ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin**
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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.**

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Recent explorations on the internet led me to a speaker already very well known in the USA called **Brené Brown**. To discover about her Christian faith, hear her testimony here. Brené, a researcher from Texas, has done a great deal of work on *vulnerability* and on *shame*.

- **The Power of Vulnerability** Brown talks about "excruciating vulnerability". Brené Brown, who shares from her heart, studies vulnerability, courage, authenticity, and shame. "I know that vulnerability is the core of shame and fear and our struggle for worthiness, but it appears that it's also the birthplace of joy, of creativity, of belonging, of love" she shares. But "we numb vulnerability" because it is not easy "to let ourselves be seen, deeply seen,

vulnerably seen ... to love with our whole hearts, even though there's no guarantee." See here for this TED talk.

- **Listening to Shame** This TED talk on shame also majors on vulnerability. It speaks volumes to vulnerable mission issues. "Vulnerability is our most accurate measurement of courage – to be vulnerable, [is] to let ourselves be seen, to be honest" she says. "Being vulnerable emerged from my data, as absolutely essential to whole-hearted living" she adds, and "vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change". To see this video go here.

  Here's a challenging thought. It is often said that many Eastern and African cultures are 'shame' cultures. I used to wonder, is that a 'neutral' description? Not according to Brené, who tells us here that: "I don't believe shame is helpful or productive. In fact, I think shame is much more likely to be the source of destructive, hurtful behavior than the solution or cure."


- A paper, published by Micah entitled 'Confusing Asiku', written by Jim Harries and Gary Cowman, looks at the challenges faced by external holistic ministry and development workers who do not speak the local language. Go here for your copy of the paper.


- The co-editors of *Anabaptist Witness* are pleased to announce a new call for submissions for issue 4.1 (April 2017). This issue will cover the theme, "Following the Holy Spirit in Mission." Submissions should connect in some way to Anabaptist and/or Mennonite mission. The full text of the call follows. **Call for Submissions to the April 2017 Issue of *Anabaptist Witness* Following the Holy Spirit in Mission Submission Deadline: November 1, 2016**


- An article entitled: ***Linguistic and Cultural Diversity and Social Change: Potency or Encumbrance?*** by Dr. Omondi Okech can be found here.

**Abstract:** One of the main objectives of development agencies is to instigate change in the livelihoods of the vast population in the rural emerging economies of Africa using local resources. However, given the global campaigns and cultural and linguistic heterogeneity of the people involved in the social interactions some scholars and development practitioners have argued that these diversities are hindrance to the realization of the objective. In this paper, I discuss the role that diverse linguistic and cultural resources play in capturing the local voice and instigating participation hence contributing increasingly to processes of democratization and development within and across linguistic borders. Drawing upon community interaction in Western Kenya, and arguing from a Systemic Functionalist approach, I illustrate how multilingualism and multiculturalism aids the process of change and empower the 'minority languages' to actively negotiate and disseminate development messages as well as some of the challenges facing multilingualism in development in the area. I conclude that multilingualism is a gift that aids in successful social interactions thus leading to democratization and development in the

rural communities in the emerging economies of Africa rather than a hindrance as has been hitherto thought.

Dr. Omondi Okech's PhD thesis (which is on a related area) can be found here.



- Ambe J. Njoh wrote a book (2006) which: "highlights the differences between Euro-centric culture, which is rooted in capitalist ideology and Protestant ethic, and traditional African culture, where concepts such as capital accumulation, entrepreneurial attitudes and material wealth are not of top priority. In doing so, it dispels popular myths, stereotypes and distortions, as well as discounting misleading accounts about major aspects of African culture and traditional practices." See here for your copy of this book from Amazon.

- So what then is **decolonised education?** Some answers here from a journalist in South Africa.

- Seth and Rochelle Callahan **delve into the culture and language of the Iski people so that they can clearly communicate God's truth**. See this explanation here from New Tribes Mission.

- According to the New Tribes Mission, **missionaries need to learn to be 'normal'**. See here.

- **Language Study ensures clear communication**, we are told by the New Tribes Mission here.



- Jim's latest book, *New Foundations for Appreciating Africa,* is here reviewed by Eddie Arthur, of Global Connections UK and SIL.

- **To send or to tend?** Does God send us to tend to the poor and the lame, or does he actually send the poor and the lame? See here for the answer to this question by Colin Smith.

- **Can you tweet?** We need help with AVMs twitter account. Anyone willing to spend time on the computer expanding the reach of our twitter account please get in touch with me here: jimoharries@gmail.com



# Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

sponsored by the **Alliance for Vulnerable Mission** (vulnerablemission.org)

*Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.org*

Wednesday 8th November 2017 registration at 5.00pm, finishing 12 noon on Saturday 11th November. Cost: $270.00 conference and meals. Bed and breakfast separate. Discounts available for those attending part-time and/or students.

Speakers to include:    Jean Johnson, Director, World Mission Associates.

Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.

Rev. Canon Dr. John Macdonald, Trinity School for Ministry, PA.

Dr. Jim Harries, Chair, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.

Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview, Portland, OR.

and other speakers ...

'Emphasising the use of indigenous languages and resources as the norm for some intercultural workers.'
We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages: Korean, Swahili, Spanish ...
Queries to: jim@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu    *(Details may still change. Registration to open 1st March 2017.)*