

Friday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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New today from the *Century*:

- Craig Barnes on [why pastors fall in love with the dying](#) (subscription required)
- I consider the misleading media narrative on [the debt ceiling and compromise](#)
- Amy Frykholm highlights Juan Cole's [advice to young democracies](#)
- John Petrakis [reviews Meek's Cutoff](#) (subscription required)
- A [poem](#) by Brian Doyle

In the news:

- [Churches press Obama to protect poor in budget talks](#)
- [Willow Creek cuts ties with ex-gay Exodus International](#)
- [Blogosphere abuzz over Rupert Murdoch as "Bible mogul"](#)
- [Christian agencies continue work in Somalia despite security issues](#)
- [Town clerk in NY resigns over new gay marriage law](#)

Links from elsewhere:

- [The polite regrets of governors bailing on Perry's prayer rally](#)
- Mark Galli's sharp [piece](#) on the problems of being the pastor (of a large-ish, evangelical church)
- A [victory](#) for all of us who would like to be buried in a plain wooden box when we die
- Benjamin McNutt [connects](#) "The Streak" of father-daughter reading with the church's worship life