

The most-read Then & Now posts

December 25, 2014

Here are this year's most-read posts from Then & Now, a weekly blog edited by Edward J. Blum and Kate Bowler and presented in partnership with the [Kripke Center](#) of Creighton University.

**1) [Jahi McMath and the bodies of children](#), by Todd M. Brenneman.**

Jahi McMath is dead. Or, Jahi McMath is alive. Each statement is true—depending upon the person you ask.

**2) [The perseverance of black LDS church members](#), by Patrick Mason.** The real heroes of this story are those black members of the LDS Church who refused to leave despite being afforded second-class status.

**3) [Kate Kelly's appeal to open revelation](#), by Jenette Wood Crowley.** Ordain Women asks church leaders to inquire of the Lord's will with respect to women's ordination. They are not asking quietly.

**4) [End times for end times](#), by Matthew Avery Sutton.** Evangelicals no longer draw maps identifying Gog and Magog, or look for the rebirth of the Roman Empire, or wonder when animal sacrifice will return to Jerusalem.

**5) [Jimmy Carter and the demise of progressive evangelicalism](#), by Randall Balmer.** At the same time Carter was pressing his agenda, other evangelicals were organizing against him.

**6) [Play within a play](#), by Margaret Blair Young.** One critic complained that my play implied that Brigham Young was a racist. He advised that I change a particular line. I ignored his suggestion.

**7) [Mormons and domestic change](#), by Benjamin E. Park.** The contemporary images of both American and Mormon domestic life mask the malleable and robust traditions from whence they both came.

**8) [The Vatican synod was about the meaning of church](#), by Christopher M. Bellitto.** Catholic theology cannot be reduced to progressive or conservative labels.

But there are indeed progressive and conservative Catholics who disagree on ecclesiology.

**9) [How evangelicals use marijuana to sell religion](#), by Aaron Griffith.** States are allowing legalization, the president is comparing the drug to alcohol, and Pat Robertson reversed his harsh views. What's an evangelical to do in these high times?

**10) [Advent in post-Ferguson America](#), by Kate Bowler.** Americans want to remember the peace of the manger, but they forget that the Christmas story does not end there.

**11) [Son of God and marketing Jesus movies to ministers](#), by Paul Putz.** Film critics have spoken: *Son of God* is a dud. Just don't tell that to the film's producers.

**12) [Years of the evangelicals](#), by Steven P. Miller.** For a generation of observers, evangelicalism was a sign of the postmodern times. The megachurch was the new civil society, while Habitat for Humanity was the tie that bound.

**13) [Distractions of the devil](#), by Scott Poole.** Satan has had an awfully good 2014. The New York-based Satanic Temple has even proposed a goat-headed image of Baphomet that can be seen by all visitors to the state's seat of government.

**14) [Maya Angelou and the art of the outcast](#), by Yolanda Pierce.** To fully celebrate Angelou's legacy, we must contextualize her 86 years of living within the black religious traditions that birthed her deep spirituality.