

# From the Editor's Desk

# IJFM

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## Reassessing "Peoples" in the Global Push-and-Pull

Globalization is a much contested term, but there's no debate that it's transforming civilization as we know it. The Western unidirectional flow of modernity has suddenly turned multidirectional, and the inability to predict outcomes is evident in a torrent of competing scholarship. Amidst all this analysis, our journal wishes to focus on a single question: how does globalization impact populations and peoples where a vital and authentic movement of the gospel has yet to take place?

Our ISFM meetings last Fall launched our study of globalization, and the addresses by Todd Johnson and Gary Fujino are included herein. While both include perceptive definitions of globalization, they each independently narrow their focus to the question of identity. Whether cultural, social or religious, the inner compass of identity will determine a person's preferences and orientation when the gospel is received and believed. Johnson offers a broad perspective on Christian identity, while Fujino offers a street-level feel for the intersecting identities of Japanese in modern Tokyo. We added Enoch Kim's study of the "YEU" of China (a social demographic of "Young, Educated, and Urban") to bend the subject of identity towards the question of community (church) and how global technologies may be strategic in restricted areas of the world. We hope this is a good start on the subject.

We find ourselves grateful for the academy and the Ph.D. process, for it forces frontier practitioners to get their thinking into print. Two biblical studies, one by Kevin Higgins and his translation team, and the other by Daniel Baeq, keep us alert to biblical interpretation when encountering difficult issues on the frontier.

Finally, make sure to read Edwin Zehner's review of a new cultural anthropology textbook by Howell and Paris. It carries a whole section on the anthropology of globalization, but uniquely filtered through the minds and hearts of two authors who share a deep concern for Christian mission.

We need to apologize for the lateness of this issue. A perfect storm of domestic, editorial and production transitions kept this from going to press. We hope to make it up to you.



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