



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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- **Vulnerable Mission Conference, Norwich, UK.** We are in the process of finalising organisational details for a vulnerable mission's conference to be held in or near Norwich, UK, November 2013.
- **Vulnerable Mission workshop** to be held at WCIU (William Carey International University) 24th September 2013. That is in Pasadena in California. Please put the date in your diary and welcome to join us. We are looking for potential speakers – please write to jim@vulnerablemission.org
- See here for information on **mission-net 2013/4 congress** to be held in Offenburg, Germany. This event will attract thousands of young people from around Europe. AVM was represented at the last event in 2011/12. We are looking for volunteers to help us over 2013/14. http://mission-net.org/sites/default/files/files/M-N_8-pages_GB_web.pdf
- **Equal Partnership Initiative.** Marcus Grohmann has written up a report of an initiative he is engaged in that is linking young people from Western countries with Rwandans and other Africans. He does not claim that this is perfect, but is happy to share this report and welcomes comment, discussion or feedback to marcus.grohmann@gmx.de See: <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/equal-partnership-initiative/>
- “The catchphrase goes, “**Make poverty history.**” But how? These speakers' innovative ideas may convince you to forget the traditional models -- grants, aid, charity -- and consider business, technology and trade instead.” See this site for some innovative thoughts about doing away with poverty. http://www.ted.com/themes/rethinking_poverty.html

- http://www.ted.com/talks/david_damberger_what_happens_when_an_ngo_admits_failure.html **articulates failures** in engineering projects from Canada in Africa. Damberger advocates that people working in the developing world be more open to failure of their projects.
- When most well-intentioned aid workers hear of a problem they think they can fix, they go to work on it. This, Ernesto Sirotli suggests, is naïve. In this funny and impassioned talk, he proposes that the first step is to **listen to the people you're trying to help**, and tap into their own entrepreneurial spirit. His advice on what works will help any entrepreneur. (Sirotli's advice is that a development worker should *listen*. He does not especially advocate either local language or local resources.)
http://www.ted.com/talks/ernesto_sirotli_want_to_help_someone_shut_up_and_listen.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly_2012-11-30&utm_campaign=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email
- Here is a fascinating perspective on language that seems to speak into the heart of VM issues by Ivan Illich:
<http://www.preservenet.com/theory/Illich/Vernacular.html#VERNACULAR>
A quote from the paper: “Vernacular spreads by practical use; it is learned from people who mean what they say and who say what they mean to the person they address in the context of everyday life. This is not so in taught language ... The model for taught colloquial is somebody who does not say what he means, but who recites what others have contrived. ... **Taught colloquial is the language of the announcer who follows the script that an editor was told by a publicist that a board of directors had decided should be said.** Taught colloquial is the dead, impersonal rhetoric of people paid to declaim with phony conviction texts composed by others, who themselves are usually paid only for **designing** the text. ... This is language that... is meant for the spectator who watches the scene. ... While the vernacular is engendered in me by the intercourse between complete persons locked in conversation with each other, taught language is syntonic with loud speakers whose assigned job is gab.” (emphasis in original).
- Those people with a particular interest in Africa may be glad to know that a classic book by Catholic Priest Placide Tempels is now available freely over the internet. This book, entitled *Bantu Philosophy*, has been extremely influential in African studies, and ought to be more influential in missiological studies.
<http://www.congoforum.be/upldocs/Tempels%20BantuPhil%20English%201959.pdf>
- A call for a **post-modern paradigm in missions**:
http://0316b3d.netsolhost.com/images/Our_Mission_Today.pdf “The “donor syndrome” on the part of the West, and the “dependence syndrome” on the part of the Third World probably will be a reality for a while longer, but these are leftovers from the past paradigm” says Ray Green.

- Jim Harries, at times accompanied by others members of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission board, has a **visiting programme for 2013**:
<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/jim-harries-travel-2013/>
Please join him whenever the programme takes him to your area! For more information or proposals for other places that he might visit write to jim@vulnerablemission.org