

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin – July 2011

Conference Announcement

The AVM is to hold international conferences
in the USA and UK in March 2012.

For details go to:

<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/vulnerable-mission-conference-2012/>

- **TWR (Trans World Radio) comes on board!** The AVM is pleased to announce that TWR has become a co-sponsor to our vulnerable mission conference that is to be held in Abilene, Texas in March of next year. This means that TWR will be making a contribution to the cost of the conference, will be encouraging their network to attend, and will be leading a seminar. This is excellent news, and we welcome other bodies also to co-sponsor with us. (Those interested in co-sponsoring please bear in mind our basic objective - to promote mission from the West to the majority world that utilises the languages and resources of the latter in ministry.)
- I recently read a chapter in the following book: Anne-Meike Fechter and Heather Hindman (eds.) (2011). *Inside the Everyday Lives of Development Workers: The Challenges and Futures of Aidland*. Sterling, VA: Kumarian Press. The chapter was entitled: 'Intercultural Encounters, Colonial Continuities and Contemporary Disconnects in Rural Aid'. I thought it was intriguing, as it revealed some actual practice of 'development workers'. The actual practice of implementation of development is often not very visible. The above book would be a good purchase for those wanting to know more about what actually happens on the ground. <http://www.amazon.com/Inside-Everyday-Lives-Development-Workers/dp/1565493249>
- http://www.authorsonline.co.uk/book/1082/Self-Reliance_from_an_African_Perspective/sample/ is the details of a book entitled *Self Reliance from an African Perspective*. It is an attempt to plot a prosperous future for the African continent. I note in the blurb that it includes a plea for others to help Africa, presumably financially, so while it may be of interest to people looking at vulnerable mission, it does not seem to be promoting vulnerable mission as such.
- The following was a contribution by Dr. Stan Nussbaum to a recent *pearl* discussion. Please go to <http://lists.vulnerablemission.org/listinfo.cgi/pearl-vulnerablemission.org/> to sign up yourself to this list-serve and take part in fascinating ongoing discussions on vulnerable mission in theory and practice!

... The VM emphasis on language and local resources is an emphasis on two methods that will force and equip Westerners to assimilate personally and programmatically to an African or other context. But this emphasis is a flat contradiction to mission from the West that starts with the evolutionary racist assumption, "We have so much to offer," or, "They need us so badly and we can help them fix their situation."

One further point on theology: We actually DO "have so much to offer" in terms of the gospel message, but we have to realize that Jesus was not Western and that capitalism, technology, and English were not core parts of his message to the world. We therefore have to be careful with the way we relate them to our mission and message. They are not neutral. They are aggressive things that take on a life of their own, and they are always trying to take over the dominant place that belongs to the real Lord alone. VM's emphases are two strong chains that keep these rebellious slaves from usurping the throne. ...

- The AVM is developing a logo. We look forward to sharing the logo, being designed by folks at Abilene Christian University, with you in the next Bulletin.
- Please do check facebook for the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission page, now being regularly updated!

Best wishes,

Jim Harries (PhD)
Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission