

## AVM Bulletin February 2010

\* For more on 'sailing boats' see <http://sailingfriends.wordpress.com/> Here's part of a recent contribution: "Mindful of the fact that power structures affect relationships, I find this a helpful way to illustrate that it is very appropriate to place our trust – not in the engine of our powerboat – but in the Wind of God, to take our sailboat where he wants us to go! Using a sailboat frame of reference, we realise that success depends completely on the sailing team's ability to trust each other and co-operate together and with the external elements."

\* The AVM has a list-serve discussion forum called **pearl**. To participate go to this site and sign up: <http://lists.vulnerablemission.com/listinfo.cgi/pearl-vulnerablemission.com/>

\* Schleifer's frank assessment of 'foreign aid' may be a breath of fresh air to VMers. "The consensus that aid has failed is nearly universal for those who look at the data" he tells us. For **Schleifer**, what keeps aid going is public sympathy fuelled by international bodies' promotional campaigns. More recently emphasis of aid has turned from promoting growth to welfare, but "without growth, welfare is permanent" warns Schliefer. For a copy of this article (published in *Cato*) go to <http://www.cato.org/pubs/journal/cj29n3/cj29n3-1.pdf>

\* For a radical look at contextualisation based in the African (Kenya) context see <http://onesimusonline.blogspot.com/>. "So thorough is the westernization of my African students that they don't seem to notice that all of their education, all of their theology, all of their assumptions, can be traced to the efforts of well-meaning western missionaries" says **William Black**.

\* **Eddie Arthur's** post on 'language development' can be seen at: <http://www.kouya.net/> "With this view of mission in place, I believe that language development work, which address the educational needs of the minority peoples of the world; which gives them the tools to help them lift themselves out of poverty, which empowers them to address the injustices they face on a day to day business, is a valid expression of Christian mission. Even if we never translated another Bible, I believe with all of my heart that there would still be a place for the compassionate work of language development within God's mission to the world" shares Eddie, coming out clearly in support of AVMs interest in promoting the use of indigenous languages in ministry.

\* See <http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/study-themes/main-study-themes/5-forms-of-missionary-engagement/theme-5-papers.html> for a paper by **Joy Mindoe** reflecting on themes of vulnerable mission. I had the pleasure of meeting Joy in Nairobi a few months ago. Joy uses "the concept of 'Vulnerable Missions' ... interchangeably to refer to missions in poverty", so is not using the term as we are defining it in AVM. "The momentum to share the gospel and spread the good news is spontaneous and accepted primarily among those who are at the margins of society" shares Joy.

\* **Fred Lewis and Jim Harries** have produced an article, to be presented by Fred, at the 1<sup>st</sup> March EMS (Evangelical Missiological Society) meeting to be held in Pasadena, California. It is about 'diversity in mission', and suggests that American mission to Africa is not diverse when it comes to 'impact', because it all boils down to money. See <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/articles/diversity.pdf> for the article.

Best wishes,

Jim Harries  
Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.