among Elementary and Jr. High kids: ➡
- Entertainers of 2010 from Entertainment Weekly, including Kanye West, the cast of Glee and Christopher Nolan: ➡
- Kinect for Xbox 360 brings games and entertainment to life in new ways without using a controller ➡

Credits

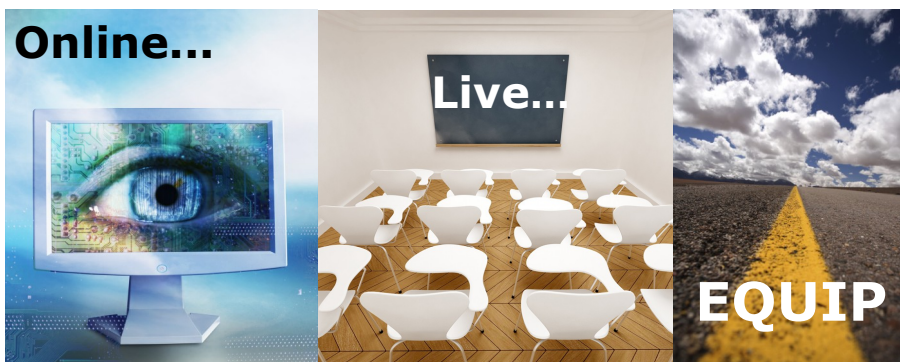
The links contained in this resource are gathered from many sources, but a few stand out and deserve special recognition:

- Christianity Today ➡
- CNET ➡
- Google ➡

Your Review

What would *your* review of 2010 look like? What stories were memorable to you? What trends did you follow? What would you have included that we missed? Contact us at equip@efca.org and tell us!

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