

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 October–December 2015 issue is partly composed of material created early in 2016. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused by such anachronisms.

By 2050, 80% of Christians in the World Will Be Asian, African, or Latin American

Don't miss the [eight-page annual demographic report](#) from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) published in the January issue of *IBMR*. Two surprising projections leap out at us: the number of Global South Christians in 2050 will be 80% of the world's total, up from 20% in 1900; and two quite disparate estimates for Christians in 2050: 2.9 billion (Pew) vs 3.4 billion (CSGC).

Are the World's Muslims Growing Faster Than the World's Christians?

The Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project (April 2015) estimates that by 2050 global Christian and Muslim populations will be nearly the same size (2.9 billion vs 2.7 billion) with the percentage of Christians not having changed at all from 2010 (31.4%). However, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary projects that by mid-century, Christians will number 3.4 billion. This much higher number would also increase the percentage of Christians in the world to 35.9%. Why the divergence?

The Center taps into knowledge from contacts in every country of the world, who inform us on what is happening in non-traditional forms of Christianity such as house churches and insider movements (where individuals convert to Christianity in secret and/or remain identified with their past religion). Some of the most significant growth of Christianity in the world today, and into the future, is indeed in non-traditional expressions and does not easily get picked up in demographic measures such as censuses, surveys, and polls. This is particularly the case in China and India. Pew does not model religious switching in either China or India, claiming a lack of reliable data. On-the-ground contacts in both of these countries consistently report that Christianity is growing due to conversions, and many of these Christians are organized in "underground" or secret communities. As a result, the Center's Christian percentages in China and India in 2050 (15.8% and 6.9%, respectively) are higher than those of Pew (5.4% and 2.2%). The Center projects Christians in China and India to number a combined 330 million in 2050, compared to Pew's figure of 108 million.

Bible-Based Anasheed Videos Now Available

Sheikh Salah Yammout (who is one of the leading poets of the Muslim world) agreed to chant some beautiful Anasheeds (Islamic-style religious songs) that are direct quotations from the Bible. Available both on DVD videos and CD (music only), here is a sample of one of the clips from I John 1:5–10: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPXRvw-2Zyc>. To order go to CreateSpace.com (<https://www.createspace.com/850005963>).

An Intersection of Theology and Missiology

Paul and the Gift by John Barclay. Hailed as a tour de force by many theologians, this seminal work will greatly benefit missionaries and missiologists as well. See the IJFM review in this issue as well as both reviews in *Books and Culture*—one by Wesley Hill and the other by Scott McKnight <http://www.booksandculture.com/articles/2016/janfeb/unexamined-grace.html>.

Understanding Insider Movements: Disciples of Jesus Within Diverse Religious Communities edited by Talman and Travis. This book is finally available on Kindle. Take a look at the Circumpolar missiological blog where Warrick Farah reposts two very different reviews of the book along with his comments (see <http://muslimministry.blogspot.com/>).

Online Resources

In case you missed the great roundup of *refugee relocation resources* for local churches in the US, check out the March Cover Story in *CT*: "Hope on the Refugee Highway": <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/march/hope-on-refugee-highway-christians-iraq-greece-syria-isis.html>.

Looking for off-the-wall mission podcasts? Check out "Muslims, Christians and the Zombie Apocalypse," a new resource recommended by *Mission Catalyst*. Recent podcasts include "The Psychological Profile of a Muslim Terrorist" and "Sufism: The Hunger for God in Islam" with Dave Cashin. A free weekly email put out by *Pioneers, Mission Catalyst*, has links to great resources and articles. Distinguished by its vibrant pictures and up-to-date reports from the field, this periodical is interspersed with news, resources (including podcasts, books, and booklets) and upcoming events.

Each week Justin Long sends out a free email resource called "Weekly Round Up", which is chock-full of resources, data, and points of interest culled from a large selection of internet sources. Topics include: Resources, Forecasts, Current Events/Trending, Studies/ Statistics/Graphs, Mission Industry News/Missional Thinking, Lifehacking/Tactics, Startup Thinking/Strategic Concepts, UPG Profiles, and Futuristics/Tech. [Click on www.justinlong.org](http://www.justinlong.org) to subscribe. **IJFM**