

Introduction to AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission)

The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) seeks to encourage wider use of mission and development strategies that depend on locally available resources and local languages.

These strategies are “vulnerable” in the sense that they do not have fringe benefits built into them, deliberately or otherwise. They will therefore fail unless or until there is strong local confidence in their spiritual or developmental value. The missionary or development worker will allow them to fail rather than prop them up with outside money.

“Vulnerable mission” (VM) may be seen as part of the movement toward contextualization of the Gospel of Jesus, which we regard as the theory of many and the practice of few. We would like to see more people take the risks of contextualization and vulnerability in order to reap the rewards that only come to those who value local resources and invest in local languages.

If local tools seem slow or weak by comparison with foreign money and English (Spanish etc. – European language), then we say with a wise missionary of long ago, “When I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:10) While vulnerable mission may not be the only biblical approach to mission, it deserves much more attention than it has been getting. Let’s talk.

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The mission of **Abilene Christian University**

is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. This mission is achieved through: exemplary teaching, offered by a faculty of Christian scholars, that inspires a commitment to learning; significant research, grounded in the university's disciplines of study, that informs issues of importance to the academy, church, and society; meaningful service to society, the academic disciplines, the university, and the church, expressed in various ways, by all segments of the Abilene Christian University community.

Satellite conference in UK 21st March. Details from
admin@cliffcollege.ac.uk

Global Conference on Vulnerable Mission

Post-colonial mission and development at depth without dependency

The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) sees vulnerability in mission as a good thing. It advocates that in key ministry some missionaries or development workers be economically dependent on those being reached. Also – that some foreigners use the language of the locals instead of the other way around. That puts pay to a lot of western superiority in one fell swoop! Please come and join us to pray, think, talk and explore some more

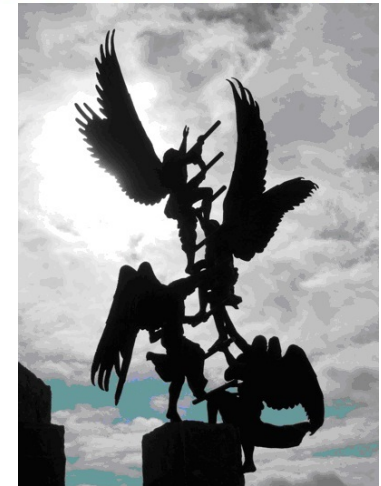
Who is the conference for?

The conference is designed to stimulate interest, research and the practice of vulnerable mission. Potential practitioners, missions’ representatives, practising missionaries and development workers, academics and mission strategists are all welcome.



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

Global Conference on Vulnerable Mission



Sponsored by *Halbert Institute for Missions* at
Abilene Christian University,
in conjunction with the
Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
and *Trans World Radio*.
7th to 10th March 2012



Quality speakers are being sought.

ACU has a well equipped campus, within reach of Dallas Fort Worth. Accommodation – various options are available. Please inquire to deborah.niccum@acu.edu

How to apply

Please complete and post the booking form on this leaflet to be received before 7th Feb. 2012.

Cheques payable to *Abilene Christian University*. Cost \$100 per person – includes meals (does not include accommodation). After 7th Feb. - \$120. For student discount contact: deborah.niccum@acu.edu

On arrival registration is from 2.00pm on Wednesday 7th March. Dinner is at 6.00pm. The conference finishes at 10.30am on Saturday 10th March.

Seminars on books/videos

- “When Helping Hurts” (book by Brian Fikkert)
- “Cross-Cultural Partnerships: Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission” (book by Mary Lederleitner)
- “God the Real Superpower” (book by Nelson Jennings)
- Examples of VM by Indians and Ugandans (videos)

Seminars on VM contexts

- Encouraging VM in mission agencies—what if the system is anti-VM?
- Encouraging VM in universities and mission training centers; advising young or potential VMers
- VM vs. short-term mission? Communicating VM in local churches
- Married VMers and families.

Theoretical issues

- A biblical case for VM.
- Definition of VM—just the old dependency debate?
- The linguistics of untranslatability.
- Prophetic VM – where will we be in 10 years?



Booking form

Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

DOB: _____ Nationality: _____

Church/Mission Agency: _____

Special requirements (diet): _____

I would like to register --__ adults for the

Vulnerable Mission conference.

A registration fee of \$___ is enclosed (\$100 per

person).

Signed _____

Date _____

post to:

Niccum, Deborah,
Halbert Institute for Mission,
ACU Box 29433,
Onstead-Packer Building,
Abilene TX 79699-9433,
United States.