



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

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Editor:
Jim Harries, PhD,
Chairman of the AVM.



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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.

Discounts are available to those who reserve their places at the upcoming UK conferences and consultations BEFORE MARCH 1ST 2015.

Go to here for details:

http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/brochure_UK_confs_20152.pdf

Editorial

February has been an incredible month. Partly in the course of making preparations for the upcoming UK conferences and consultation, I seem to have been very engaged about vulnerable mission in many key conversations. Amazingly, a short 'blog' I put out on academia.edu was quickly viewed by 388 scholars. I am grateful to Tim Reeves for his recent engagement with me preparing an article on 'fortune'. I thank Fred Lewis for working with me on an article about controversies in mission. I thank Gary Cowman for close engagement on a linguistics article intended for an upcoming Micah conference. I am grateful to Bernhard Jens for recently stimulating some very active debate on the pearl discussion forum.

I am especially grateful to Ralph Hanger for his contacting of mission executives in the UK. We have been privileged to have been able to engage in conversations with a number of the executives who have been invited to our invitation-only events to be held in Oxford in April. Especially in these days of instantaneous internet communication; the value of conferences can be as much or even more in the discussion that they generate than in what happens at the event(s) themselves.

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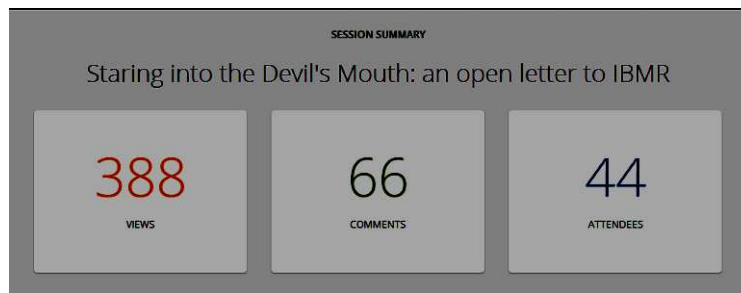
- Jenna Hanchey's article entitled 'Constructing American Exceptionalism; peace corps volunteer discourse of race, gender, and empowerment' can be found here:

http://www.academia.edu/10205930/Constructing_American_Exceptionalism_Pea ce_Corps_Volunteer_Discourses_of_Race_Gender_and_Empowerment_book_ch apter This article shows how peace-corps activism rests on an assumed American cultural and moral superiority. This gets confusing to volunteers, Jenna explains, who do not realise just how deep their presuppositions of their own superiority run. So then, what actually happens when American short-term volunteers meet African and South American poverty?



- The International Missionary Training Network is initiating a new discussion forum. Those involved in missionary training please go to this site and see if you qualify to become a part of this network and discuss principles of training missionaries for vulnerable ways of ministering. <http://www.missionarytraining.org/mt/>

- IBMR's (International Bulletin for Missionary Research) January edition looked in detail at witchcraft. Jim Harries wrote a response blog to the same, that you can read here: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/staring-devils-mouth-open-letter-ibmr-jim-harries> It is entitled 'Staring into the Devil's Mouth: an open letter to IBMR'. The same blog generated enormous traffic on academia.edu, as listed below. Give thanks for scholars' paying attention to what can be discovered about African and other people's beliefs through a vulnerable approach.



- This short blog entitled 'Mission short-term: pushing long term contextualising missionaries backwards into holes' has already generated a lot of discussion on the AVM discussion forum pearl: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mission-short-term-pushing-long-term-contextualising-holes-harries> It is in effect a simplified summary of one of the titles that I hope to be presenting in the UK in April.

See below some authors, titles and abstracts of papers to be presented at the forthcoming UK and Germany vulnerable mission events:

Healthy Self-Image and Community-Image



Jean Johnson – World Mission Associates
April 2015

Abstract

How a church feels about themselves and thinks about themselves will affect its spiritual, emotional, social, and economical health, thus influencing its overall impact as a church in their community. If a church has an unhealthy self-image, they will inevitably project a faulty unhealthy image to the community. An unhealthy self-image and community-image is a recipe for dysfunction and powerlessness. This paper will explore how missionaries can contribute to a healthy-self image and community-image, rather than disturb it.

“Look at us!” (Acts 3:4) Missionary Image and Implications



Jean Johnson – World Mission Associates
April 2015

Abstract

A beggar at the temple gate of Beautiful saw Peter and John coming towards him. He had one thing on his mind, *monetary help*. Peter told the crippled man, “Look at us!” Peter and John were apostles or you could refer to them as missionaries. Today, when people around the world look at missionaries, what do they see? What do they expect? The image people have on their minds when they are face to face with missionaries is important. The image, whether Christians or not, will have implications one way or another. This paper will explore the images that post-modern day missionaries project and the implications.

History of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission): Crossroads, Junctions, Potholes, Ruts, Sharp Corners and Direction Signs



*Jim Harries – Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
April 2015*

Abstract

This short article has given a largely autobiographical account of how I came upon the vulnerable mission principles in the early 90s, how my own experience in Kenya has (to me) confirmed those principles, and how the AVM has to date attempted to promote them.

How cross-cultural workers can stop digging holes they can't climb out of: outside languages and resources verses justice in Africa



*Jim Harries – Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
April 2015*

Abstract

The West's offers of aid to Africa inflict endless dilemmas, conflicts and unhealthy dependencies. Sending resources cross-culturally implies non-comprehension by the donor of the context of and therefore of the most appropriate means of use of the resources concerned. The need for accountability at the same time demands understanding. This sets up a dynamic that can be very destructive to human relationship. Uses of languages local to their contexts could alleviate the above dilemmas. The wide-spread of English interferes with such sensibility(s). The above combination of scenarios typically rends contextualisation in mission and development impossible. It can easily push foreign workers into irresolvable conflicts.

'De-polarizing the Independency vs. Dependency Dichotomy'



*Tim Reeves – Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
April 2015*

Mission ohne Abhängigkeit: Gefahren und Stolpersteine für Missionare, die einen verletzlichen Weg wählen



*Jim Harries – Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
May 2015*

Abstrakt

Die Orientierung eines neuen Missionars im Gastland kann oft sehr kompliziert sein! Zumal wenn er einheimische Sprachen und Mittel benutzen möchte. Um auf die Afrikaner zu hören, soll man nicht zu viel Geld haben. Uns muss klar sein: ist unser Ziel die Mission oder Geld auszugeben? Die heutigen Missions-Systeme produzieren Abhängigkeit, die schwer zu vermeiden ist, außer wir benutzen einheimische Mittel und Sprachen. Der Missionar sollte sein Lebenszeugnis nicht mit Geld übermitteln. – Alle wollen Geld! – Abhängigkeit von fremdem Geld kann sehr gegen Missionare wirken, die wenig oder kein Geld übermitteln oder verteilen. Neue Missionare sollten nicht zu viel auf Afrikaner hören, ehe sie dieses Problem verstehen. Wenn ein Ausländer in eine ihm fremde Gemeinde kommt, soll er erkennen, dass er unerfahren und unwissend ist.