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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.



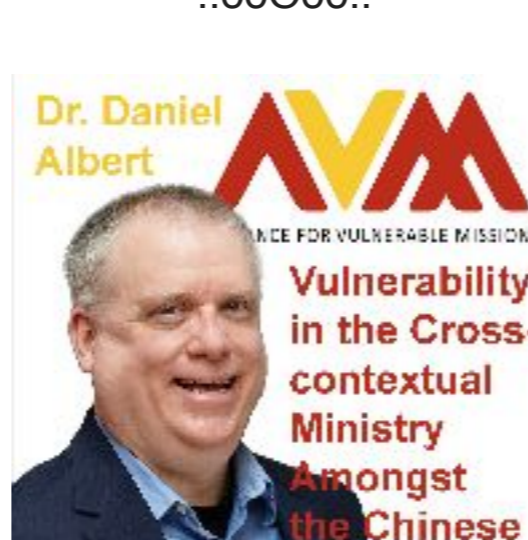
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Radius International

<https://www.radiusinternational.org/core-values/>

Radius has missionary training programmes that focus on preparing for long term dedicated service using indigenous languages. They say:
 "FOCUSED ON GOSPEL CLARITY: The gospel is at the heart of all that we are and do, and it is the basis for anything we accomplish in service to Christ. Equipping cross-cultural workers to clearly understand and articulate the gospel is at the core of our mission at Radius. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we must be serious about communicating his message with clarity. We must know what we are saying and how we are being heard. Without proficiency in the language and culture of an unreached people group, missionaries and their gospel message may not be taken seriously.
 MORE EFFECTIVE WORKERS - LESS UNNECESSARY ATTRITION: The remaining language groups are located in less accessible, uncomfortable regions where the demands are extremely intense. Because of this, many cross-cultural workers leave the field before finishing the task. We believe missionaries can serve longer and more effectively with intentional, practical pre-field training that addresses the character qualities, the understanding, and the skills essential to cross-cultural church planters."
 ..ooOoo..



Join us at our next quarterly AVM webinar:

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

Speaker: Daniel Albert, former long-time worker in China

When: Saturday, 22nd October 2022

Time: 14:00 (London Time)

Sign up using this form for free and we will send you a Zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/GBMabpKZthErXtg8>

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Obituary – Glenn Schwartz – a Founding Father of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission

[Glenn J. Schwartz Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information](#)

[\(wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com\)](#)

<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com/obituaries/Glenn-Schwartz-2#!/TributeWall>

The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) was founded by Jim Harries and Robert Reese (and Stan Nussbaum via video link) on the premises of the WMA (World Mission Associates, now Five Stones Global) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2007. Glenn J. Schwartz, 1938-2022, was both founder, and up to then director, of WMA. After coming back from the mission field and time at Fuller in California, "Glenn spent 30 years travelling, writing, consulting and lecturing, encouraging local churches around the world to be more sustainable financially and administratively, under God's leadership. His book, *When Charity Destroys Dignity*, "has been translated into five languages other than English." ... "I began reading Glenn's materials in around 1989," shares Jim Harries, "and they were definitely formative in developing my own understanding of what goes on between church and mission in Africa."
 ..ooOoo..



Jim's Furlough Announcement

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

[Conference in Germany, 7-9.10.22](#)

[Worpswede, Germany, 10-16.10.22](#)

[Conference in Germany, 17-20.10.22](#)

[Andover, UK, 21-31.10.22](#)

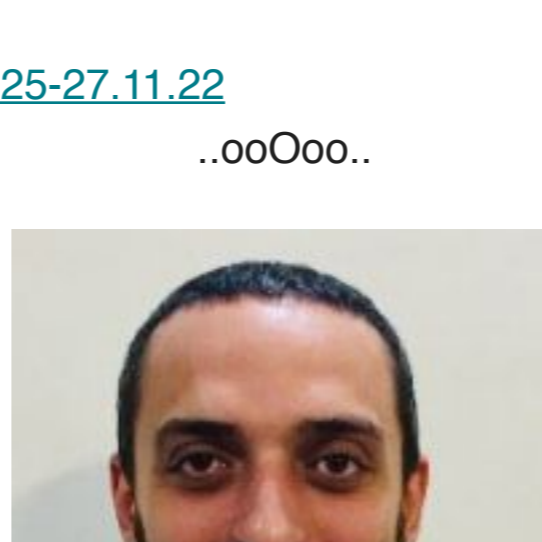
[Norwich, 5-7.11.22](#)

[Wantage, 12-16.11.22](#)

[York, 17-22.11.22](#)

[Conference in Germany, 25-27.11.22](#)

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Into a Coptic Orthodox Theology of the Poor

Email: rglobal@ocms.ac.uk

As a Coptic Orthodox missionary and scholar, Riad Ghobrial has always been keen to explore the possibilities for the Coptic mission, especially in rural villages, to live and practice vulnerable missions. Riad believes that the foundations of Coptic theology and spirituality can strongly support a mission that stands on the side of the poor, marginalized, and oppressed, socially and culturally. The Coptic church has been oppressed throughout her two-thousand-year history and her tradition has been developed centred on the life of a poor, oppressed, and marginalized community. In addition, her theology has been formed rooted in Egyptian history and culture in resistance to all kinds of foreign intrusions. The result is a flourishing popular Christianity that is embedded in the very heart of the people's language, culture, and local elements of life. These features should allow her and inspire her to live in the same way when she moves to new lands having different cultures and traditions.

According to the Coptic church, the liturgy is the core of the Christian life. This is where the people of God gather to renew their love and unity with the Triune God and with each other. Therefore, if the Coptic mission performs her liturgy vulnerably, this will set the direction and give the power for the church to accomplish the rest of her activities vulnerably, i.e., in Christ's way.

In his current Ph.D. studies, Riad starts this line of research by looking at the main church activity which is her liturgy. He begins his study by laying down the foundations for a Coptic Theology of the Poor by establishing a literature conversation between Coptic theologians and some liberation theologians. The purpose of such a beginning is to assure that the theology and hence the practices of the Coptic church are on the side of the poor while taking seriously into consideration their social and cultural conditions. Then, Riad will conduct a detailed analysis of the liturgical practices of the Coptic church in Egypt, Kenya, and Bolivia through which he examines the social and cultural aspects and impact of the elements of these practices. The analysis will help discover and encourage liberating elements found in the liturgy, silencing oppressive ones, and suggesting new ones. Ultimately, the final aim is to be able to synthesize a Liturgical Coptic Theology of the Poor, a liturgy that is culturally indigenous and socially appropriate to the context of the people.

Riad Ghobrial was born and raised in Egypt. For many years he served as a missionary with the Coptic Church in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Congo, and Bolivia. He is the founder and director of Mission of Saint Mark for Evangelism whose main goal is to reach out to the marginalized villages in Egypt. He is the author of *The Journey*, a discipleship program for Arabic-speaking Christians (ASFCS). He is also the author of *Look at Me and Have Mercy on Me: A study on the book of Psalms in the historical Jewish and contemporary African contexts*, (in Arabic) (ASFCS). He headed the translation team of the *Coptic Psalmody* from Coptic and Arabic to Swahili.

Riad holds a B.Sc in Civil Engineering from Cairo University in Egypt, an MTS from St Athanasius and St Cyril Theological School, CA, USA, and an MTS from Claremont School of Theology, CA, USA. He is currently working on his Ph.D. at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Oxford, UK.

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Subversive Mission

<https://www.craiggreenfield.com/blog/read-subversive-mission-intro>

"The world needs each of us, but we can't afford to isolate ourselves any longer. Before we head out to change the world, we must first be honest about the power we're carrying. As I share my journey, with all its flaws and mess-ups, I hope you will join me in seeking a better way, a more beautiful vision for how we can all bear the light we have been given into the world." **Subversive mission**, Craig's new book, will be available from Nov. 1st. You can pre-order it now. Go to the above link to read the first chapter for free.

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