



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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

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³⁵₁₇ This article explores an issue that is key to us in the AVM – the relationship between language and religion. Language and religion are in many ways inter-changeable in their roles of nation building, according to Safran. In his view, language is slightly on top, but ‘religion’ not to be beaten. That is; language can act as a religion, and religion can be a ‘language’ in bringing national unity! This certainly implies that missionaries ‘ought’ to work in local languages ... See: Safran, William, 2008. ‘Language, Ethnicity and Religion; a complex and persistent linkage.’ *Nations and Nationalism*. 14 (1), 2008, 171-190.

³⁵₁₇ Roland Allen’s writing on missionary methods continues to attract enormous attention. See this post for “a brief profile of Allen himself, as well as summary of one of his most celebrated books” <http://www.jesusdust.com/2012/02/summary-of-missionary-methods-st-pauls.html>

³⁵₁₇ Jim’s recently published book *Vulnerable Mission*, which consists of a compilation of papers outlining insights acquired from working on the basis of vulnerable mission, can be found in the July 2012 edition of EMQ (Evangelical Mission’s Quarterly). The reviewer is *Murray Decker*, associate professor of Intercultural Studies, Biola University, Cook School of Intercultural Studies, La Mirada, California. (EMQ on the internet is accessible to subscribers only.)

³⁵₁₇ See: *Living Mission* (http://www.amazon.com/Living-Mission-Vision-Voices-ebook/dp/B003ZK5ESK/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1342723973&sr=8-2&keywords=viv+grigg),

And Urban Halo (http://www.amazon.com/Urban-Halo-The-Craig-Greenfield/dp/1850787271/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1342543276&sr=8-1&keywords=urban+halo)

for just two books very much related to many of the issues that we are dealing with in the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.

³⁵₁₇ Active AVM supporter Alex Araujo is a major contributor to an ongoing Lausanne debate regarding the use of resources in mission. Is the debate on 'how to fund' inadvertently precluding another option of whether to fund? Please see here, and add your contribution: <http://www.lausanne.org/en/blog/1852-a-communion-of-giving-and-receiving-the-lausanne-standards.html>

³⁵₁₇ See the *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology* for an article just published (although the publishing date is 2010), in which Jim talks of the importance of the use of indigenous languages in theological education, through drawing on his own experiences in Yala and Siaya: Harries, Jim, 2010. 'The Prospects for Mother Tongue Theological Education in Western Kenya.' 3-16 In: *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology*, 29 (1), 2010. Posted here: <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/articles/mother-tongue.pdf>

³⁵₁₇ Andrew Wildsmith, lecturer at Scott Theological College in Kenya, has written a response to the above article in the same journal. The response can be found here: <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/discussion/language-ajet-wildsmith.pdf> . It is an excellent thoughtful piece that emphasises the importance for theological education in Africa of engaging with indigenous languages. Biographical details: Wildsmith, Andrew, 2010. 'Mother Tongue Theological Education in Africa: a response to Jim Harries' The Prospects for Mother Tongue Theological Education in Western Kenya.' 17-26 In: *African Journal of Evangelical Theology*, 29 (1), 2010.

³⁵₁₇ Please do join us in praying for the planning of various vulnerable mission events intended to take place in 2013.