

STEVE MURDOCK: Demographic guru_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

STEVE MURDOCK: Demographic guru

Texas has become the second most-populous state in the nation and is growing by the minute with great implications for church starting and church growth. No one in the state is more aware of what is happening than the state's demographer, Steve Murdock, who heads the Texas State Data Center and the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research at the University of Texas-San Antonio. A native of North Dakota, Murdock is a graduate of North Dakota State University and earned master's and doctor of philosophy degrees at the University of Kentucky. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He is the author of 11 books, more than 120 technical articles and book chapters, 125 research reports and monographs and 70 popular articles on the determinants and consequences of demographic, socioeconomic and natural resource changes.



Steve Murdock

Q.

What is the history of the Texas Data Center and the office of the state demographer?

The state data center program started in 1979 in Texas. We have been the primary agency in terms of providing technical support and information since then. We provide direct information through our cells and affiliates to about 50,000 people a year. We provide direct access through our website to another 2.5 million real users, who go to the site and download data from it. In fact, we download about 2.5 gigabytes a day. About 50 percent are public and 50 percent are private users.

Q.

DOWN HOME: 25th Reunion Blessing recalled_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

DOWN HOME: 25th Reunion: Blessing recalled

Joanna and I recently journeyed back to Hardin-Simmons University in

Abilene to celebrate the Class of 1979's 25th homecoming reunion.

I departed with good news and bad news.

Let's get the bad news over with: I must be middle-aged. Most of the time, I can lie to myself and overlook this uncomfortable fact. But at HSU, I kept running into all these middle-aged people who attended class with me 25-plus years ago. Observing longtime friends is like looking into a mirror with really good light. You see stuff you miss most days.

EDITORIAL: 'Moral values' should mean more than sexual ethics_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

EDITORIAL: 'Moral values' should mean more than sexual ethics

How do you define "moral values"?

I couldn't help but ponder that question on election night. The national exit poll, shared by major news media, revealed 80 percent of voters who said "moral values" are a primary concern cast their ballots for George W. Bush.

As I listened to the pundits and recalled which “moral values” surfaced in the presidential campaign, I came to the same conclusion I reach while viewing too many TV commercials: It's all about sex.

The “moral values” boiled down to two front-line issues and a shadow third-abortion, homosexual “marriage” and a former president's infidelity.

**We who seek to
pattern our lives after
the Great
Commandment-loving
God-some-times
forget the Second
Command-ment-love
others. But any
biblical definition of
"moral values" surely
embraces both.**

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 14: Fundamental facets of a fulfilling prayer life_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for Nov. 14

Fundamental facets of a fulfilling prayer life

Luke 11:1-54

By Pakon Chan

Chinese Baptist Church, Arlington

Most community foundations fund faith-based social services, study shows_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Most community foundations fund faith-based social services, study shows

By Adelle Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Most U.S. community foundations fund faith-based social services but don't permit their grants to support explicit religious activities, a new study shows.

Call to kill terrorists 'in the name of the Lord' sparks outcry_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Call to kill terrorists 'in the name of the Lord' sparks outcry

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP)-If American troops kill Osama bin Laden, a Southern Baptist ethicist insists it should be "in the name of justice," not "in the name of the Lord" as televangelist Jerry Falwell suggests.

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Nov. 14: The Creator rules the whole of his handiwork_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

LifeWay Family Bible Series for Nov. 14

The Creator rules the whole of his handiwork

Psalm 33:6-17, 20-2

By Angela Hamm

First Baptist Church, Lewisville

Texas Baptist Missions Foundation marks 20 years of mission funding_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Texas Baptist Missions Foundation marks 20 years of mission funding

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

It started as a two-year Baptist General Convention of Texas fund-raising emphasis to encourage church starting. Thousands of changed lives later, the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation has blossomed to touch many aspects of the convention's ministry during the past 20 years.

Evangelical women begin to speak out about depression_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Evangelical women begin to speak out about depression

By Dorianne Perruci

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Like her famous father, Ruth Graham knows how to deliver an uplifting and honest message.

Hispanic McAllen church launches English-speaking mission_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Hispanic McAllen church launches English-speaking mission

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

MCALLEN—Congregations struggle with worship style preferences. Like many other Hispanic churches, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel throws language, culture and generational preferences into its balancing act.

Christian tourists begin returning to Holy Land after four-year hiatus_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

Christian tourists begin returning to Holy Land after four-year hiatus

By Michele Chabin

Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)-After a nearly four-year hiatus sparked by the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, Christian tourists are coming back to the Holy Land.

Texas Baptist Forum_110804

November 5, 2004

Posted: 11/05/04

TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM

Freedom 'restraints'

The Texas Baptist Forum in the Nov. 1 Baptist Standard is an interesting cross-section of the contemporary views on church and state in Texas and beyond.

E-mail the editor at

marvknox@baptiststandard.com

Several letters rightly expressed the reasons the United States may appropriately be called a secular nation. One lamented perceived hostility from the government toward religious expression.

Believers in the first century would laugh at today's Americans complaining of restraints on our religious freedom. Most likely, believers in the Two-Thirds world would take offense at the same.