

Faith Digest

October 6, 2010

The basic text used for Alcoholics Anonymous programs, known as *The Big Book*, initially used stronger religious language but was reduced to appeal to a wider audience, *The Washington Post* reported.

RFD-OK, or DOA?

October 6, 2010

America's rural churches were built upon and grew from a strong sense of community. Although many rural congregations now are in decline, that community reliance may be the key to spiritual renewal and to thriving ministry.

Ways to engage a changing suburb

October 6, 2010

Suburbs are changing ethnically and socioeconomically, creating ministry opportunities and challenges for churches across the country. Here are some tips from leaders about engaging changing neighborhoods effectively

for Christ.

Some rural churches see their calling as providing a laboratory for training ministers

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Rural churches, particularly those within driving distance of a seminary or denominational college or university, often become training grounds for ministerial staff.

Population shifts present challenges for rural churches

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Rural churches in America face a host of challenges as they seek to continue ministry in their communities. Loss of members through population shift from rural areas to urban centers can drain rural churches.

Rural churches measure growth differently, pastors say

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Brand New Church in Arkansas and Fairy Baptist Church in Texas are examples of rural churches that follow different worship styles and appeal to different kinds of people.

Ethnically changing suburbs may require different strategies

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Most ethnic minorities live in suburbs, according to a recent Brookings Institute report. Texas Baptists are responding by helping start suburban churches that reflect those areas' ethnic diversity.

Mormons catch a glimpse of life in the big leagues

October 6, 2010

Mormons have been making headlines across the nation—from HBO's *Big Love* to California's Proposition 8, from *American Idol* wannabe David Archuleta to *Twilight* author Stephenie Meyer, from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to conservative icon Glenn Beck.

When does human life begin? In Missouri, it's legally at conception

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The question has perplexed philosophers, theologians and scientists for thousands of years: At what point does human life begin?

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The United States tied with Switzerland for fifth place in a worldwide

giving index by the British-based Charities Aid Foundation that measures charitable behavior across the globe.

Stuff Christians Like: An interview with Jon Acuff

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Jon Acuff is the author of the satirical blog *Stuff Christians Like* and a book by the same title published by Zondervan.

Fear not, Jesus saidâ€¦ but some Christians still do

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Perfect love, wrote the Apostle John, casts out fear. But 2,000 years after those words were written, Christians' response to fear often is indistinguishable from that of the society in which they live.