



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.

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The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.

ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION
Avoiding unhealthy dependency

Local languages only

Local resources only

Avoiding DEPENDENCY in Global Christian mission VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer

AVM day conferences

- Acomb Baptist church, York
11th April 2015
- Queens Road Baptist church Coventry
18th April 2015

AVM residential conference — Redcliffe College, Gloucester
14th – 16th April 2015

also Mission executive consultation by invitation only — Oxford, 22nd to 23rd April 2015

Two conferences, Marburg and Stuttgart in Germany May 8 to 11 2015

Details of all these conferences at vulnerablemission.org

Logos: twf (Speaking Hope to the World), redcliffe college, wmausa.org, Akademie für Weltmission, mbs studienprogramm

- for UK 2015 brochure go here: http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/brochure_UK_confs_20151.pdf



Fred Lewis, new AVM executive board member, grew up in one of the suburbs of Los Angeles, CA, received a M.Div. at Denver Seminary in Colorado and then served as an associate pastor at a church in farming country near Tulsa, OK. In rural Uganda he lived and served among the Bakonjo, ministering in Swahili; in Ukraine and Russia he lived in large cities, ministering in Russian. In Pasadena, CA he was Vice President of Academic Affairs at WCIU, a ministry of the US Center for World Mission. His current ministry at WorldView in Portland, OR is occupied with teaching present and future cross-cultural workers how to learn another culture.

We are still looking for more papers to be presented at the 2015 Redcliffe conference. For details of call for papers see here: <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/Call-for-Papers-2015-Redcliffe.pdf>

- People doing agricultural development ‘get’ the dependency thing! See this article entitled: ‘Why Many African Farmers Choose Not to Engage in Development’ <https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/echocommunity.site-ym.com/resource/collection/62026577-227A-4FB0-8B25-B0838484CED7/Issue123.pdf>
- **But we didn't mean you.** Two key rules for mission that come from Deuteronomy 31:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. An excellent read that tells about Mennonite work with the Toba people of the South American Chaco! http://www.themennonite.org/issues/17-6/articles/But_we_didnt_mean_you#
- Please visit the **AVM facebook page**, and like the page! Then feel free to post some of your thoughts and insights on the page; <https://www.facebook.com/vulnerablemission>
- Alex Araujo's email to pearl on 7.7.14 contained the following thoughts: (<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/machines-horses-and-vulnerable-mission/>). It compared machines, horses and vulnerable mission in a very interesting and effective way. Have a look and see what you think. Welcome to join the pearl discussion forum by writing to Jim at jim@vulnerablemission.org
- Continuous Language and Culture Studies are indispensable for mission, says Detlef Bloecher, mission director for DMG (Deutsche Missions Gemeinschaft, German Missions' Fellowship). Detlef has done detailed statistical research comparing those mission agencies who take language and cultural learning seriously, as against those who do not. He has found a MUCH GREATER EFFECTIVENESS and especially field-missionary longevity on the side of those agencies who strongly encourage ongoing language and cultural learning. See the full article (in English) here: https://www.dmgint.de/files/cto_layout/img/red/downloads/PDFs/englisch/Continuous%20Language%20Studies%20DBloecher%20714.pdf For more related articles see also here: <https://www.dmgint.de/mission-en/research-papers.html>

- I have drafted an article that looks at the relevance of vulnerable mission in majority world urban contexts. If anyone would like a copy please let me know. I am in the process of looking for a publisher for it, so any comments or corrections would also be appreciated. (Wret to me at jim@vulnerablemission.org)
- **Recent developments in cognitive science** may be of interest to VMers. I recently read a book by Benjamin Bergen (Bergen, Benjamin K., 2012. *Louder than Words: the new science of how the mind makes meaning*. New York: Basic Books). Bergen points us to embodied language, and shows us ways in which cognitive studies can enlighten our understanding of human beings and human thinking. Bergen demonstrates, using contemporary precise computerised research technology, that thinking is embodied. That is; human thought and as a result language is so integrally linked with the functioning of the human body and the context of life that it may be impossible to think outside of one's physical context. This to me has implications about bodily resurrection. More specifically for VMers; if thought itself is so strongly contextual, then clearly people will interpret theology contextually, suggesting that a prerequisite to the effective communication of knowledge of God is a sharing of context, something that VM seeks to enable.

Not strictly VM but may still be of interest:

Eddie Arthur produces some interesting blogs. Here are 'Some Thoughts about Missionaries' from him; <http://www.kouya.net/?p=5915>