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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.



Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to jim@vulnerablemission.org

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Demons Come Back

<https://youtu.be/C8iKgpYbk>

This webinar, held 25th January 2024, was led by Andy McCullough. Andy lives in Reading in UK. He has previously lived in Cyprus and ministered in the Middle East. Andy expounded on his famed advocating for humility by missionaries. Even the fact that he was advocating for humility, seemed to

say something – when it seems obvious that missionaries ought to be ‘humble’! Andy drew on Matthew 12:43-44 to emphasise three things: 1. When we ‘leave home’ to go on mission, we will be spiritually challenged. 2. Being humble must be a deeply personal exercise. 3. Demons come back: Not concentrating on our task, can soon have us back to playing host to demons.

..ooOoo..



Indigen und christlich – Widerspruch oder Bereicherung?

('Indigenous and Christian - Contradiction or Enrichment?')

<https://mission.de/blog/indigen-und-christlich.html>

In Nagaland, India, Christian identity and indigenous tribal identity have long been inextricably linked. But can you be indigenous AND Christian? And if so, how? In her blog post, Moasenla reports on the changing path of the Naga tribes with Christianity in the course of history and explains how it is nowadays possible to unite (apparently) contradictory things.

..ooOoo..



Developments in the life of Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Video 1. Ayaan Hirsi Ali becomes a Christian:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B6oLMrHQhs&t=2s>

Video 2. A prior presentation given by Ayaan. A lecture she gave before she became a believer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADliPyagyaA>

Once-Muslim, Somali-born advocate for atheism Ayaan Hirsi Ali, announced in November 2023 that she is now a Christian (video 1). Ayaan has published many books and articles, participated in many public debates, and given many lectures. (Video 2 is one of those.)

Marcus Grohman comments on video 2: 'Great talk. She brings to light many issues that we try to engage with through Vulnerable Mission and that can help people see the Gospel transform their lives and communities.'

..ooOoo..



Webinar: A Case for the Practice of Vulnerable Mission in Ministry of Westerners amongst African People

<https://missionexus.org/webinar-a-case-for-the-practice-of-vulnerable-mission-in-ministry-of-westerners-amongst-african-people/>

Go to this link to see the video (or you can listen to the MP3) of Jim's recent presentation to missionexus. The same content can be found in Jim's book entitled *Vulnerable Mission: Listening to God and Man in Africa*.

..ooOoo..



SOAS lecture: Researching Africa in Light of the 'Religions' of Anti-racism and Christianity

<https://youtu.be/P0mON65J3Jw>

Jim presented a lecture at Centre for World Christianity of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) at the University of London, on 18th October 2023. A technical failure in university equipment has prevented SOAS from posting a record of the lecture on their website. Fortunately Jim made his own audio recording, which you can listen to through the above link. Here is the abstract to the paper on which this talk was based, that is awaiting peer review for publication: "Considering contemporary anti-racism in the West as a kind of 'religion', Jim's presentation will show how belief in this religion of anti-racism is being taken advantage of to undergird and perpetuate Western domination. A pretence at global homogeneity is used to conceal what the Gospel has brought to Europe, and could bring to others. The White European uses anti-racism to validate his position as the new god, i.e., the global norm to be aspired to, communicated through English, as if English is neutral. Putting aside a supposed need for generosity, that has become control, some Westerners need to get to African grassroots. They are to inform the West using English, while African scholars of the West tell their fellows about Europe using African tongues. This is to uplift the work of the Gospel, and the freedom brought by faith in Christ."

..ooOoo..



Socially constructed meanings of *Impucuko* in a comparative historical analysis

<https://open.uct.ac.za/items/38e37c87-b883-4a3c-b644-1b598c2da628>

This Master's Thesis by Zimingtonaphakade Sigenu (University of Cape Town) points out the need to consider indigenous meaning making ('endogeneity') and concepts in development and research. She analyses the changing understanding of '*impucuko*' from her native isiXhosa (commonly translated as 'development' or 'civilisation') over the course of 100 years. Fascinating connections are established with tradition and modernity, the changing political landscape of South Africa, Christianity and its bearing on traditional rituals and customs as well as a broader socio-linguistic African context. Sigenu concludes: "centring the experiences and languages of the previously neglected can offer innovative ways to develop contextually relevant concepts and critical conceptual tools, which can contribute to African theory making and challenge the hegemony assumed by western scholarship and the English language" (Sigenu, p. 74)

..ooOoo..



The International Congress on Language Learning: 2024 Online Conference

AVM research coordinator Marcus Grohmann, and AVM chair Jim Harries, are both to present workshops at this online language-learning conference.

Don't Miss Out!
[The International Congress on Language Learning
2024 Online Conference](#)
[Register Now!](#)

THEME - Language Learning in Multiples: *Multiple Languages, Multiple Modalities, and Multiple Intelligences*

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

This event would be beneficial for those who are:

- Responsible for training and helping cross-cultural workers in language learning.
- Interested in becoming a language helper for cross-cultural workers.
- Leaders who want to understand the landscape of learning language in a cross-cultural context.

DATES: February 22-24, 2024 (All Online)

RATES: \$120 for 3 Day Online Conference

REGISTRATION INCLUDES: Access to all sessions, materials and videos for one year following conference

Scholarship - \$25 registration cost for passport holders of countries defined by the World Bank as “low”, “lower-middle” income economy

[Register Now!](#)

Come and be part of a connected online community that cares for global workers who are learning the heart languages of those they are reaching with the Gospel of Christ.

ICLL 2024 is an Online Conference focused on learning more about field-based language learning, best practices, coaching language learning, and connecting with experts in second language acquisition.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Lonna Dickerson, PhD - *Coaching Basics: Beliefs and Principles I & II*

Thor Sawin - *The Changing Landscape of Language Learning in the US: How This Impacts New Field Workers*

Language Coaches and Caregiving Panel

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Jeff Brake - *Lay Counseling for the Language Coach*

Sam Brittain - *Supporting Families with Small Children*

Marcus Grohmann - *DECOLONIAL Mission: Learning an Indigenous Language in an English-Dominated Multilingual Context*

Jim Harries - *The Importance of Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics in Language Use and Evaluation: An African Consideration*

Jonathan - *Back to Basics: Rediscovering the Core Tenets and Defense for Language Learning*

Mark & Jenn LaChonce - *Are One-On-One or Group Classes Better?*

Carol Lewis - *GenZ Request: “Reduce the Stress!”*

Nora McNamara - *Common Misconceptions about the GPA*

Natalie Mullen Leisher - *Working with Advanced and Superior Learners*

Speaker M - *GPA Online: Effectively Adjusting for Remote Learners*

Carol Orwig - *Developing Grammatical Competence within a Communicative Approach to Language Learning*

David R. - *AI Assisted Language Learning: Insights from the ChatGPT Revolution*

Todd S. - *Gospel Fluency*

Sharna Steinert - *When Learning More than One Language at a Time*

Rachael Tsaneva - *“But I’m an [Insert Type Here]”: Leveraging Personality Traits in Language Learning*

Lauren C. Vitrano-Wilson - *Maximizing and Implementing Benefits*

[For a Detailed Schedule](#)

Please forward this information on to any colleagues or others who are responsible for language learners.

[Learn More](#)

Questions? Please contact us via emailing ICLL@mti.org, calling 719-487-0111, or using WhatsApp (720) 704-8744.

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18th April 2024: Tamie Davis



Truth in contextual ministry

Relative, different or expanded?



17th October 2024: Craig McCorkindale



Teaching the Bible cross-culturally in a local language
Benefits and requirements



25th July 2024: Dr. Natalie Mullen



The When's and How's of language learning as basis for fruitful cross-cultural ministry



Upcoming webinars in 2024

Next webinar; 18th April 2024. Make a note in your diary! (See below for details of subsequent upcoming webinars this year.)

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/alliance-for-vulnerable-mission-avm-65593048623>

AVM webinars home page:

<https://www.vulnerablemission.org/quarterly-webinar>