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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin November 2022 Volume 14, Number 11

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

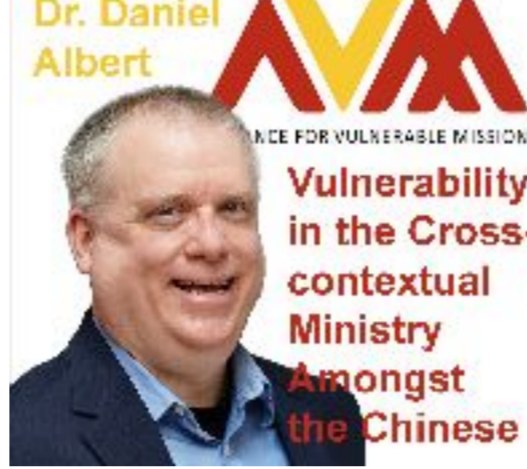


Table with 3 columns: AVM Board, Name, Advisory Board. Rows include Dr. Jim Harries (chair), Peter Stagg (finance), Dr. Nick Henwood (communications), Dr. Daniel Albert, Frank Paul, Deborah Bernhard, Rev. Dr. John Macdonald, Dr. Chris Flanders, Dr. Stan Chu Ilo, Dr. Jay Gary, Jean Johnson.

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 jim@vulnerablemission.org. This month's contents: Missed our October AVM webinar? Anti-Racism in the USA. Dr. Voddie Baucham Hits Critical Race Theory, and says 'The Gospel is The Answer and the Solution' to Racism. Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe. The Use of English in Cross-Cultural Mission: Observations from Africa. Missionary Affluence: A Question of Privilege and Sacrifice by Thorsten Prill. Jim's Furlough.



Missed our October AVM webinar?

https://youtu.be/CTT777KDtL4

"Vulnerability in the Cross-contextual Ministry Amongst the Chinese"

Speaker: Daniel Albert, former long-time worker in China. Daniel told his personal story of working in China and explained the patterns of humility and cultural sensitivity that he sought to employ.

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Anti-Racism in the USA

This month's focus is on anti-racism in the USA, with respect to African and other majority world people. We have previously discussed the problems caused for Africa by ways in which anti-racism is practiced within the West. Anti-racism in the West easily ends up defining who African people are, and it portrays them as the-same-as Westerners. Here we look at comments by, and a book by, a Black American, now living in Zambia, engaging theological education. He is not the only person to raise a flag regarding an evidently Marxist foundation for anti-racism in the West today. BLM (Black Lives Matter) has particularly come under the microscope.

Anti-racism as practiced in the West today, seems to have many parallels to conventional mission. Vulnerable mission seems to be a critique of anti-racism.

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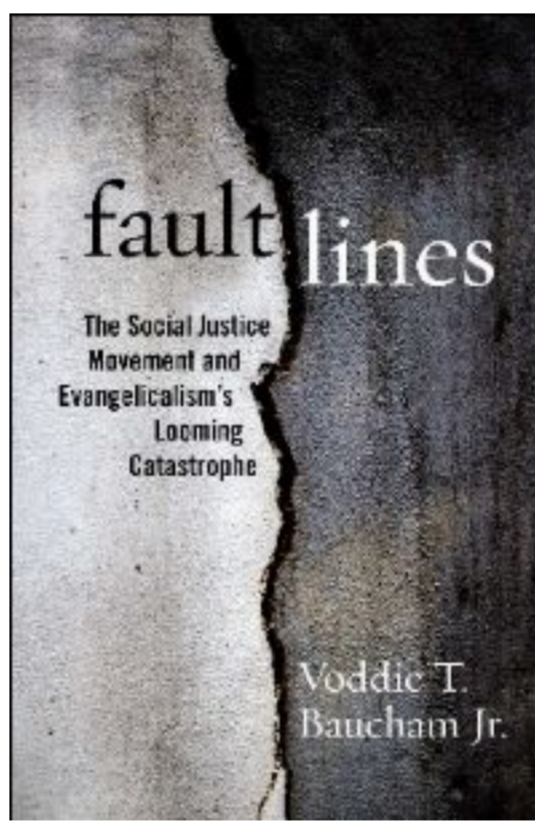


Dr. Voddie Baucham Hits Critical Race Theory, and says 'The Gospel is The Answer and the Solution' to Racism

https://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/11406/20210407/dr-voddie-baucham-hits-critical-race-theory-says-the-gospel-is-the-answer-and-the-solution-to-racism.htm

"Baucham explain[s] how CRT elevates humanism over what the Bible says about the universal nature of man. He also pointed out how over exposure to it could override a Christian's critical thinking. The storytelling methodology is truly effective in highlighting social issues that need addressing. But since most of these stories are coming from an emotional standpoint, a Christian would be torn between executing a "just judgment" and being a sympathetic ally of the "marginalized."

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Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/55990730-fault-lines

The editorial review of this book by Voddie Baucham is as follows:

The death of George Floyd at the hands of police in the summer of 2020 shocked the nation. As riots rocked American cities, Christians affirmed from the pulpit and in social media that "black lives matter" and that racial justice "is a gospel issue."

But what if there is more to the social justice movement than those Christians understand? Even worse: What if they've been duped into preaching ideas that actually oppose the Kingdom of God?

In this powerful book, Voddie Baucham, a preacher, professor, and cultural apologist, explains the sinister worldview behind the social justice movement and Critical Race Theory—revealing how it already has infiltrated some seminaries, leading to internal denominational conflict, canceled careers, and lost livelihoods. Like a fault line, it threatens American culture in general—and the evangelical church in particular.

Whether you're a layperson who has woken up in a strange new world and wonders how to engage sensitively and effectively in the conversation on race or a pastor who is grappling with a polarized congregation, this book offers the clarity and understanding to either hold your ground or reclaim it.

https://thingsabove.us/antiracism-deserves-a-capital-letter-voddie-baucham-fault-lines/

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The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWY6gmt3Ypo

Patrick Henry of Patrick Henry College in the USA, interviews Dr. Voddie Baucham on the topic of The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe. By addressing questions, originally provided by students, Baucham is enabled to outline his position with respect to Critical Race Theory in particular, and racism in the USA in general. [Editor: Baucham has since moved to Zambia. To hear his reflections on anti-racism in the USA as perceived in Africa, go to minute 53.] As we have suggested before, the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission represents a position on the international scene that parallels those who oppose today's anti-racism, back in the West. This gives Baucham relevance for the reasons why we advocate for vulnerable mission.

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The Use of English in Cross-Cultural Mission: Observations from Africa

Thorsten Prill has recently had two articles published. They touch on areas that are highly thematic for vulnerable mission. Prill does not advocate for vulnerable mission as such, but he discusses many issues that are relevant for us.

https://www.affinity.org.uk/uncategorized/827-the-use-of-english-in-cross-cultural-mission-observations-from-africa/

"Traditionally, "[t]he mastery of local language(s) in the mission field has been seen by Protestant mission societies as an important, if not the most important, tool for the successful evangelization of non-Christian peoples." In order to reach people one has to speak their language. That was the understanding right from the start of the Protestant mission movement. For missionaries to rely on English, French or Portuguese, even if these languages are widely spoken in their mission context today, means to limit themselves and to erect unnecessary barriers," Prill tells us.

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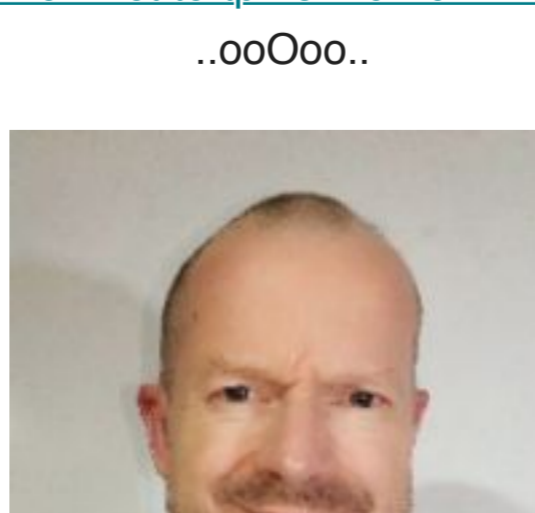
Missionary Affluence: A Question of Privilege and Sacrifice by Thorsten Prill

The Evangelical Review of Theology and Politics, Vol. 10, 2022, page A49

"Twenty-first century Christianity is a religion with an economically poor majority in the Global South and a wealthy minority in the Global North. Missionaries who leave the latter to serve in Africa, Latin America and the developing countries of Asia are confronted with an affluence gap that has the potential to damage their cross-cultural ministries. Thus, missionary affluence can separate Western workers from the local communities in their host countries and subvert the Gospel message they have come to share. Culturally sensitive, simple lifestyles and new models of partnership with indigenous Christians can help Western missionaries to overcome the pitfalls presented by significant differences in access to personal and institutional wealth, education and knowledge. It is crucial, however, that they learn from the biblical missionary role models par excellence, Jesus and his apostles, who relinquished privileges and rights and made extraordinary sacrifices for the sake of their missions," writes Prill.

https://www.evangelicalreview.net/tertp-vol-10-2022.html

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Jim's Furlough Announcement

Jim Harries is in Germany and the UK for the months of October and November 2022. His programme is as follows. He welcomes additional visitors, and additional engagements.

Norwich, 5-7, 11, 22

Wantage, 12-16, 11, 22

York, 17-22, 11, 22

Conference in Germany, 25-27, 11, 22

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