

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin January 2011

We are very grateful for Alex Araujo's term in the executive board. Alex has been a very good challenge to us in AVM since we first met in the Seattle conference at the start of 2009. He has agreed to continue to serve on the advisory board, but has resigned his position on the executive board. I hope to have a new name for the exec. board to announce by the end of January 2011.

- Elizabeth Parson's article comes out in support of the AVM position on language by pointing to different understandings of English by Zambian miners as against their European bosses. The differences in understanding render the running of mines extremely problematic, she tells us. Elizabeth also advocates that social science disciplines and theology need to be considered in the planning and designing of development in Africa: Parsons, Elizabeth C., 2008. 'Insights from Zambian miners for rethinking development policy and the environment.' *Development in Practice*, Volume 18, Number 3, June 2008, 403-411.
- AVM is in some senses an imitation of the practice by anthropologists known as 'participant observation'. This puts us in an alliance with the discipline of anthropology. In many ways, anthropology has long been known to be foundationally opposed to theology. This apparent incompatibility between anthropology and theology is in more recent years being reviewed. Click here for details of a conference that is to examine the relationship between anthropology and theology:
<http://www.vulnerablemission.com/anthropology-and-theology/>
- William Easterly of New York university is one of the most well known critics of massive contemporary programmes of aid designed to 'save Africa'. Read here his low-down on this, written in 2008:
http://williameasterly.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/57_easterly_canthewestsaveafrica_prp.pdf
- We are looking for translators who can translate some AVM articles from English into German. If you are interested in helping us, please write to fiona@vulnerablemission.com Wir suchen Übersetzer/Übersetzerinnen, die ein paar AVM Texte vom englischen ins deutsche übersetzen können. Bitte schreib an Fiona Adams: fiona@vulnerablemission.com
- Please do keep an eye on this blog that critiques aid practices:
<http://aidwatchers.com/>
- Mary Lederleitner has written a book entitled *Cross-Cultural Partnerships: Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission*. For details on how to acquire it see: <http://www.amazon.com/Cross-Cultural-Partnerships-Navigating-Complexities-Mission/dp/0830837477> Mary is telling us how to do financial partnerships. A bit different from AVM in which we suggest that some people ought to relate other than on the basis of money. This could still be an interesting read for some of us.

Happy new year to everyone, Jim Harries (PhD), Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission