

In Others' Words

Editor's Note: In this department, we highlight resources outside of the IJFM: other journals, print resources, DVDs, web sites, blogs, videos, etc. Standard disclaimers on content apply. Due to the length of many web addresses, we sometimes give just the title of the resource, the main web address, or a suggested search phrase. Finally, please note that this July–September 2016 issue is partly composed of material created later in 2016 and early 2017. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused by such anachronisms.

Evangelicals Debate Refugee Policies

For an excellent article about worldwide repercussions to the travel ban's prioritization of persecuted religious minorities, see ["Should America's Refugee Policy Put Persecuted Christians First?"](#) (*Christianity Today* Jan 31, 2017). In it you will find thoughtful responses from four Christian leaders from several organizations including Open Doors and World Relief.

A Perspective from Lebanon

Lebanese Christians have seen the population of their tiny country of four million grow by over 1/3 in just six years due to an influx of refugees from Iraq and Syria. Martin Accad says this about their response:

Numerous churches in Lebanon...have flung their doors open to refugees and demonstrated compassion to levels unseen before. Refugees, regardless of their religious backgrounds, have been flocking into church buildings, where they have found love, compassion, and community. No institution can understand and practice the compassion of God demonstrated in Jesus like the church can.

To read the rest of his blog, google ["A Wake-up Call for People of Faith in the Twenty-First Century."](#)

How to Love Muslims in a Polarized America

For a wonderful article giving ordinary Christians suggestions of how to not only love Muslims, but how to invite fearful friends and neighbors into relationships with Muslims, see Shane Bennett's latest in *Mission Catalyst* ["Can Normal People Love Jesus, Muslims, and America—at the Same Time?"](#) <http://missionscatalyst.net/>.

A Series of Blogs About the Book *Insider Jesus*

Warrick Farah in Circumpolar has begun a series of blog reviews of the new book *Insider Jesus* by William Dyrness, professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. Farah's latest three blogs deal with the first three chapters of Dyrness' book and include extensive quotes as well as some of Farah's own thoughts. He invites readers to read the book along with him: <http://muslimministry.blogspot.com/>.

Status of the Unreached

Justin Long has a gold mine of resources at justinlong.org, including two posts that take a look at numbers that matter:

["Adding another 600 hundred million unevangelized by 2050"](#) and ["Why is the unfinished task not getting finished when...?"](#)

Millennial Men Missing in US Missions

The number of young men joining the Catholic priesthood has fallen precipitously and some within the Catholic world are wondering if the requirement of celibacy is at fault. (See Erasmus ["Why the Priesthood is in Crisis"](#) in *The Economist* Jan 22, 2017.) Yet in US Protestant missions, the number of young men going into missions work has also dropped with no concurrent celibacy requirement. This gap has left thousands of young women missionaries facing an unwanted life of celibacy. For 2015 statistics see justinlong.org/singles-vs-couples.php. In December of 2016, John Piper asked ["Why Are Women More Eager Missionaries?"](#)

This brings us to the question: Is there something more profound that is happening to young men? In 2013, we mentioned the 2007 book *Boys Adrift* in which Leonard Sax contends that a full one third of men aged 22–35 are living at home and are more interested in playing video games five hours a day than in working or getting married. Have we in the missions world faced up to this loss of one third of a generation of young men? Is there something we can do to bring them back into a life of purpose? (see "In Others' Words" column in the *IJFM* issue 30:4).

The Contribution of Single Women

This is not to downplay the historic and tremendous contribution that single women missionaries have made. See Dana Roberts' excellent 2014 historical summary of Protestant women in mission: [/New-World-Outlook-Magazine/New-World-Outlook-Archives/2014/March-April/0306womeninmission](#). Nor is it to overlook the unique opportunities single people can take advantage of. Here is an optimistic blog from the pen of a single Southern Baptist young woman missionary written late 2016: ["The Missions Force is Incomplete without Single People."](#)

Financial Tsunami in India

In late November, 2016, the prime minister of India, in an effort to rein in the black market and collect taxes on undeclared earnings, abruptly canceled the two highest value rupee notes, the 500 and 1000 notes (or 86.5% of all cash in circulation), according to ["India's Currency Reform Was Botched in Execution"](#) (see *The Economist* Dec 3, 2016). To make matters worse, the government had not printed nearly enough notes to replace them. ATMs promptly ran out of cash, banks were mobbed, and millions of the poor lost their meager life savings. People were only given until the end of the year to exchange their bank notes (worth \$7.30 and \$14.60 respectively) but all told over 22 billion notes were affected. Informed sources place the government's capacity for printing new banknotes at only 3 billion per month which means a huge number of notes could not be redeemed by the deadline. All this in a land where four fifths of the wage earners are paid in cash and 98% of all consumer transactions are in cash. **IJFM**