WHERE CAN WE GO - WHAT CAN WE DO

Humanity has allowed ugly situations to develop in their world. They have abandoned their God and forgotten the faiths that upheld them in the past.

I look at the Rohingya people and how they have responded to the great injustices that they have been subjected to in the past. And through what I have seen of them as I followed them over the last six months, I have witnessed a resilience not often seen in this world. I see a people who clung tightly to their faith and their traditions despite the way they were treated—despite the great discrimination they suffered.

Rohingya should be admired. The world should not be ignoring them as they have been but seeing them as an example that all people should be following.

There were not persecuted because they did something wrong. The only thing that made them into victims of genocide was that they were an ethnic minority—hated by others, simply because they had a different religion.

Today, as I’ve mentioned before, they are living in much the same way Jesus did while he walked the earth two thousand years ago. “. . . with no place to lay their heads.” With not country they can call their own. Not accepted anywhere. Unwanted refugees, though the only reason they ended up that way was because they were forced to flee their homeland because they were victims of homicide.

As I ponder their plight this morning, I remember the words to a hymn. *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, written by Marting Luther ca 1527, was said to have been sung by persecuted people on their way to exile, and by martyrs at their death. I best like the words to the second stanza:

*And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo! his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him*.

The song is a paraphrase of Psalm 46 in the Bible, containing as similar concept in the Muslim Surah Al-Baqarah 2:255. The scripture speaks of God’s control over the earth and His ability to protect His people.

marja