



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

mbs studienprogramm
international, interdisziplinär, interkulturell



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More information will soon be available on the 2015 German vulnerable mission events. They will be held in Marburg (Germany), 8th to 9th May and in Stuttgart on 11th May 2015. The former is to be open to all. The latter is to be by invitation only. The title: *Verletzliche Mission - Impulse zur Vermeidung von Abhängigkeiten in der weltweiten missionarischen Arbeit.*

information on UK events ----- see p4 below

Jean Johnson's message given to NCBC (Norwich Central Baptist Church) in 2013 is recorded here: <http://dynamic.church123.com/podcast/2295696f-e339-48b2-942c-e59173b5c5ff> This message is not directly about vulnerable mission, but indirectly touches on many of our key themes in relation to sharing of the Good News of Jesus.

report

Herbstkonferenz der SMD (Autumn conference of the SMD – Student Mission Deutschland)



Frank Paul recently participated in a youth missions conference arranged by SMD in Marburg, Germany. It is

encouraging to have AVM participants actively reaching others with core ideas on vulnerable mission. Here is Frank's biographical description from the website (in German):

„Frank Paul ist in der ökumenischen Kommunität OJC Koordinator von Projekten und Partnerschaften in anderen Teilen der Welt, für interkulturelles Bibellesen und Netzwerkarbeit. „Einen großen Teil meines Lebens habe ich im argentinischen Chaco verbracht. Was mir zum Thema Mission wichtig geworden ist: Als Gottes Mitarbeiter auf lokale Stärken, Sprachen und Ressourcen bauen, statt mit ausländischem Geld und importierten Sprachen in kurzer Zeit vorgefertigte Ergebnisse erzielen.“

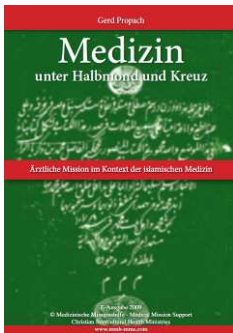
<http://www.smd.org/smd/herbstkonferenz/heko-2014/referenten/>



Here is a **report on the conference** written by Marcus Grohmann, member of the German board of the AVM: “We had a panel discussion (Frank was one of four people with one perspective each on world mission) and a forum with around 50-60 people afterwards, focussing on VM. Some people gave Frank a hard time, trying to understand the implications of VM and wondering how „radical“ AVM proposes to do VM. But

Frank was brave and did very well. From what I learned I believe that a number of people were definitely challenged to think about their mission ideas.”





A book in German called *Ärztliche Mission im Kontext der islamischen Medizin* (available here: <http://www.mmh-mms.com/downloads/medizinislamkreuz.pdf>) gives a ‘vulnerable mission’ perspective on mission medicine. Look especially at chapter 3. The rest of the book takes a fascinating look at medical missions in the context of Islamic medicine.

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The below is taken from the Micah Network Newsletter, October 2014. It seems to speak in favour of vulnerable mission ...

In for the long haul?

This blog (<http://www.micahchallenge.org/blogs/151>) was written by Joel Edwards, International Director of Micah Challenge.



Two weeks ago a friend was in the middle of an important explanation to her young niece, who promptly ran off to play with her siblings. At least, she explained, this case wasn't so bad: sometimes they ran off before they got the answer to the question they had actually asked! And my friend isn't a boring person.

It's not just child's play. Grown ups often find it hard to stay focused and many of us get impatient waiting for the microwave. We hate things dragging out. Wikipedia suggests that transient attention span can be as short as 8 seconds whilst selective sustained attention may vary between 10 to 40 minutes. As we are increasingly aware, our fast-moving, rapid response, instant culture is collapsing history into short decades and so much of what we do is motivated by short term gratification. And of course this also applies in doing the right thing.

Are you still with me?!

It's another reason why popular advocacy is changing its nature. The rapid response approach of initiatives such as Avaaz and Change.org which have swept so many of us into popular response has been great news precisely because these campaigns often identify emotive and short term issues to tackle. And that's great news for advocacy and the people or issues involved.


But it's not the whole story and the truth of the matter is that so much of the great movements which have changed the course of history have been long and embattled initiatives.

It's a lesson we have been learning in our own experiments with Christian advocacy. When we launched **the exposed campaign** in October 2012 we had our sights firmly set on the G20 in November 2014. But we began to learn that a campaign sustained over more than a few months really is hard work for most of us. Indeed some of our most able partners felt that a two year campaign was unsustainable – which may be true for many of us.

The fact is we are quick to revere the Suffragettes, Wilberforce, Shaftesbury, Ghandi or M. L. King Jnr., but we are not keen to emulate them. But from time to time news emerges of simple heroes and heroines who fought tirelessly for many years for friends or family members and eventually came out as victors for justice.

Long term advocacy is a biblical idea which appears in one of the most powerful examples of righteous endurance. It's the story of an unjust judge who eventually gave way to the lobbying of a widow – not because she was powerful but because she was persistent (Luke 18).

It's a calling to tenacity which we must not forget because we can never speak up for too long for those who need it, and because God is a deliverer who is in it for the long haul.



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION
 Avoiding unhealthy dependency

Avoiding DEPENDENCY in Global Christian mission
- VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer

AVM UK
day conferences

Acomb Baptist church, York
 11th April 2015

Queens Road Baptist church Coventry
 18th April 2015



AVM UK
residential conference

Redcliffe College, Gloucester
 14th – 16th April 2015

also Mission executive consultation
by invitation only

Oxford, 22nd to 23rd April 2015

Sponsored by
 Redcliffe College
 TWR
 World Mission Associates
 Global Connections
 MBS studienprogramm
 AWM Akademie für Weltmission

Two conferences, Marburg and Stuttgart in Germany May 8 to 11 2015
 Details of all these conferences at vulnerablemission.org

For AVM Bulletins archives see here:

<http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/avm-bulletins/index.html>