



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin**  
**April 2014**  
**Volume 6, Number 4.**

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

<b>Executive board</b>	<b>Advisory board</b>		
<i>Jim Harries</i>	<i>Alex Araujo</i>	<i>Stan Chu Ilo</i>	<i>Stan Nussbaum</i>
<i>Timothy Reeves</i>	<i>Jay Gary</i>	<i>Frank Paul</i>	<i>Gord Sawatzky</i>
<i>Chris Flanders</i>	<i>Tomas Dozier</i>	<i>Jean Johnson</i>	

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



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

**Using Local Languages and Resources in Christian Mission**

Was the theme of a recent conference, held in Norwich, UK, November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2013.



*Audio-recordings now freely available on the web!*



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



Speaking Hope to the World



Go to: <http://goo.gl/fCm9gX>

**Sub-themes include: covenantal mission, church planting, Anglicans in Borneo, linguistics, avoiding creating dependency, overviews and introductions to *vulnerable mission ... and more***

- **Protestant missionaries have had a VERY POSITIVE impact towards things like democracy.** So much so, that other factors apparently contributing to the development of democracy pale in significance ...  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/january-february/world-missionaries-made.html>
- Just published: Harries, Jim, 2014. '**Hidden Themes in Transformational Development** into Africa and the Majority World.' 15-23 in: *William Carey International Development Journal*, 3(1), Winter 2014. (5,120 words) can be found here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/209844993/Hidden-Themes-in-Transformational-Development-Intervention-into-Africa-and-the-Majority-World-by-Jim-Harries> The 'hidden themes' are religions, especially the impact of the Christian faith ...
- **Missionaries often prefer short-term assignments** to long term commitments. Sometimes this is said to be following the example of Paul. Or is it just that we don't like 'commitment'? *Urbana* addresses this question here: <https://urbana.org/go-and-do/missional-life/passion-commitment>



- **Making Your Partnership Work: A Guide for Ministry Leaders**  
Book available for free:  
<http://www.freebookse.com/Daniel-Rickett-PDF2-364575/>

- For those in UK, the annual missions festival called **GoFestival**, is to be held 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014. This is arguable the 'main' missions-focus event in the UK, held at Gerrard's Cross annually. Details here <http://gofestival.info/> Anyone interested in representing the AVM at this festival, please let me know.
- An article entitled 'A Trans-national Islamic Movement: a model for transformational development' describes ways in which **Islamic expressions in southern Thailand appear to be drawing on Christian-style piety**, opening ways, potentially at least, for a Christian *Ummah* based on the teachings (*Sunnah*) of Jesus, using 'vulnerable' missions' methodologies: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/210354742/A-Trans-National-Islamic-Movement-A-Model-for-Transformational-Development-by-Francis-Smith>
- <http://www.survivalinternational.org/thereyougo> A short, rather cynical video, demonstrating how the best intentions towards '**sustainable development**' can result in the *impoverishment* of tribal people.

- A contribution from John Easterling (Professor of Missions, North-Western University, Minnesota), in an email he wrote to me on 26.02.2014:

.....  
 I believe that I observed a unique form of VM (vulnerable mission) in Japan—North of Sendai where many fishing villages were destroyed and the population decimated and/or scattered, there was one Oyster Farming village. The entire town was built around this one industry of stringing together oyster shells on long stretches were then carefully spread out across the water with poles holding the forms. During a process of 2 years, the oyster eggs would attach to the shells and eventually there was a harvest of food.

The tsunami not only destroyed the village but also oyster fields.

Christians volunteered to help with the long, drawn out process of stringing the shells together with the local oyster farmers. Normally the entire village would do this, but they were no longer sufficient number to help in this lengthy process. While helping, the oyster farmers and the Christians shared stories and became friends. Today there is the start of a church in that village with a few new believers. This was not done with money from the outside, nor with any special gifts that created dependency. It was simply an investment of time and showing the oyster farmers that others really cared.

As the village slowly rebuilds, there will be a church—not because of a resident missionary, but because Christians in Sendai/Shiogama showed that they cared for those hurting and invested time to demonstrate this Christian love.

In 2012 my students shared in these labors along with the Japanese Christians, and were effective witnessing through this simple act.

I have learned, we serve with hands and hearts, but not by providing resources that create dependency.

- .....
- Tearfund ventures out into promoting **the use of local resources**:  
[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_91-100/footsteps\\_93/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_91-100/footsteps_93/)
  - An article on vulnerable Mission (**Verletzliche Mission**) by Christine Guehne (German language): <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/rundbrief/verletzliche-mission.pdf>
  - A discussion on leaving the field after **long-term missionary service**, and related issues, rooted in the Mennonite work amongst the Toba Indians in Argentina:  
<http://www.mennonitemission.net/Stories/BeyondOurselves/CanITrustYou/Pages/Willwethrowtheribbonaway.aspx>
  - **Toba-language bible study** in Argentina:  
<http://www.mennonitemission.net/Stories/News/Pages/TobaBiblestudy.aspx>
  - In Argentina, mission includes the **preservation of a language**:  
<http://www.mennonitemission.net/Stories/News/Pages/InArgentina,missionincludesthepreservationofalanguage.aspx>

- [www.NGBible.com](http://www.NGBible.com) is a site dedicated to the **development of resources connected to bible translation** into relatively obscure African, particularly Nigerian languages. Take a look to know more ...

Workshop – doing partnerships better:  
vulnerable (intercultural) mission practice.

Workshop held in Pasadena, California, 24<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2013.

 **1. Stan Nussbaum's presentation. Vulnerable Missions – Dependency**  
<http://vimeo.com/78033884>

 **2. Jean Johnson's presentation. Avoiding being Source of Resources**  
<https://vimeo.com/79741526>

 **3. Jim Harries's presentation. The bugbear of intercultural languages**  
<https://vimeo.com/81777640>

**4. Panel Discussion**  
<https://vimeo.com/83715922>

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

 ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

Ralph D. Winter Strategy and Innovation Center

**For Prayer:** do pray with us and for us in the AVM as we consider activities to engage in 2015. We are looking at possible conferences in Germany, UK, and USA. Plans are still at the ‘provisional’ stage. Let us know if you would like to host a conference, to assist in administration, or to make a financial contribution towards the work of the AVM.