



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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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.

Conferences Imminent

Some places remain on the vulnerable mission conference due to be held at the Redcliffe Missionary Training College, Gloucester, 14th to 16th April 2015. Speakers are to include:

- Dr. Tim Davey (Redcliffe college faculty).
- Andrew Wingfield (missionary in Tanzania)
- Jean Johnson (co-director, World Mission Associates)
- Tim Reeves (board member, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission)
- Maik Gibson (SIL, Redcliffe College faculty)
- Fred Lewis (by video-link, Worldview Center, USA)
- Dr. Jim Harries (missionary in East Africa)

For information on how to register see here: <http://goo.gl/JN52Cm>

For working programme of the Redcliffe conference, see below:

Redcliffe Conference, 14th to 16th April 2015. Programme.					
Avoiding DEPENDENCY in global Christian mission: VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer					
		Tuesday 14th April	Wednesday 15th April		Thursday 16th April
Breakfast	7.00	(none)			
			8.00 Worship / devotions. Maik Gibson to organise.	8.00	Worship / devotions. Maik Gibson to organise.
			8.30 Break	8.30	Break.
			8.45 Presentation by Jim Harries: History of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission): Crossroads, Junctions, Sharp Corners and Direction Signs. Chair: Maik Gibson.	8.45	Presentation by Jim Harries: Vulnerable Mission, Gifts, Reciprocity, and Witchcraft, in relation to Dependency in Africa today. Chair: Jean Johnson
	10.00	Arrival	10.00 (Groups) pray and discuss.	10.00	Groups pray and discuss.
Coffee Break	10.50		10.50	10.50	
	11.30	Sharing of peoples individual circumstances. Chair: Jean Johnson (semi-formal)	11.30-12.15: Paper: Tim Reeves. De-polarizing the Independency vs. Dependency Dichotomy Chair Jean Johnson.	11.30	The Way Forward: Jean Johnson. Chair: Jim Harries.
Lunch	13.00		13.00	13.00	
	14.30	Formal opening. Opening worship. Introductions. Introduction to the topic. Ralph Hanger.	14.00 Cathedral Jaunt: Free time, arrange your own meeting / discussion, walk to the Gloucester Cathedral. Informal discussion from 15.00hrs: integrating VM into mission agencies context. A VM mission sending agency?	14.30	Groups. OR plenary discussions followed by people writing their own notes, followed by more plenary discussions drawing on those notes from 15.00hrs. Chair Jim.
Tea Break	16.00		16.00	16.00	15.00 Plenary discussion. Chair: Jim Harries
	16.30	Keynote paper. Jean Johnson. Healthy community and church self image. Two case studies. Chair Tim Reeves. Discussion.	16.30 Panel Discussion. Panel members: Fred Lewis over skype, Jean Johnson, Jim Harries. Chair: Ralph.	16.30	Departure
Evening Meal	18.00		18.00		
	19.30	Groups. Reflecting on Jean's paper. Individuals write for 10 minutes.	19.30-20.15 Maik Gibson paper on language. Chair Jim. 20.15-21.00 Andrew Wingfield Tanzania case study. Chair Jean.		
	20.30	Individuals report back to plenary session. Chair: Jim Harries			
	21.00	Close. Tea / coffee.	21.00	Close. Tea / coffee.	

Other day conferences will be held in York (11th April), Coventry (18th April) and Oxford (22nd and 23rd April). Details here: <http://goo.gl/JN52Cm>



Part of the 2013 Norwich Vulnerable Mission Conference

- The recommended text given as preparatory reading for the above conferences, *Theory to Practice in Vulnerable Mission*, is now available in kindle version for \$9.93. See here for details :
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00V72XOJE>
- Anne Dyer posted this discussion stimulator. So far I am the only one who has responded. Anne's contribution is entitled 'VM is the answer?' Others please contribute: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/vm-answer-anne-dyer-phd-?midToken=AQEQKNFno050Qw&trk=eml-b2_content_ecosystem_digest-network_publishes-242-null&fromEmail=fromEmail&ut=3vZ7bzy2ceq6E1
- Jim reports the encouraging news that a Christian university in Kenya is considering including a course on the use of mother tongue in theological education into their curriculum. Jim designed the prototype of this course for them.
- "Why is the context important for meaning" asks Stephen Pattermore. Have a look at this 7 minute video to find out:
<https://map.bloomfire.com/series/20021-sp-s-relevance-theory-channel> More videos by Pattermore here: <https://map.bloomfire.com/series/20021-sp-s-relevance-theory-channel>
- There is an urgent need for children to be able to learn at school in languages that they know instead of in languages that they do not know. For more on this see: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/closer-home#sthash.ZagWRKPT.dpuf>
- See: <https://themennonite.org/feature/didnt-mean/> where Barry C. Bartel here tells us how Mennonite missionaries in Argentina practice 'vulnerable mission'.
- See here for A compelling story of how the community of Mizoram demonstrates their generosity through small everyday activities and gifts:
<http://generositymovement.org/2011/09/a-handful-of-rice/>
- For more on "The Concept of Corporate Personality in Ancient Israel: Its Contribution to the Understanding and Translation of the Bible" see here:
<https://map.bloomfire.com/posts/944585-the-concept-of-corporate-personality-in-ancient-israel-its-contribution-to-the->
- Anthropologists are shortly to gather in SE England, not far from the UK VM conference and over the same dates, having some over-lap with our themes. See here for some papers to be presented under the heading of; *Exploring post-secular anthropology from the perspective of anthropologists with a faith commitment*.
<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2015/panels.php5?PanelID=3350>
- Jim Harries' paper 'Sin v. Taboo Compatibility in Africa and the West: implications for inter-cultural Mission, Church, and Majority World

Development.' has just been published in the *Evangelical Review of Theology*, April 2015, Volume 39, No 2. The paper can be accessed here: http://www.academia.edu/11719606/Sin_v._Taboo_Compatibility_in_Africa_and_the_West_implications_for_inter-cultural_Mission_Church_and_Majority_World_Development

- Below is part of the abstract to a paper that is to be presented at the Redcliffe conference on vulnerable mission, by Andrew Wingfield, who serves in Tanzania.

Title: Using Participatory Tools to Explore the Role of the Local Church in Holistic Mission

Abstract:

Recent literature has affirmed the role of the local church as "God's primary agent for holistic mission", but to what extent does this assertion match the reality? As a field leader of a Christian development agency in Tanzania I have found that it is all too easy for local churches to get sidelined in the business of doing development projects. Christian development agencies can often end up doing their work *on behalf* of the church or *in the name of* the church rather than equipping local churches to do it themselves. Many Christian agencies, including my own, that claim to partner with churches, often do so at the level of the regional denominational structure, such as a Diocese office. Diocesan or denominational development departments are often seen by donor agencies as an ideal local partner. However, projects driven by these development departments, whilst able to fulfil all the donors' requirements for management, monitoring and reporting, often have no involvement from churches at the local level.