



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin
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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.

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<i>Fred Lewis</i>	<i>Jean Johnson</i>	<i>Stan Nussbaum</i>

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

- See below for **CALL FOR PAPERS** for vulnerable mission conference to be held at Redcliffe College in Gloucester, UK, April 2015!!!

2015 conferences are to be as follows:

UK
11th April York.
14th to 16th April Gloucester
18th April Coventry
22nd to 23rd April Oxford (by invitation only)

GERMANY
8th to 9th May (date provisional) Marburg
13th May (date provisional) Korntal (by invitation only).

Please make a note in your diaries!

- To join pearl; active internet discussions on vulnerable mission issues, write to jim@vulnerablemission.org

- The AVM is very happy to announce that **Fred Lewis** has accepted to join our executive board. Fred Lewis works with the Worldview Center in Portland, Oregon: <http://www.iiccworldview.org/>. More details next month.
- American Society of Missiology gathering that will be this June 20-22 in St. Paul, MN maybe of interest to some members of the AVM. Their broad theme is "Contextualization in the Contemporary World."
- http://www.ijfm.org/PDFs_IJFM/24_2_PDFs/24_2_Gefen.pdf Indigenous people who come to be Christ should be encouraged to do so while respecting their forefathers, including the feasts and celebrations of their forefathers, says Gavriel Gefen in this article. Gefen, a Messianic Jew, tells us that just because God gave the Jews certain feast days and celebrations, does not mean that everyone should celebrate the same ...
- Henrich and co. point out that Westerners, and not 'primitive people' are the 'weird' ones! Such reversal is challenging. There are REAL psychological differences between Western (especially North American) and other people around the world, says Henrich. Yet, almost all theoretical research is done on Americans! Others are just assumed to be the same. This gap between Americans / Westerners and other people in the world is one that vulnerable mission can help us to recognise, and then take account of. See: http://www2.psych.ubc.ca/%7Eera/Manuscripts/Weird_People_BBS_Henrich_etal_FullPackage.pdf
- The next Micah Global Triennial Consultation will be held Monday 14th to Friday 18th September 2015 in Peru, Latin America. Draft theme; *Integral Mission and Shalom: peace, hope and joy*. (The Micah network leadership acknowledge the implicit value in the vulnerable mission message. We look forward to engaging with them more closely.)
- You cannot have civilisation without religion, says Russel Kirk in this article. I have been convinced! This to me is an important affirmation, that the major means to bring 'change' to the good to different peoples around the world is through what we could call 'religious innovation', over and above so-called economic development: <http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles/KirkCivilization.php>



- EMS OB focuses on Vulnerable Mission! The Spring 2014 edition of the Occasional Bulletin of the EMS (Evangelical Missiological Society – see emsweb.org) is now out. It contains **excellent articles that were presented by Tim Reeves, Jean Johnson and John Henry at the recent UK**

conference. Get your free copy of the Bulletin here:

http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/OB_Spring_2014.pdf

Call for Papers



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (vulnerablemission.org) believes that some Western missionaries should engage in (key) ministry outside of the West using local languages and resources.



A Conference entitled:

Avoiding DEPENDENCY in global Christian mission: VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer

**is to be held 14th to 16th April 2015 at Redcliffe Missionary
Training College, Gloucester, UK.**

Co-sponsored by Alliance for Vulnerable Mission, Redcliffe College, TWR, WMA
(World Mission Associates).



redcliffe college



www.wmausa.org



Speaking Hope to the World

Wonderful projects planned for people outside of the Western world frequently end up failing, generating unhealthy dependency, and / or planting the prosperity gospel. Various means are sought to resolve such lack of success. One conclusion frequently drawn is that local beneficiaries are responsible for their own failure. After all, 'we' in the West are sacrificially doing what we can for them.



At the same time:

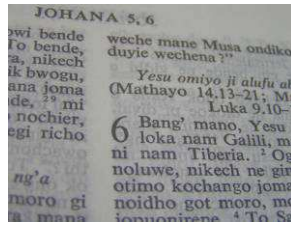
- Missionaries and development workers who go to the field usually concede that they really should learn and use indigenous languages in their ministries. But often they do not do so.
- Missionaries and development workers who go to the field usually concede that things they do should really be locally funded. But they end up paying for things with money from the West.



The West is busy making Christian mission and development assistance as easy as possible for its own people, i.e. for people from the West working on international development and mission. From transport technology (aeroplanes), to languages (English as global language), to health care (global health insurance), to money (global banking networks), and so on, the world is increasingly set up to cater for mission teams and Western domination! Have we thought that perhaps making life easy for Westerners might be resulting in failure to meet 'the other' at depth? Is it enough to be well-intentioned when Western people float around in Western bubbles being addressed by local yes-men in our Western languages?



Much development intervention is rooted in biblical precedent. The Bible tells us to 'go' (Matthew 28:19) to make Disciples of Christ. Does that justify taking the whole kit and caboodle of secularism to make other people look and sound as much like us Westerners as possible? It can seem as if pressure from Western societies encourages us to be as enthusiastic in spreading the products of secularism as we once were taking the Gospel.



The missionary has ‘good’ excuses: Learning the language is too hard, and takes too much time. After all; more and more people now know English. Relying on local resources would take far too long, so let’s use money we can get easily from back in the West to make our project work fast and impressively!



At this conference we want to consider the following as a potential solution:

To avoid creating unhealthy dependency (and prosperity gospel and all that goes with it) we need more western missionaries and development workers who root their work in local languages and local resources.

We want to hear from people who can expand on, add to, and throw further light on this! Limited places available at this conference. Early booking will be advised.

We are looking for the following:

Please let us know if you are interested in contributing a paper;

jim@vulnerablemission.org

Title and abstract (100 to 200 words) for proposed papers: to be submitted to jim@vulnerablemission.org for evaluation before December 1st 2014.

(Some papers from our 2013 conference have just been published at globalmissiology.org Others in an EMS Occasional Bulletin here:

http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/OB_Spring_2014.pdf



The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) was founded in 2007. It has close informal links with organisations such as WEA (World Evangelical Alliance), WMA (World Mission Associates), SIL, Abilene Christianity University, TWR, Redcliffe college, and many others.

The AVM ran conferences and other events in 2009, 2012 and 2013 in USA, UK and Germany.

Other events arranged by the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in 2015 include:

UK, York, 11th April: day-conference.

UK, Coventry, 18th April: day-conference.

UK, Oxford, 22-23rd April, Mission Leaders Conference (by invitation only).

Germany, Marburg, 8th to 9th May, Conference.

Germany, Korntal, 13th May 2015, Mission Leaders Conference (by invitation only).



Details will continue to be posted at: vulnerablemission.org and updates will be sent around in the free monthly email AVM Bulletin (to subscribe, write to jim@vulnerablemission.org)