

The most-read Century Blog posts

December 30, 2014

Here are the year's most-read posts by the *Century* editors and guest bloggers. (Listed separately: the top posts from [Then & Now](#), the [CCblogs](#) network, [Drew Hart](#)'s blog, [Carol Howard Merritt](#)'s blog, and [Steve Thorngate](#)'s blog.)

- 1) **[Do I have to take Isaiah 58:7 literally?](#) by Celeste Kennel-Shank.** Supporting nonprofits is like bringing homeless people into your own house. Right?
- 2) **[American Christianity in exile?](#) by Benjamin J. Dueholm.** We still enjoy a kind of wealth, prestige, institutional heft, political clout, and legal protection that would stupefy Jesus of Nazareth.
- 3) **[Warning: The last shall be first,](#) by Gordon Cosby, with Rebecca Stelle.** As I am dying, I am seeing in a new way. I am seeing that weakness is a gift.
- 4) **[Bart Ehrman is part of a legitimate, ongoing conversation,](#) by Greg Carey.** This is not about liberals and secularists attacking the church. It's an ongoing debate that crosses the usual party lines.
- 5) **[The quest for a common loaf,](#) by Angela Dienhart Hancock.** "Take and eat," Jesus said, passing the bread around. And everybody did—except for Philip, who went away hungry, for he was allergic to gluten.
- 6) **[Five comforts of monocultural church,](#) by Amy Frykholm.** In a monocultural church, you have the benefit of the illusion that everyone understands you and you understand everyone.
- 7) **[Why I listen to K-LOVE Radio,](#) by Katherine Willis Pershey.** I got "saved" at a Carman concert when I was 12. It wasn't the first time.
- 8) **[Why I stayed,](#) name withheld.** Each woman's story is different, and each woman's story is differently shattered.
- 9) **[Reading the Fifth Gospel,](#) by Ruth Everhart.** Why are Presbyterians so fixated on the politics of Israel? Maybe because we have no idea how else to

approach this land.

10) [Three lessons mainline pastors can take from Mark Driscoll's resignation](#), by L. Roger Owens. We watch from a distance with bemused smiles. But this is a cautionary tale.

11) [Misogyny, #yesallwomen, and the role of the church](#), by Bromleigh McCleneghan. Each mass killing scares me. This one is harder.

12) [My fear of the cross](#), by Darcey Steinke. Religion does not make me happy. It gives me tools to help me deal with myself.

13) [Preaching with a broken heart](#), by McKinna Rae Daugherty. My long-time boyfriend and I recently ended our relationship. The next week, I was scheduled to preach.

14) [Five ways churches can support families providing foster care](#), by Jamie Calloway-Hanauer. We often give foster parents pedestal status. But they, like the rest of us, need all the help they can get.