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## Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin September 2021 Volume 13, Number 9

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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.



The next UK-AVM conference is to be held at All Nations Christian College, Hertfordshire, THIS MONTH, 12th to 15th September 2021. The conference will be hybrid - Remote attendance welcomed.

Details [here](#).

Registration [here](#).

Promotional videos: <https://youtu.be/jDfPqCCg46o> and <https://youtu.be/0iT82wE9iNU>

General information at [www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org)

Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to [jm@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jm@vulnerablemission.org)  
This month's contents:  
Conference promotion and details

AVM Conference:

All Nations Christian College, UK, 12th to 15th September 2021

### Vulnerable Mission: English and Dollars Powering Ministry, Good Idea?

We urge some missionaries to practice their ministry using the languages and resources of the people they are reaching. This will honour the indigenous. It is a Christ-like starting point for sharing the Gospel in contextualized ways.

**We will be discussing issues such as:**

- Practicalities and ramifications of use of indigenous **languages** by Western missionaries.
- How does **translation** to and from an indigenous language affect missionary work?
- While **finances** are needed for mission work, how can one ensure that finances do not dominate?
- What **good practices** are there to ensure a missionary remains vulnerable in their local context?
- How to engage in mission without exuding (excessive) **power**.
- What **organisational structures** enable vulnerability on the side of Western missionaries on the ground.
- What help can we offer **churches who want to engage directly in cross cultural mission** to avoid pitfalls of power.
- **Tentmaking** and **business as mission** models that leave the Westerner vulnerable. (Can the **commercial** world engage in mission without promoting 'evils' of capitalism?)
- When the uneven spread of wealth is itself an injustice, how can one use one's surplus to enact global **justice**.
- How can mission agencies promote vulnerability, when dominant models of understanding presented by a vast **global media** are rooted in **positivism and liberalism**?
- Is vulnerability the key to **contextualisation**?
- Theology traditionally draws strongly on **metaphor**. However local metaphors from the majority world are unfamiliar to the Westerner, and vice versa. How can one then engage in theology interculturally?
- Where **politics and 'religion' are not separate categories**, missionaries need to be careful not to get bogged down in unanticipated conflicts.
- Is **miracle** a post-enlightenment category? Is **'magic'** a normal aspect of life? What does this imply for cross cultural missionary engagement?
- Does the **introduction of outside technology** result in exploitation and enslavement? or liberation?
- **Globalisation** as a force that cripples the periphery. How can the voices of those at the periphery be heard, and their dignity guarded?
- When **short-term mission** has become **poverty-tourism** intended to adorn facebook pages with images of charity – what is the way forward?
- Can Westerners relate to **non-Western missionaries** without dominating them?
- The bible is God's inspired book, but theological training is dominated by **Western curricula**. Are there alternative paradigms for local-context training of Christian workers?

**Conference Details:**

This will be a three-day residential conference. It will be held in the English country house at the attractive rural location of the UK's premier missionary training college, All Nations, near Ware in Hertfordshire. Full cost will be £300 residential / £15/day for remote participants.



**Conference sponsors:**  
Alliance for Vulnerable Mission  
([vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org))



All Nations Christian College, Easneye, Ware,  
Hertfordshire, SG12 8LX  
Tel: +44 (0) 1920 443500, Email:  
[info@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:info@allnations.ac.uk)



Jim Harries, PhD.  
Board chair, Missionary in East Africa

**Organising Board**

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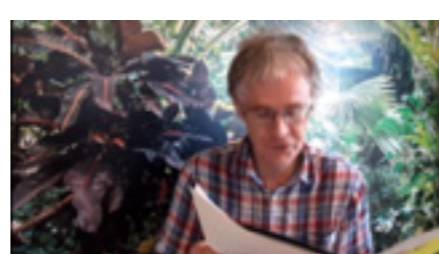
..ooOoo..



Watch This Video:  
<https://youtu.be/jDfPqCCg46o> about the conference.

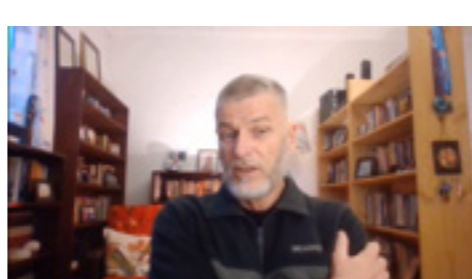
**Which is it to be?**

These two scenarios are contrasted in the video. Does the missionary go to advise people, and to share their resources and languages with them? Or is the aim to approach them 'vulnerably'?



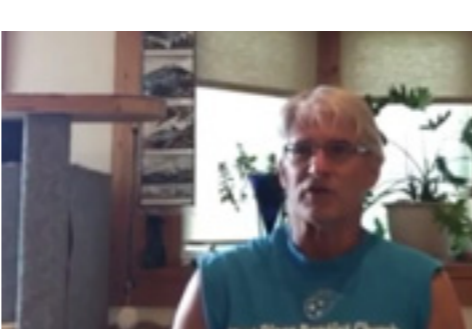
"Living life with people on their terms, in their space ... is a good way to proceed." Nick Henwood tells us in the same video. Go to 1:45 of <https://youtu.be/jDfPqCCg46o>

..ooOoo..



In the same video, learn about Bill Black's missionary experience, that eventually led him to his current interest in missionary vulnerability. Go to 9:15 of <https://youtu.be/jDfPqCCg46o>

..ooOoo..



See his video, Chris Sadowitz, that tells us what he intends to present at the conference, and why. <https://youtu.be/0iT82wE9iNU>

..ooOoo..