



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

*www.vulnerablemission.org*

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.

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- A humorous, or is it a deadly serious, 4 minute video with a cutting message **critiquing aid from the West for Africa**. Should Africa be raising funds to send radiators to Norway, where many people are evidently struggling with extremely cold conditions? See: <http://www.africafor norway.no/> See here for a lot of related 'interesting stuff': <http://www.africafor norway.no/updates>
- Here is a posting from Scott Bessenecker's blog on poverty, community, justice and how to activate the economics of the Kingdom of God on earth, just as it is in heaven. Scott works with IVP. **This blog asks whether North American missionary structures can become 'vulnerable'**. <https://urbana.org/blogs/least-these/twilight-north-american-missionary-structures-part-v>
- David Bremner reports on the Oscar Muriu Lectures, held 4-6 April 2008, focusing on Chinese Mission in Africa. Oscar Muriu, a pastor in Nairobi, advocates a break from the dominant Western based finance model of missions. "Africans tend to think of partnerships—not in a business model, but rather one of marriage or family. In this system, **partnerships are for life**. They are built on giving of yourself. And even if you don't like the way the partnership is going, divorce is not an option. No wonder many partnerships end in disappointment" Bremner reports. (see <http://simesafrica.blogspot.com/2008/09/oscar-muriu-lectures.html> )
- **Deborah Niccum** was until recently the administration coordinator working with Chris Flanders, AVM executive board member, in the Halbert Institute for Missions of ACU (Abilene Christian University). In that capacity Deborah did a lot of work towards enabling our vulnerable mission conference in Abilene in March this year. Deborah has now been promoted, and her place has been taken by **Angie Merritt** ([arm11a@acu.edu](mailto:arm11a@acu.edu)). Congratulations on your

promotion Deborah! We wish you well. We hope to be forming a relationship with Angie in the months ahead. Welcome Angie!

- Two relatively **non-scholarly books** that are recommended to us as illustrative of VM principles:

1. *Father of Faith Missions: The Life and Times of Anthony Norris Groves*: <http://www.amazon.com/Father-Faith-Missions-Anthony-1795-1853/dp/1884543901>

Norris Groves was the stepbrother of George Müller, and a pioneer missionary going counter the mainstreams of the golden age of the modern missions era: he was clearly a VM when it comes to local resources, and even though the biographer makes almost no comments about languages, some parts of Groves diary clearly notes that he was using the local languages and saw it as the thing to do. He faced a lot of opposition, and didn't see much fruit of his work and thoughts, but the ones who were inspired by him and those who came after him had a great impact, and still have in some ways. A great encouragement for everyone who want to be a Vulnerable Missionary that sees himself going mainly against the mainstream of today's missions.

2. *In Search of the Source: A First Encounter with God's Word* <http://www.amazon.com/In-Search-Source-First-Encounter/dp/0880704977>

Neil and Carol Anderson are Wycliffe Bible translators in Papua New Guinea. The whole story makes a point that translation is not easy, and how a translator can struggle trying to be as close as possible of the original text and still be understood in the new language and it's context. The preface and the conclusion of the book are really great in advocating the fact that you can't "simply" translate and shows the clear relation in between the language and the context. The story in between is just the illustration of this. (Nothing about local resources in this book. It can be found in french as well, title: "*Meilleur que le chocolat*" (and maybe other languages?))

- See this point/counterpoint piece published in anthropology news. Jim Harries writes in favour of use of indigenous languages and Jeff Deal in favour of use of English in **medical services delivery** around the world: Deal, Jeff, and Harries, Jim, 2012. Health Care Inter-culturally and Inter-linguistically. *Anthropology News*. 14/11/2012. <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2012/11/14/healthcare-inter-culturally-and-inter-linguistically/>
- As well as concerning the Christian Gospel and mission, many issues concerning vulnerable mission overlap with the field of anthropology. This

site, an online bibliographic blog for the **anthropology of Christianity**, may be of interest to AVMers: <http://anthrocybib.net/>