

Message – Brandon Chaplin

AM Series – Gaining
Perspective this Christmas
Message 5: Pray Faithfully

A man dressed as Santa Claus, wearing a red suit with white fur trim and a red hat with a white pom-pom. He has a white beard and is wearing glasses. He is holding a red sign with the word "Sale" written in white, bold, sans-serif font. He is pointing with his right hand towards the sign.

Sale

MT 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

" `Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

MT 6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

MT 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

MT 6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

MT 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

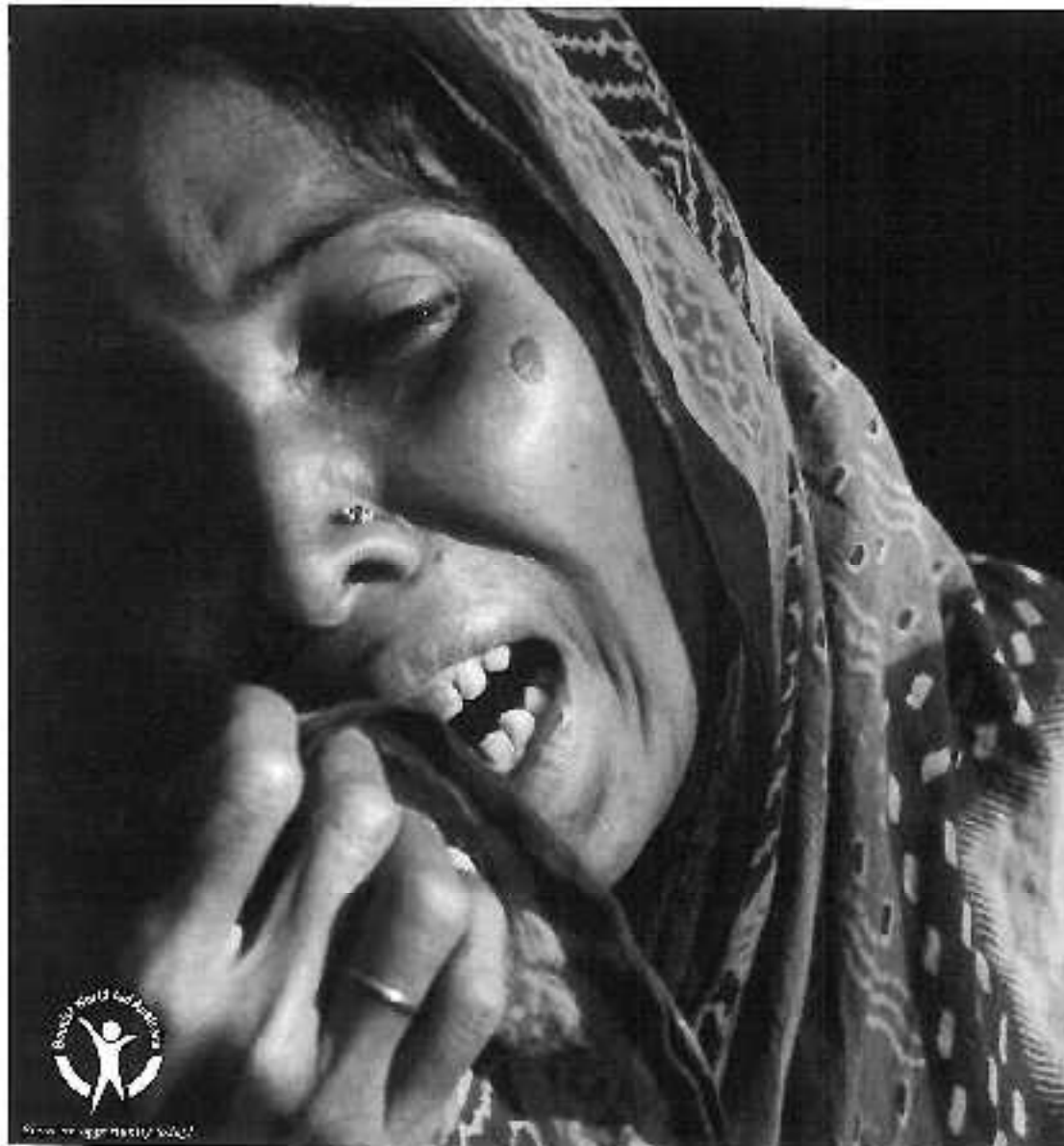
50:50

local churches, global impact

The logo features the text "50:50" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background is a dark blue rectangle with a sunburst pattern of lighter blue lines radiating from behind the text. Below the main text is a tagline in a white script font.

50:50

local churches, global impact



Bagerhat, Bangladesh

A woman mourns the loss of her 18-month old child after Cyclone Sidr struck the coastal area of Bagerhat, Bangladesh, November 2007.

Subject to frequent flooding and storms, drowning is a major killer of children in Bangladesh.

Photo: © 2008 World Council of Churches



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Environment

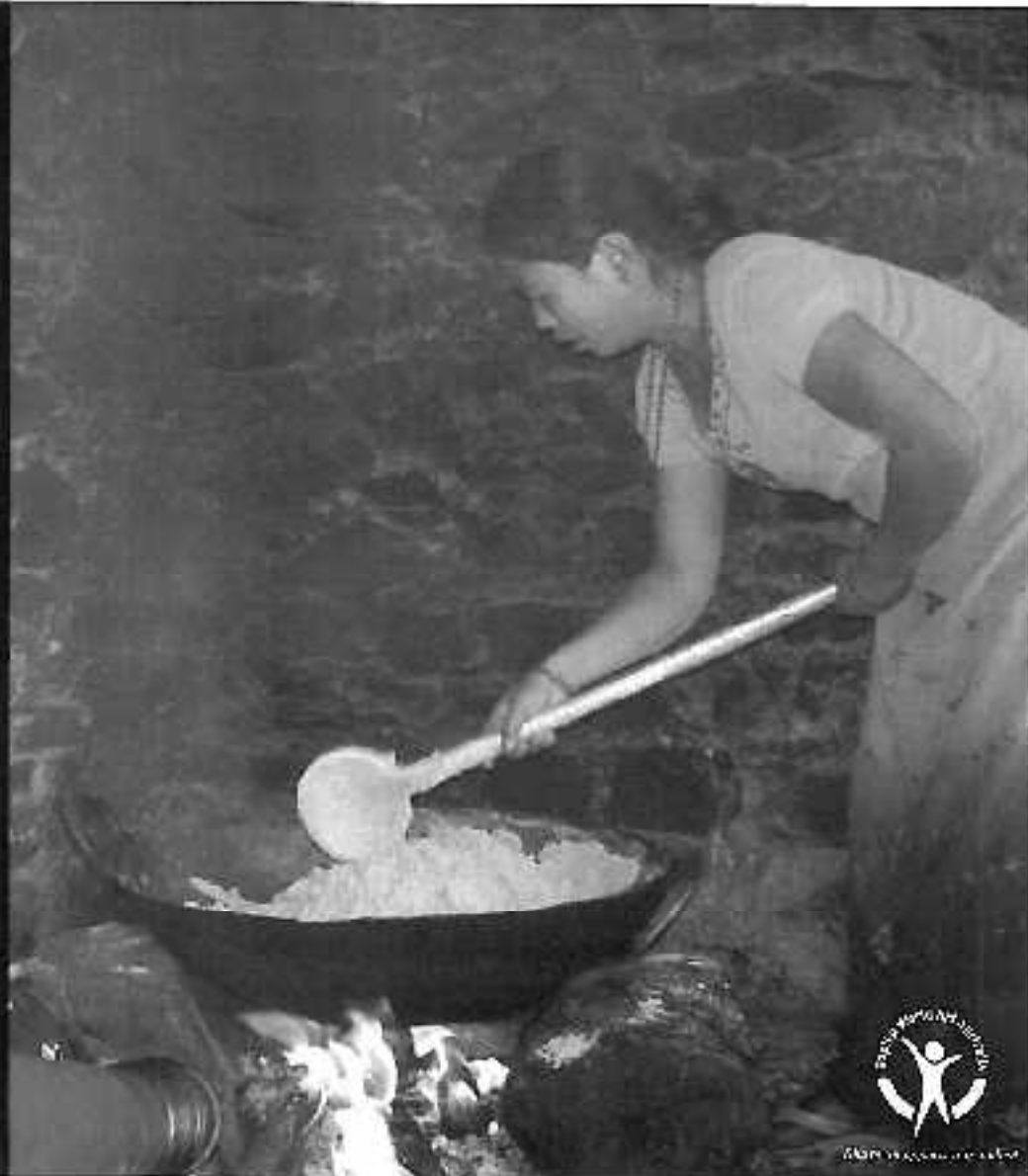
Kathmandu, Nepal

Sitadevi Khadka, 60, spends hours in her smoke-filled kitchen cooking for her family, rubbing her eyes and coughing uncontrollably. Too poor to buy a kerosene or gas stove, Khada is dependent on wood from the nearby forest. "What alternative do we have but to use whatever is available and affordable?" asked Khadka. "I know it's not healthy with so much smoke inside our kitchen but there is no other option."

There is strong evidence of indoor pollution causing pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections (ARI) among under-fives and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer in adults. An estimated 7,500 people in Nepal die annually as a result.

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Sickness

Soc Trang, Vietnam

Pham Thai Lien, 50, used to cut down trees in the mangrove forest near her home, trading the wood for rice or using it as firewood. But this left her community exposed to flooding and destruction.

Now, she spends the "hunger months" of April to June, when there is very little local farm work, planting trees in the mangrove forests along the coastline under a project run by a development agency and local officials.

"The project provides jobs for landless people here in the hunger period, and ensures our source of fish and crabs from the forest mud flats"

Photo: © 2010 World Council of Churches

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Theft and Violence



Kabul, Afghanistan

A female patient in the burns section of Esteqlal hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 2008.

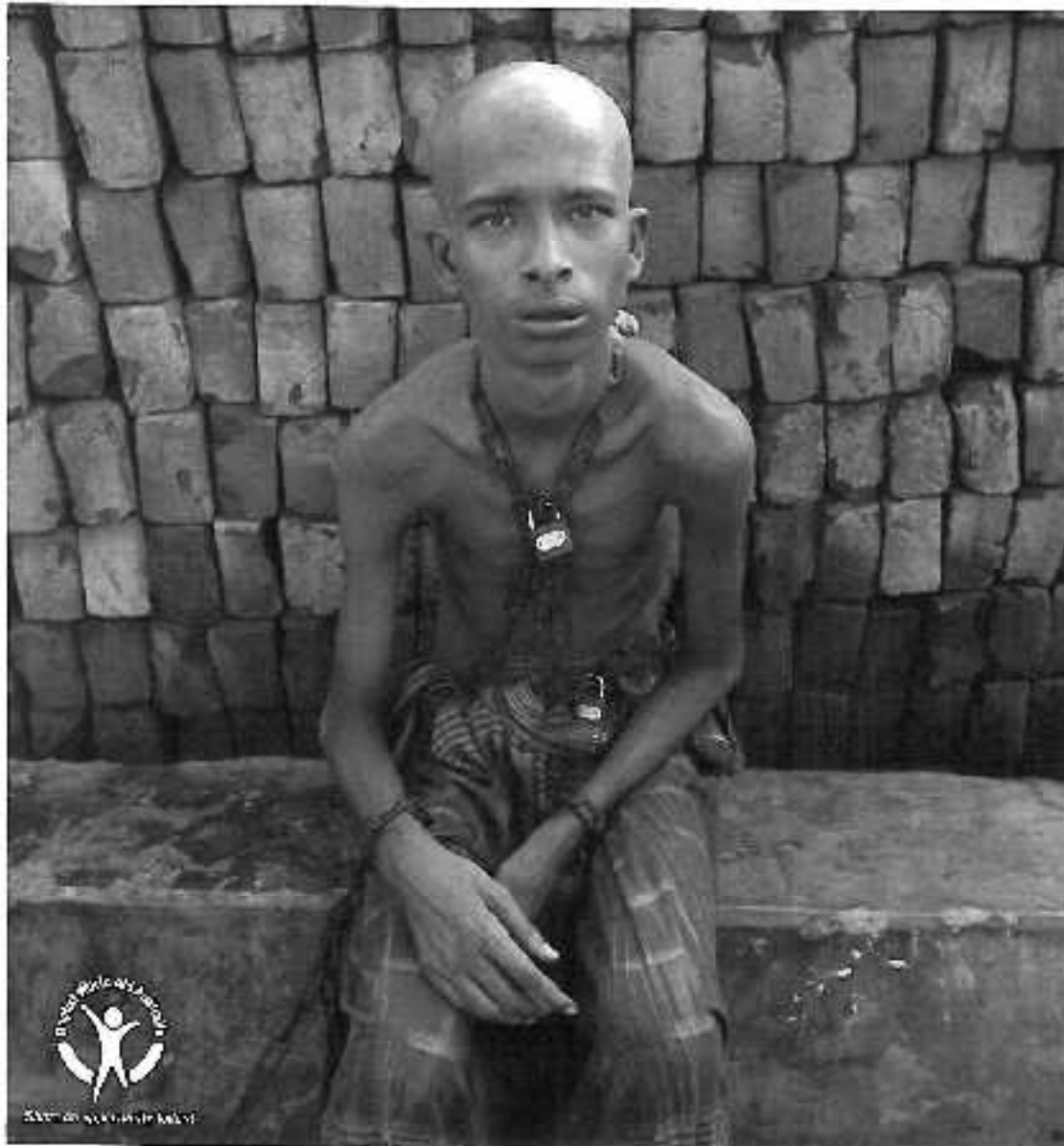
Due to social and economic problems, many Afghan women perform self-immolation. Increasing numbers of Afghan women are committing suicide by setting fire to themselves to escape difficult lives, according to NGOs based in the country.

Photo courtesy of the BIRN team in Afghanistan

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Oppression and Injustice



Dhaka, Bangladesh

A mentally ill boy is held by restraints as a precaution when he turns violent, Dhaka city, Bangladesh, May 2007.

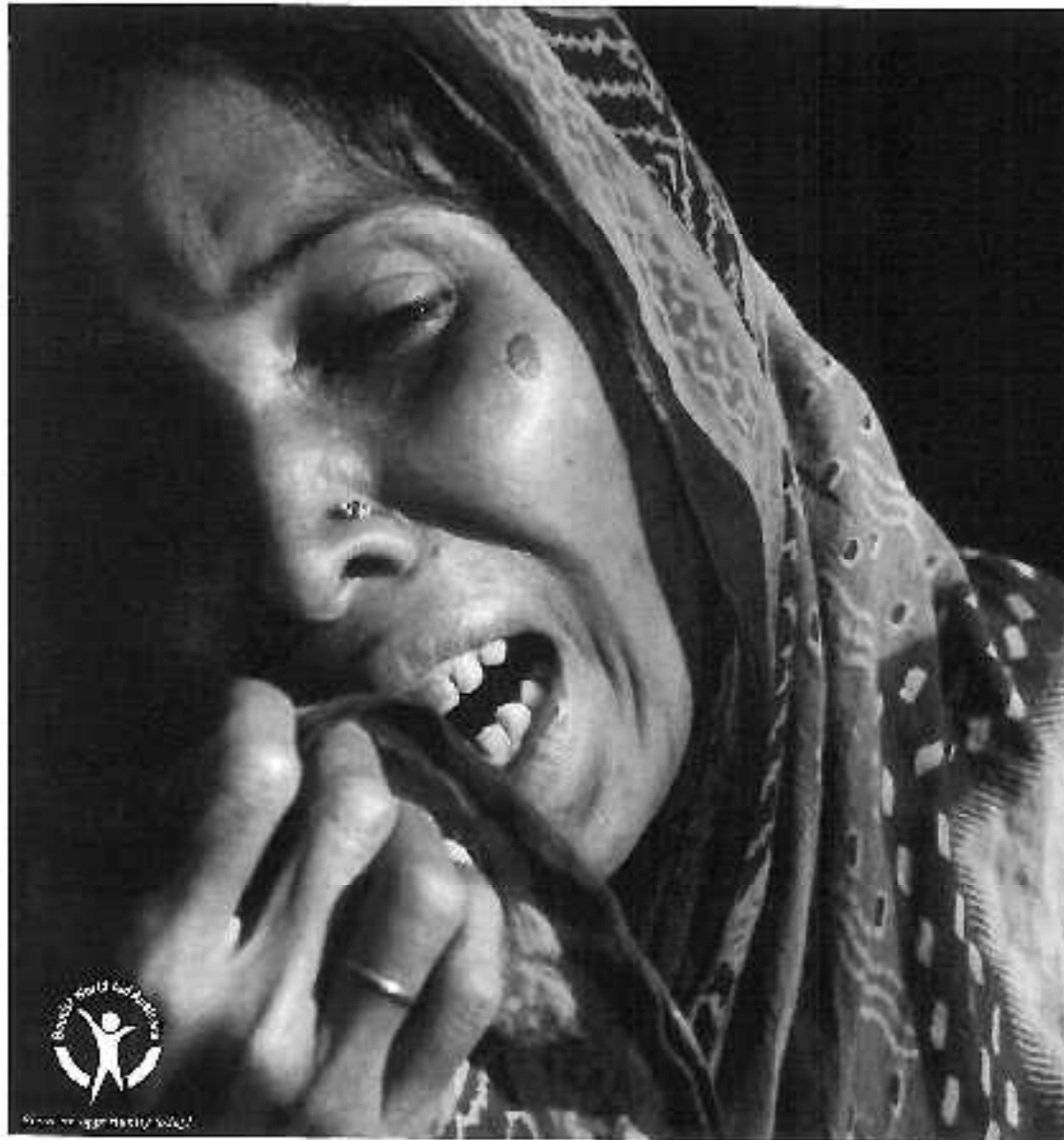
Even though a large number of Bangladeshi people are suffering from different types of mental illness, they are often neglected. Mental illness in Bangladesh occurs at a similar rate as in developed countries.

Source: www.50:50.org, RRMH, Udaipur, India

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Indifference



Bagerhat, Bangladesh

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Photo: © 2008 by World Council of Churches



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Resources

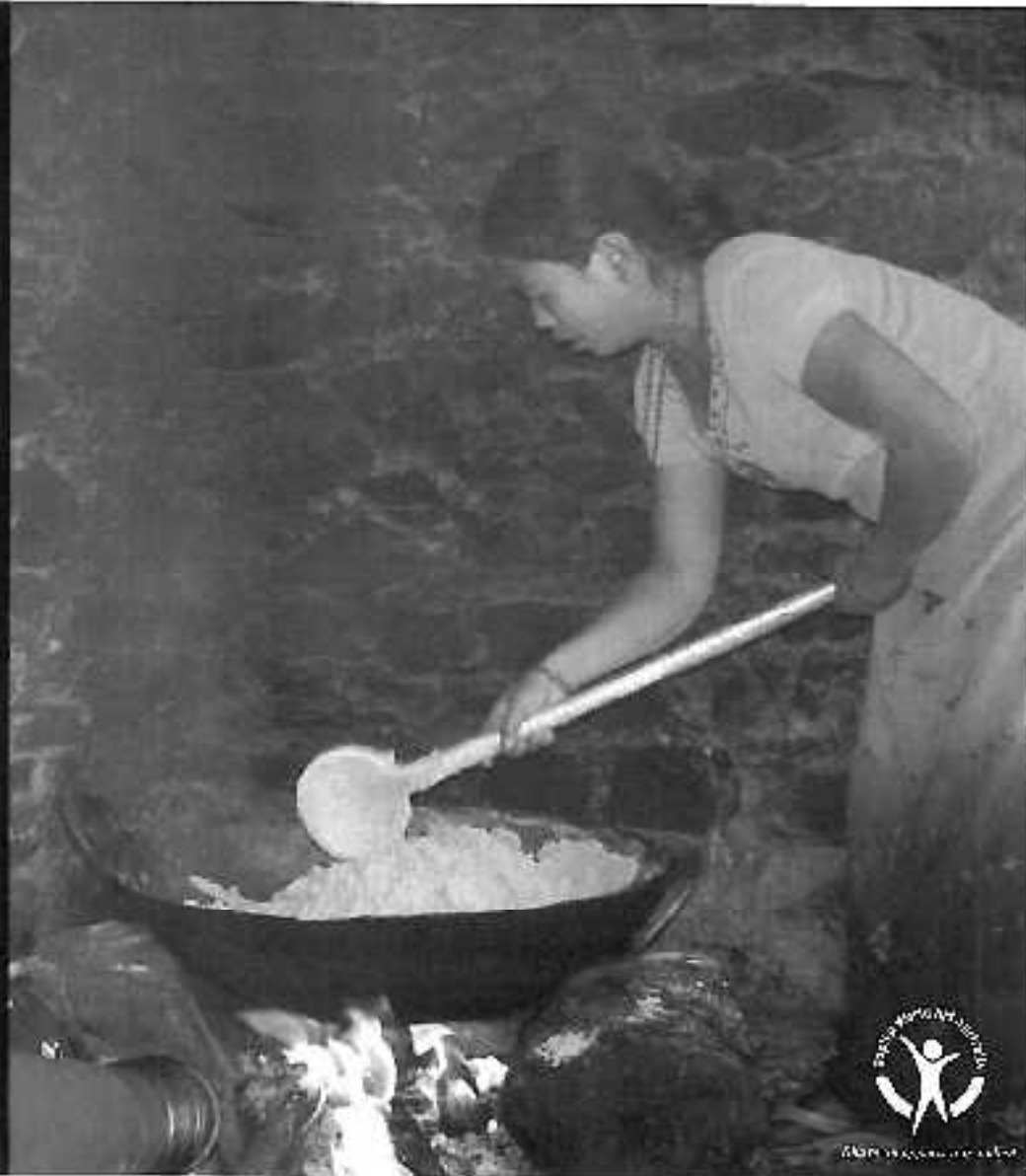
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Health Care

Soc Trang, Vietnam

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"The project provides jobs for landless people here in the hunger period, and ensures our source of fish and crabs from the forest mud flats"

Photo: © 2010 World Council of Churches

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Community Formation



Kabul, Afghanistan

A female patient in the burns section of Esteqlal hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 2008.

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Photo courtesy of the B.R. Hunt Foundation



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Justice and Mercy

