



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin
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**Editor:
Jim Harries, PhD,
Chairman of the AVM.**



Executive board	Advisory board	
Jim Harries	Alex Araujo	Chris Flanders
Timothy Reeves	Jay Gary	Stan Chu Ilo
Fred Lewis	Tomas Dozier	Frank Paul
	Jean Johnson	Gord Sawatzky
		Stan Nussbaum

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.



We are very sorry to lose Chris Flanders from the AVM executive board. Chris has served very effectively for many years, having been involved in arranging of conferences and other strategic discussions. Chris is resigning due to an increase in other commitments at his university. He remains a keen supporter of the AVM, and a member of our advisory board.

- For a Congress on **language learning** to be held in April 2016, see here: <https://www.mti.org/conferences/icll-international-congress-on-language-learning/>
For videos from previous conference see here: <https://www.mti.org/conferences/icll-international-congress-on-language-learning/icll-content/>
- For a blog by Eddie Arthur on ‘who is driving’ in mission work, see: <http://www.kouya.net/?p=7063>
- Accountability goes both ways says Eddie Arthur. Donors should be held accountable to recipients as well as the other way around: <http://www.kouya.net/?p=7078>
Compare with my article here: <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/10259#.VDyzctJmBjA>
- See http://www.academia.edu/12735521/Secular_and_Religious_Symbiosis_Strengthening_Postsecular_Anthropology_through_Commitments_to_Faith for an article on anthropology by Johannes Merz, that was presented at a UK conference April 2015. Entitled: *Secular and Religious Symbiosis Strengthening Postsecular Anthropology through Commitments to Faith*
- An event advocating for multilingual education will be held 2nd to 5th September 2015 in Bangkok. <http://www.leadimpact.org/event-details/advocating-for-lead-lead-cop-event>
- Consider exploring the Post-Colonial Theology network on facebook. You might find a lot of fascinating stuff here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/23694574926/?fref=ts>
- Frank Paul’s article from the recent German conference is now posted here (in German language): <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/rundbrief/U-F-Paul-Von-der-Kolonisierung.pdf> Title: Von der Kolonisierung zur „geschwisterlichen Begleitung“
- Go here: http://cms.fuller.edu/uploadedFiles/EIFD/issues/Fall_2012%281%29/EIFD_2013_Spring.pdf for a free pdf copy of the evangelical interfaith dialogue from Fuller Theological Seminary, which in this 2013 edition dealt with **encounters with indigenous Latin American Christianity**.
- Find this book on Amazon: Larsen, Knut Edvard & Jørgensen, Knud, (eds) 2014, *Power and Partnership*. Oxford: Regnum Books International. Its varied look at partnership, especially with respect to Christian development aid, is very helpful. It ends by advocating vulnerable mission. See here <http://www.amazon.com/review/R14JAUE4L0QQ4L> for Jim Harries’ review of the same.

- Free downloadable books on mission from Regnum are available here:
<http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum/list.php?cat=3>

For those who enjoy discussion, see this new missiological forum:

Dear friends,

Would you, your colleagues, or your students benefit from a listserv for professionals and scholars in Christian missions? This listserv can be used in the following ways:

- bounce ideas off other professionals and scholars in missions
- ask questions about research in missions
- network with other mission scholars
- announce book publications, job openings, internships, or upcoming conferences

A member of Fishnet has created a listserv for us - now it's your turn to participate, ask, announce, and network.

To join the mission scholar listserv, send a blank email to:

MissionScholar-subscribe@yahoogroups.com<<mailto:MissionScholar-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>>

The more people using the listserv, the more useful it will be to all of us. Based on how some other scholarly listervs are being used, I feel confident that it will not flood your inbox with a bunch of unnecessary emails. (The group is restricted, so information will not be publicly available on the web.)

You can unsubscribe by sending a blank email to

MissionScholar-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com<<mailto:MissionScholar-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com>>

To talk with the administrator of the listserv, contact Fishnet member Kenneth Nehrbass at

kenneth.r.nehrbass@biola.edu<<mailto:kenneth.r.nehrbass@biola.edu>>

The following was shared by Colin Smith in the June 2015 edition of the AVM Bulletin:

I found it, in many aspects, a helpful and challenging conversation, although I confess that on occasions I could not recognise current CMS [Church Missionary Society] praxis in some of the critique that was being offered in relation to western mission. I guess the two main issues that the day raised for me were:

1. Is the transfer of resources always a route towards dependency? Within the fellowship of a global church it seems to me that we should be in the business of giving and receiving. How do we do that in ways that are transparent and not naïve to power dynamics?

2. I think there needs to be voices in the conversation from the global south, from the nations within which vulnerable mission (in the form expressed here) takes place. I recognise the issues you raise about such a conversation taking place in English, but there is no shortage of people who could enter this conversation and perhaps challenge some of the presuppositions within it. Ironically, it seems to me that if we hold the conversation in the absence of those voices we risk making ourselves invulnerable.

Thank you again for the chance to participate. I do think this is an important conversation and will appreciate being able to follow it.

Here is a response to Colin Smith by Jim Harries:

Colin shared that: “I could not recognise current CMS [Church Missionary Society] praxis in some of the critique that was being offered in relation to western mission.” Although dependency was one of the targeted concerns at our 2015 conferences, the AVM gives a very specific challenge. That is, for some western missionaries to engage in ministry outside of the West in places like Africa other than on the back of Western languages and resources. If CMS is meeting that challenge then they are engaging in vulnerable mission, as we would define it.

Colin asks whether the transfer of resources always leads to dependency. I think the answer is no, that it need not lead to dependency. Often of course, in human relationships, dependency (i.e. interdependency) is a good thing. Our concern is with the creation of unhealthy dependencies.

In the AVM we advocate that voices from the South be invited to contribute to our discussions on a *level playing field*. Very often discussions on mission, development, and dependency occur in Western languages with people from the South who are subsidised by the West. We would like to see Western people become sufficiently vulnerable so as to engage majority world people in a way that enables them to express themselves freely from their own worldview by using their own languages without fear that the rug may be pulled on their financial income. Vulnerability, as we define it, is the ability to listen to and respond to those voices.

