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



Table with 3 columns: AVM Board, Editor, Advisory Board. Rows include Jim Harries (chair), Peter Stagg (finance), Nick Henwood (communications), Daniel Albert, Andy Dipper, Frank Paul, Deborah Bernhard, John Macdonald (on leave), Chris Flanders, Stan Chu Ilo, Jay Gary, Jean Johnson.

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



Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to info@vulnerablemission.org. This month's contents: Upcoming AVM webinar: DONT WANT TO BE A "WHITE SAVIOR"? Giving Money Ties Mabala's 40 years in Tanzania and advice on Kiswahili Vulnerable Mission in Africa Fringe Black Religious Movements in the UK Communication Over Cultivation Money and Missions War Comment Missiology



New to Vulnerable Mission? Or wanting to link up with others exploring Vulnerable Mission?

Join us at our next quarterly 2-hour AVM webinar. When: Saturday 23rd April, 2022 Time: 14:00 GMT(London Time). Speakers: Deborah and Jens Bernhard Topic: Towards renewal from the inside out: using vulnerable mission to help Buddhists follow Jesus.

Sign up using this form for free and we will send you a Zoom link. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5FGIgwN1Yn\_LLb2KYraBxxh7imB6BQRQaR-iZF18Bwx6JQ/viewform

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DON'T WANT TO BE A "WHITE SAVIOR"? AVOID THESE 3 COMMON TRAPS. Craig Greenfield.

https://www.craiggreenfield.com/blog/hownottobeawhitesavior. Craig writes: "By stripping his team of the ability to meet their most basic needs, Jesus was forcing them to rely on God and the local resources of the people they visited. He was placing them in a posture of interdependence... The antidote to the Omnipotence Trap is self-discipline. We simply must hold back from unleashing all our resources in each situation of need. It feels counter-intuitive. It even feels terribly wrong sometimes. But it is the wisest course of action."

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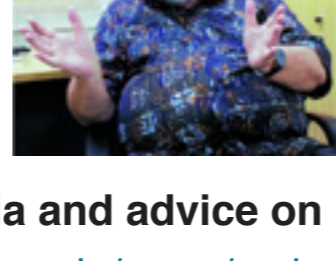
Giving Money Ties

See this article: Schmidt, Mario, 2022, 'The Gift of Free Money: on the indeterminacy of unconditional cash transfers in western Kenya,' Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, March 2022, 28(1). https://rai.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1467-9655.13655

Schmidt, who actually lives near to me (Jim), although we have never met, here presents an article that discusses the problems of implementation of Giving Direct in Western Kenya. Giving Direct is an initiative promoted in recent years, that intends to tackle issues of poverty by sharing money directly from wealthy parts of the world, into the pockets of the poor, using widely available mobile-phone banking.

Almost half of the people in Schmidt's area of study have refused to accept free money, originating in the USA, Schmidt reports. He set out to find out why. His answer: that for Kenyan people gifts are, and must be, a part of relationship. In short, for them there is no 'free gift.' Instead, every gift puts people under some kind of obligation to the giver. If the giver is unknown, this obligation can be seen as a 'dangerous spirit.' The described inability of people to detach a gift from a giver underlies part of the justification for vulnerable mission. In other ways, whether they like it or not, Western missionaries' use of funds will give them power 'over' local people.

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Mabala's 40 years in Tanzania and advice on Kiswahili

https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/mabala-s-40-years-in-tanzania-and-advice-on-kiswahili-3731270

'Mabala's 40 years in Tanzania and advice on Kiswahili' is the title to an article in The Citizen in Tanzania. In that article Jacob Mosenda tells us that "Richard Mabala, a famous author, is convinced that Tanzanian education would be more useful once the decision to make Kiswahili the language of instruction at all levels is implemented." (For supposedly political reasons, Swahili has never yet totally replaced English in Tanzania.)

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Discussions on: Vulnerable Mission in Africa

Jim is grateful to participants in discussions on academia.edu that relate to vulnerable mission. He is particularly grateful for Douglas Boone (pictured) for taking time to sharpen the discussions! Boone is living and working in Congo while engaging in Bible translation.

Here are some recent discussions: God Love Children, gods kill children: a thesis for discussion https://www.academia.edu/66174827/God\_loves\_Children\_gods\_kill\_children\_A\_thesis\_for\_discussion

Two Things Wrong with Anthropology https://www.academia.edu/68391169/Two\_Things\_Wrong\_with\_Anthropology

A new vulnerable anthropology https://www.academia.edu/69627492/A\_New\_Vulnerable\_Anthropology

Formal Adoption of Wholistic Evaluation of English is urgently needed to Avoid Generation of Racism in the West, and Under-development in Africa. https://www.academia.edu/72086211/Formal\_Adoption\_of\_Wholistic\_Evaluation\_of\_Englsh\_is\_urgently\_needed\_to\_Avoid\_Generation\_of\_Racism\_in\_the\_West\_and\_Under-development\_in\_Africa

Faith Healing Is the Best for the Disabled: A Global-English https://www.academia.edu/71561722/Faith\_Healing\_Is\_the\_Best\_for\_the\_Disabled\_A\_Global\_Englsh\_Perspective

African 'Spirits' are Relationship. This renders them no less 'Real'. This discussion is still live. Join it here: https://www.academia.edu/s/579b59ec02?source=link

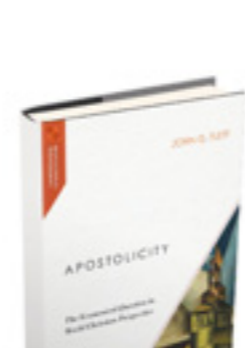
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Fringe Black Religious Movements in the UK

https://ifesworld.org/en/journal/preservation-and-liberation/. Brit Eleasah Phoenix discusses the outcome of her PhD research on Fringe Black 'religious movements' in the UK, in summary form in this article, put out by IFES (International Fellowship for Evangelical Students). Eleasah finds these kinds of groups to be conservative, and often deeply bible-believing. Yet also very marginal on the British church scene. For more detail, see a presentation by Eleasah recorded on you tube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voQODx5QAVM

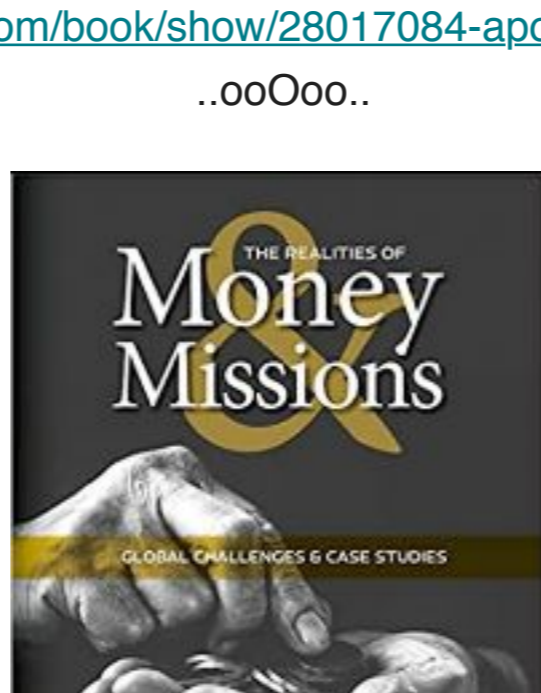
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Communication Over Cultivation

Apostolicity: The Ecumenical Question in World Christian Perspective (Missiology: The Ecumenical Journal) by John Flett (2016, IVP). Flett's insights explain why "vulnerable missionaries" are wary of means of control exerted by many Christian donors. Today, he explains, many churches seek to fulfil Gospel command through spread of their structures, often built up over centuries. Flett calls this a concern for cultivation of faith. The expectation that majority world people can appropriate such structures without enormous economic and cultural dependence, is often totally unrealistic. This is why emphasis on cultivation of church forms can turn mission into a kind of colonialism. Intercultural penetration is stymied. Instead, much better, says Flett; communication of the Gospel message should trump the foreign cultivation of existing structures. Thus missionaries, known by Flett as apostles, avoid too close a co-identity with domineering neo-colonialist apostolicity. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28017084-apostolicity

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Money and Missions

https://missionbooks.org/products/the-realities-of-money-missions?goal=0\_cadfb96451-96fdbccb4f-160154497&mc\_cid=96fdbccb4f&mc\_eid=e2e843b684 https://www.amazon.com/Missions-Money-Global-Realities-Challenges/dp/1645083012

Money sufficient to assure the viability of one's life work carries with it an insidious ethical virus that can easily infect the integrity and accountability of its stewards. The Realities of Money & Missions provides a unique level of credibility and transparency as it calls for evangelicals to re-evaluate their relationship with money, both personally and corporately. Global case studies, workshops, and testimonials cover a broad range of topics. ... The Realities of Money & Missions was not written by experts in the fields of investment, money management, or fundraising, but by men and women whose face-to-face missionary, pastors, and administrators has brought them face-to-face with the complex, real-life issues involving the intersection of money and ministry. Read on and be challenged to change. (Jim Harries has written one of the chapters of this book, that focuses of vulnerable mission.)

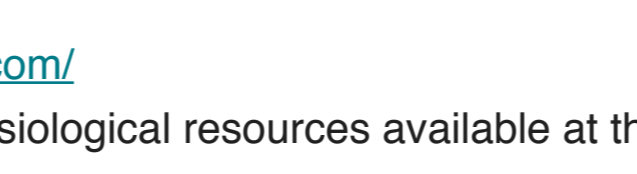
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War Comment

Vulnerable Mission does not have nothing to say on the Russia vs Ukraine war situation. Rather, "vulnerable missionaries" are exactly the kinds of people who should have been promoting the kinds of deep mutual understanding between the West and Russia, in the name of the Gospel, that has evidently not been instrumental in the making of policy decisions. The cost of invulnerability, now being paid, is evidently very high indeed. Especially if we are at the moment only at the beginning of making payment.

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Missiology

http://www.missiology.com/ There's a bunch of missiological resources available at this website, that ought to interest VMers.

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