

# Call for Papers



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

*The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission ([vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org)) believes that some Western missionaries should engage in (key) ministry outside of the West using local languages and resources.*



A Conference entitled:

## **Avoiding DEPENDENCY in global Christian mission: VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer**

**is to be held 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Redcliffe Missionary  
Training College, Gloucester, UK.**

Co-sponsored by Alliance for Vulnerable Mission, Redcliffe College, TWR, WMA (World Mission Associates).



redcliffe college



[www.wmausa.org](http://www.wmausa.org)



Speaking Hope to the World

Wonderful projects planned for people outside of the Western world frequently end up failing, generating unhealthy dependency, and / or planting the prosperity gospel. Various means are sought to resolve such lack of success. One conclusion frequently drawn is that local beneficiaries are responsible for their own failure. After all, 'we' in the West are sacrificially doing what we can for them.



At the same time:

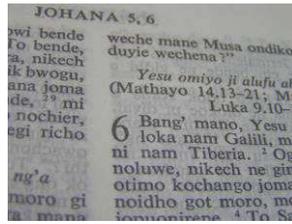
- Missionaries and development workers who go to the field usually concede that they really should learn and use indigenous languages in their ministries. But often they do not do so.
- Missionaries and development workers who go to the field usually concede that things they do should really be locally funded. But they end up paying for things with money from the West.



The West is busy making Christian mission and development assistance as easy as possible for its own people, i.e. for people from the West working on international development and mission. From transport technology (aeroplanes), to languages (English as global language), to health care (global health insurance), to money (global banking networks), and so on, the world is increasingly set up to cater for mission teams and Western domination! Have we thought that perhaps making life easy for Westerners might be resulting in failure to meet 'the other' at depth? Is it enough to be well-intentioned when Western people float around in Western bubbles being addressed by local yes-men in our Western languages?



Much development intervention is rooted in biblical precedent. The Bible tells us to 'go' (Matthew 28:19) to make Disciples of Christ. Does that justify taking the whole kit and caboodle of secularism to make other people look and sound as much like us Westerners as possible? It can seem as if pressure from Western societies encourages us to be as enthusiastic in spreading the products of secularism as we once were taking the Gospel.



The missionary has 'good' excuses: Learning the language is too hard, and takes too much time. After all; more and more people now know English. Relying on local resources would take far too long, so let's use money we can get easily from back in the West to make our project work fast and impressively!



At this conference we want to consider the following as a potential solution:

**To avoid creating unhealthy dependency (and prosperity gospel and all that goes with it) we need more western missionaries and development workers who root their work in local languages and local resources.**

We want to hear from people who can expand on, add to, and throw further light on this! Limited places available at this conference. Early booking will be advised.

We are looking for the following:

Please let us know if you are interested in contributing a paper;

[jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

Title and abstract (100 to 200 words) for proposed papers: to be submitted to [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org) for evaluation before December 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

(Some papers from our 2013 conference have just been published at [globalmissiology.org](http://globalmissiology.org) )



The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) was founded in 2007. It has close informal links with organisations such as WEA (World Evangelical Alliance), WMA (World Mission Associates), SIL, Abilene Christianity University, TWR, Redcliffe college, and many others.

The AVM ran conferences and other events in 2009, 2012 and 2013 in USA, UK and Germany.

**Other events** arranged by the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in 2015 include:

UK, York, 11<sup>th</sup> April: day-conference.

UK, Coventry, 18<sup>th</sup> April: day-conference.

UK, Oxford, 22-23<sup>rd</sup> April, Mission Leaders Conference (by invitation only).

Germany, Marburg, 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May, Conference.

Germany, Korntal, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Mission Leaders Conference (by invitation only).



Details will continue to be posted at: [vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org) and updates will be sent around in the free monthly email AVM Bulletin (to subscribe, write to [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org) )