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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.



Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to jim@vulnerablemission.org
 This month's contents:
Upcoming 2023 AVM Webinars.
Corks in Cambodia discusses vulnerable mission.
Learning local language is selfish.
Video of Frank Paul speaking to people in the Toba Kom language.
Are Western Values Universal?
China Declares 'Western Values' to be of Christian Origins.



Diary Date - our next quarterly AVM webinar:

Sowing Hope in incarnational mission: Living as neighbours in an unchurched, multicultural quarter in East Germany.

Speaker: Ute and Frank Paul

When: Tuesday, 24th January 2023

Time: 14:00 London Time

Sign up using this form for free and we will send you a Zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/nPHnkyDYHnEmeDbC9>

And up-coming future AVM webinars:

We're not the Hero... Common missionary traps and ways to avoid them, in order to share Christ, not a culture of dependency - Jean Johnson, April 2023.

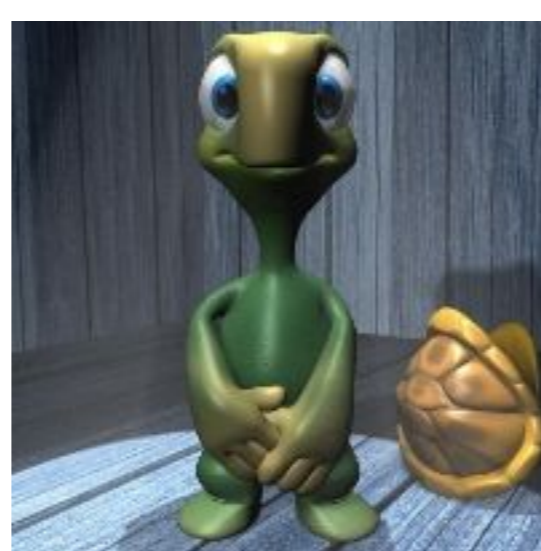
A framework for understanding your role as an Outsider - Craig Greenfield, 20th July 2023.

How appropriate and helpful is the distinction between religion and culture? Views from a US-American serving in Japan - Chris Sadowitz, 19th October 2023.

Want a taster? Although we don't list most webinars publicly - you can see our April 2022 webinar (the presentation bit) here:

<https://youtu.be/uV4HYCZdFEU>

..ooOoo..



Corks in Cambodia discusses vulnerable mission

<https://corksincambodia.com/2016/11/10/mission-hypotheses-2-vulnerable-mission/>

It is always interesting to discover how others interpret one's own work. McCorkindale, a missionary to Cambodia, here discusses the relevance of vulnerable mission to his work and context. Here is a part of McCorkindale's post: "I've been guilty of this rhetoric: 'What they need is ...', followed by, 'and I can provide that.' ... Obviously, there is a need of some sort. What vulnerable mission does is shape how we offer ourselves: as those with vulnerability, not as those to the vulnerable."

..ooOoo..



Learning local language is selfish

<https://corksincambodia.com/2020/10/13/digital-dep-7-learning-local-language-is-selfish/>

McCorkindale seems here to run contrary to vulnerable mission advocacy, by suggesting that for a missionary to use an indigenous language, in this case Khmer, can be selfish. Some people, in this case particularly leaders in theological education, should be helped to learn English, McCorkindale argues. It is, after all, only English that can enable Cambodians to acquire advanced qualifications in theology. McCorkindale ends by asking: 'What do you think?' I could end with a similar question: 'what do *you* think?'

..ooOoo..



Video of Frank Paul speaking to people in the Toba Kom language.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0G69nk9powh9HKzmmcpoC1yzEQA1Zm6wgH5AU8NJ9BQhyJqdAiJjoHb39nKEZzW5l&id=100012369911357

It is fascinating, to me at least, to see my friend and colleague Frank Paul speaking in the Toba Kom language! (Frank is a member of the AVM board.) There's a challenge for others, to acquire such kind of fluency in the languages they learn on the mission field! See him in action, filmed by a local person, in this video that was posted on facebook.

..ooOoo..



Are Western Values Universal?

<https://shows.acast.com/drumtower/episodes/drum-tower-back-to-the-future>

This podcast, put out by *The Economist*, considers China's claim, that Western values are not universal. Today's global order is based on rules and values articulated in the post second world war period. Many in the West consider these rules and values to be universal, objective, and really 'obvious', so that they should be adopted by everyone. If the values are not so obvious, then the West's endeavouring to lead global community is like "telling people what religion they should have, what God they should pray to," suggest Rennie and Su, the authors of the podcast. Thus this is a back-door way in which *The Economist* is backing global Christian Mission. Not prioritizing Christian mission, is according to them, imposing an understanding that will perpetuate global Western hegemony.

..ooOoo..



China Declares 'Western Values' to be of Christian Origins

<https://www.economist.com/special-report/2022/10/10/china-wants-to-change-or-break-a-world-order-set-by-others>

If this and Su are to be believed, then China considers Western values to be not universal at all, but profoundly Christian, monotheistic, and theological. On this basis, and given that there is certainly truth in this, I (the editor) suggest that the West ought to get its head out of the sand, concede this, and concentrate on promoting the Gospel as a means of taking global development forward today.

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