

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, April 18, 2025



Top News

- 42% of U.S. adults expect deportations to lead to higher food prices in their area
- Support dips for U.S. government, tech companies restricting false or violent online content
- Most pastors say their churches will survive — and for now, they're right
- A study found Black Christians often distrust American Muslims. A new program hopes to change that
- Who is Kilmar Ábrege García, the man wrongly deported to El Salvador?

42% of U.S. adults expect deportations to lead to higher food prices in their area

Most U.S. adults favor deporting some or all immigrants who are living in the United States illegally, according to a [recent Pew Research Center survey](#). At the same time, many expect deportations to lead to higher food prices in their area.

Around four-in-ten adults (42%) say deportations of immigrants who are in the country illegally will lead to increased food prices where they live. About a quarter (23%) expect deportations to have no effect on food prices, while 12% say they will lead to lower food prices. The survey was conducted Feb. 24-March 2, among 5,123 adults.

How we did this

The public is more divided about the effect of deportations on other prices in their area:

- Consumer goods prices: 26% of adults say deportations of immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally will lead to an increase in the cost of consumer goods such as clothing, appliances, electronics and cars. A third say they will have no effect and 12% say they will lead to lower prices.
- Housing prices: 19% expect deportations to increase the cost of housing, 31% expect no change and 22% expect costs to go down.
- Health care prices: 13% say deportations will cause health care costs to go up, 32% say there will be no effect and 25% say they will cause prices to decrease

pewresearch.org



Support dips for U.S. government, tech companies restricting false or violent online content

Public support for the U.S. government or tech companies taking steps to restrict false information online has ticked down slightly since 2023 after increasing in the years prior.

Support has also decreased for the government or tech companies taking steps to restrict violent content online, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

Today, about half of Americans (51%) say the U.S. government should take steps to restrict false information online, even if it limits freedom of information. This is down from 55% in 2023.

By comparison, a higher share of Americans (60%) say tech companies should take steps to restrict false information online. This, too, is down from 65% two years ago.

[pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)



Most pastors say their churches will survive — and for now, they're right

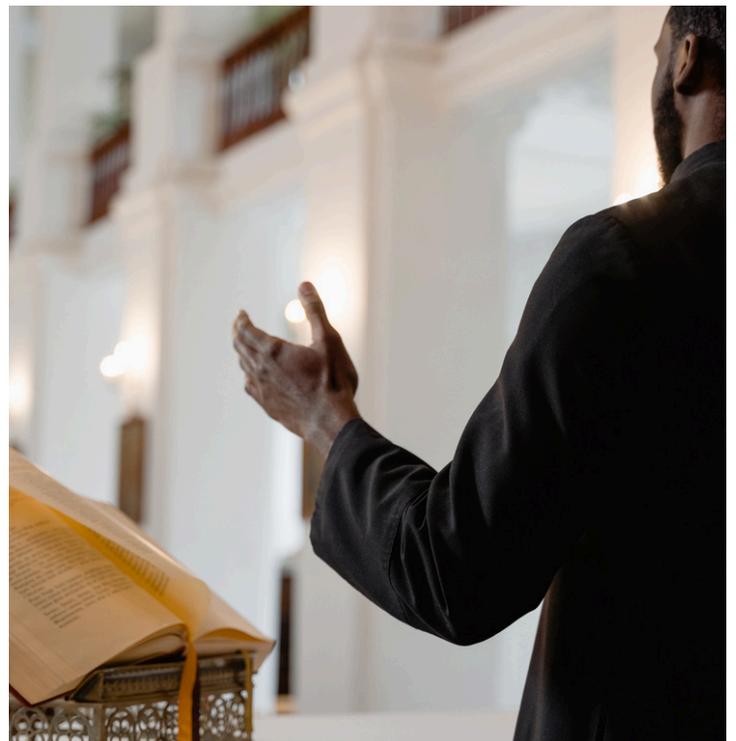
American organized religion is a bit like a scene from “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” It has been on the decline for decades, but churches aren’t dead yet.

A [new survey](#) from Nashville-based Lifeway Research found that 94% of Protestant pastors believe their church will still be open in 10 years, with 78% strongly agreeing that will be true.

Four percent of pastors say their church will close, with the other 2% saying they don’t know, according to the survey released Tuesday (April 15). Conducted over the phone, it surveyed 1,003 randomly selected Protestant pastors between Aug. 8 and Sept. 3, 2024.

Those pastors may be right, say researchers who study the American religious landscape. Duke University sociologist Mark Chaves, who runs the National Congregations Study, said past studies found that about 1 in 100 churches close each year. So, the idea that most churches will be around in 10 years isn’t surprising.

“An interesting thing about churches as organizations is that they have ways of staying alive in a very weakened state,” Chaves said in an email. “Other organizations would close, but weak churches have ways of staying alive.”



See more: [religionnews.com](https://www.religionnews.com)

A study found Black Christians often distrust American Muslims. A new program hopes to change that



Dr. Kameelah Mu'min Oseguera leads an Institute for Social Policy and Understanding "Day of Learning" workshop at Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago. (Photo by David T. Kindler)

When he remembers the sermon given at his grandmother's funeral service, Tariq El-Amin describes feeling surprised as the Baptist minister preached. While El-Amin expected a sermon about death and the afterlife, he said the pastor mostly talked about how salvation could only be obtained through Jesus Christ.

"He went into this whole polemic, this whole tirade about how our theology was wrong. You know, saying, 'Muhammad ain't going to save you,'" El-Amin recalls.

The only visibly Muslim man in the audience, El-Amin said the sermon sounded like an attempt to belittle his faith. His wife, mother, sisters and aunt, who wear hijabs, also felt singled out.

"He took a moment that should have been about the emotional and spiritual well-being of all of the attendants, in particular the family, and turned it into a time to proselytize," he said.

religionnews.com

Who is Kilmar Ábrego García, the man wrongly deported to El Salvador?

The ongoing legal saga of Kilmar Ábrego García, a man wrongly deported to a notorious prison in [El Salvador](#), has become a flashpoint as [Donald Trump](#) tests the limits of his executive power and continues with his plans for mass deportations.

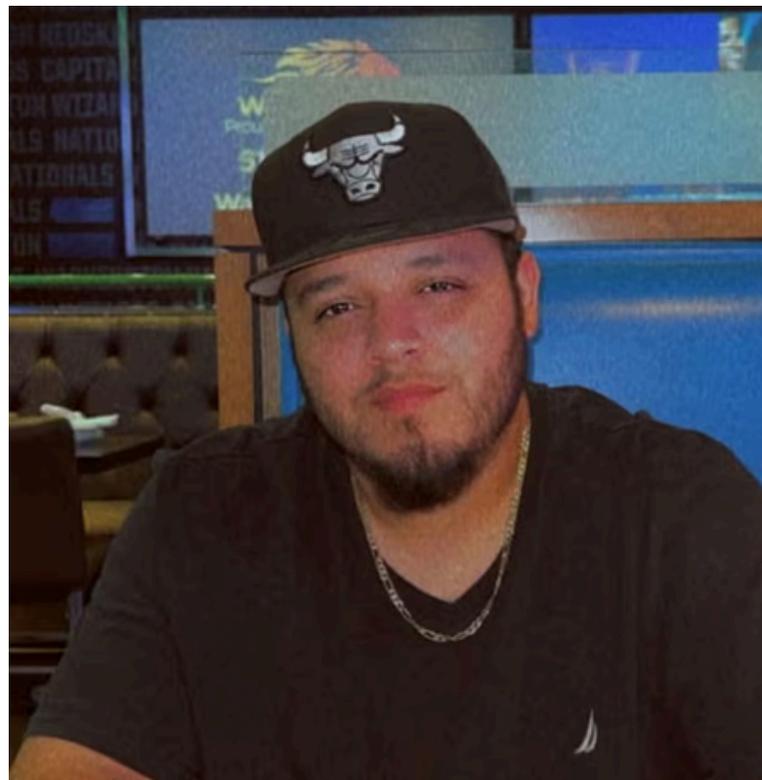
On Tuesday, a federal judge [sharply rebuked the Trump administration](#) for taking no steps to secure Ábrego García's release despite a [supreme court order](#) last week ordering the administration to facilitate his return to the US.

The administration [previously conceded](#) Ábrego García's deportation was an "administrative error", but it has since refused to bring him back and dug in on its contention that it should not be responsible for his repatriation. Here's what to know about the case.

Who is Kilmar Ábrego García?

Ábrego García, 29, is a Salvadorian immigrant who entered the US illegally around 2011 because he and his family were facing threats by local gangs.

theguardian.com



Kilmar Ábrego García, a Salvadorian immigrant who lived in the US legally before being erroneously deported to El Salvador. Photograph: Abrego García Family/Reuters

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25-28 SEPT.

CJC 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

OVERCOMING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

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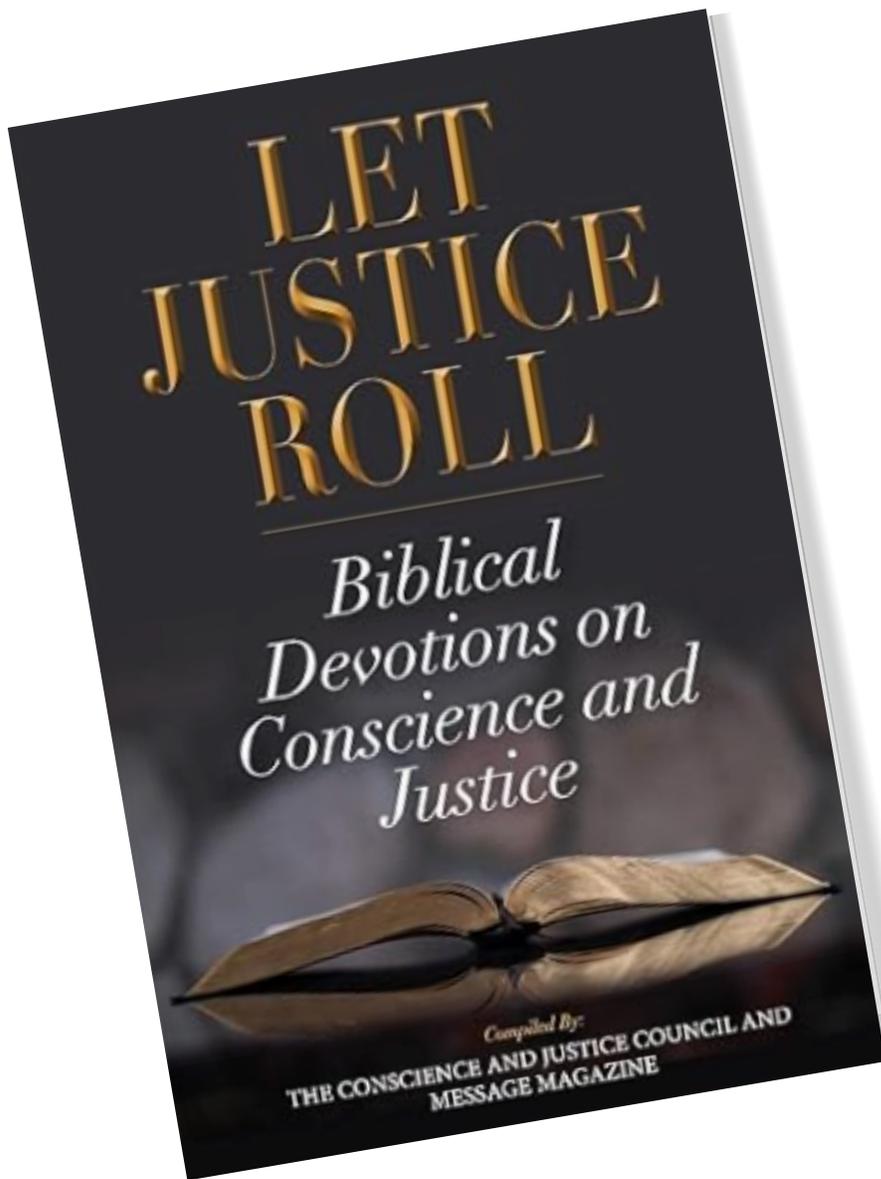


<https://register.adventsourceevents.org/2025CJCConvention>

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Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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