

In Others' Words

Editor's Note: In this department, we highlight resources outside of the IJFM: other journals, print resources, DVDs, websites, 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.

South Asia: Redefining Unreached People Groups

For an interesting article looking at the statistics about unreached people groups and in specific a new term called "Frontier People Groups," see "[Why Mission Experts are Redefining Unreached People Groups](#)," in *Christianity Today*. Published in the May print issue, this *CT* editorial includes a link to Rebecca Lewis' color article in *IJFM* 35:4 (Winter 2018), "[Clarifying the Remaining Frontier Mission Task](#)." One of the more arresting facts from Lewis' article is that 82% of the world's frontier people groups are in Central and South Asia. Notice that the eight countries at grave risk referred to below are almost all in South Asia (the other country being China).

Why Melting Glaciers Matter in South Asia

Besides wars and violence, a major factor triggering migration flows appears to be climate change. A May 8, 2019 piece in *The Diplomat* entitled "[Why the Melting of the Hindu Kush and Himalayan Glaciers Matters](#)" cites some challenging predictions for eight primarily South Asian countries.

By the end of this century, however, climate change will have become the single biggest driver behind an unprecedented scale of migration and displacement across the Indian subcontinent, potentially with destabilizing effects. Already vulnerable to natural disasters, South Asia could be left grappling with millions of "climate refugees," regional conflicts, and militarized contests over precious resources like food and water... The landmark research predicts the mountain chain stretching from Pakistan to Myanmar will lose two-thirds of its ice fields by 2100 if global greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically curbed... The study, authored by 210 scientists from 22 countries over five years, warns that the loss of ice at this scale will have serious consequences for up to 2 billion people living across the region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

In a January 2019 article in *National Geographic*, "[Climate Change Creates a New Migration Crisis for Bangladesh](#)," Tim McDonnell writes that

the number of Bangladeshis displaced by the varied impacts of climate change could reach 13.3 million by 2050, making it the country's number-one driver of internal migration, according to a March 2018 [World Bank report](#).

That does not take into consideration the number of external migrants (many Rohingya) hosted by Bangladesh. Genocidal actions by militant Buddhists in Myanmar led to close to a

million Rohingya to flee Myanmar for Bangladesh last year bringing the total number in that country up to 1.2 million. See "[For Rohingya Refugees, There's No Return in Sight](#)," in Human Rights Watch, June 5, 2019 (www.hrw.org).

Libya: A Refugee Hot Spot

Refugees are on the move in unprecedented numbers. "The risk of migrants and refugees becoming shipwrecked in the Mediterranean and dying at sea is the highest it has ever been." Find out why in an article in *The Guardian* June 9, 2019 called "[Mediterranean Will Be 'Sea of Blood' without Rescue Boats, UN Warns](#)." For a haunting pictorial essay on what it's like on board a rescue boat in the Mediterranean, take a look at *Time's* "[Rescue at Sea: A Week on Board a Rescue Recovery Ship](#)."

India: Aftermath of a Landslide

In language reminiscent of the Rwandan genocide (where Hutus called Tutsis "[cockroaches](#)," bbc.com, April 15, 2016), the *Associated Press* reported May 31, 2019 that the newly appointed Home Minister of India, former BJP party president Amit Shah and a Hindu nationalist hardliner, "referred to Muslim migrants from neighboring Bangladesh as '[termites](#)' and pledged to pass a [controversial citizens registry](#)" (npr.org, May 10, 2019) stripping millions of (Muslim) Indians of their citizenship. The context for this is Prime Minister Modi's landslide victory. See "[India's New Government Signals Hindu and India-First Goals](#)" (apnews.com, May 31, 2019). Minorities all across India are fearful of what's in store this next term. This is especially true of the 172 million Muslims (13.4%) and the [29 million Christians](#) (2.3%) in India (factsanddetails.com, "Christians in India"). Don't miss a highly personal article written in *The New Yorker* in March 2019 entitled "[The Violent Toll of Hindu Nationalism in India](#)." For a Christian reaction to Modi's victory, read Open Doors USA's director David Curry's response in "More Persecution in India? 4 Things to Know about Modi's Win," May 27, 2019, *The Christian Post*: it's "[an absolute tragedy](#)" for Christians. He goes on to say,

Since 2014, Hindu extremists have actively promoted hate toward [India's] Christian and Muslim minorities which has led to a tragic escalation of violence... Open Doors' local partners recorded 147 incidents of violence against Christians in India in 2014, but they have recorded 216 violent incidents in India in the first quarter of 2019 alone, including two murders.

The Gospel on Camels

From the William Carey Publishers comes a new book about nomads worldwide called *To the Ends of the Earth*, written by Scottish nomad expert Malcolm Hunter. See the ad in this issue on p. 68. At www.missionbooks.org/blogs/news/ he is featured in a video, "Author Malcolm Hunter Shares Jesus Across Africa." For background, check out the April 2019 article on the history website ThoughtCo entitled, "[The Great Rivalry Between Nomads and Settled People in Asia](#)." **IJFM**