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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

January 2025

Volume 17, Number 1

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, AVM Governing Board.



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:

AVM: New organisational structure and leadership

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- Webinar: Missionaries and Language Learning: What Can Missions Organizations and Missions Leaders Do to Help Their Missionaries Succeed?

- A Discussion of Vulnerability in Mission for the Twenty-first Century from a Biblical Perspective

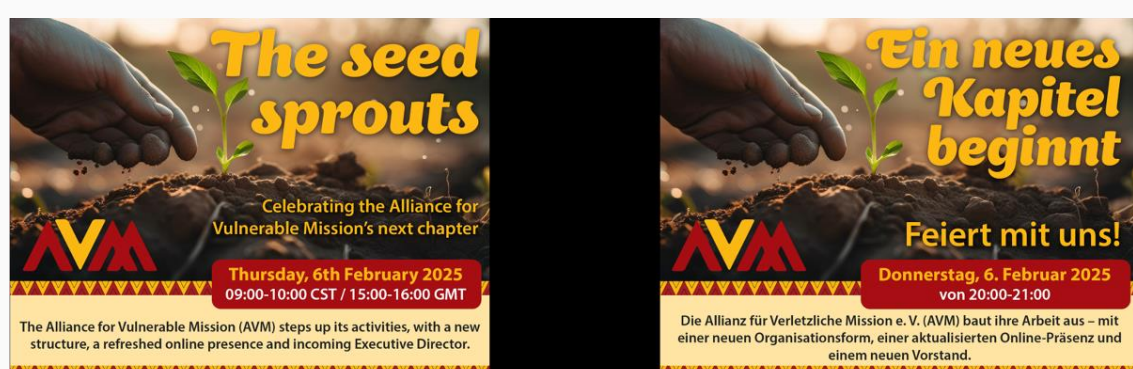
- Future Webinars (2025)



AVM: New organisational structure and leadership

The AVM has been registered as a public benefit association in Germany under the name 'Allianz für Verletzliche Mission'. Internationally, we will continue to operate under 'Alliance for Vulnerable Mission'. This development goes hand in with a restructuring of the organisation's leadership. AVM founder Dr. Jim Harries steps back from executive responsibilities, while still serving on the governing board. The AVM will now be led by an executive board consisting of three people with Dr. Marcus Grohmann as Director, Deborah Bernhard as Deputy Director and Maria Richter as secretary.

Read more on the AVM's transition and the people leading the organisation now here: <https://vulnerablemission.org/transition-update/>



Handover Event: Tell us if you want an invite

These changes will be marked by two festive gatherings (in English and German) on 6th February. The celebrations, to last 1 hour, involve past and present members and participants in the AVM, including short speeches, a Biblical devotion, an interview of new office-holders, and so on. One event will be in English, and the other in German. Readers of the Bulletin who would like to be invited (the event is invitation only) to this event, please email this address: celebration@vulnerablemission.org

Vulnerable Mission

Relating to people through their languages and local resources

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission helps Western Christians to grow in understanding of indigenous perspectives. We strongly believe that this is essential for contributions to intercultural ministry that honour rather than dominate local contexts.

New Website now online!

Hand in hand with all the changes goes a revamped website in currently two languages: www.vulnerablemission.org for English and www.verletzlicheMission.org for German. Check out for explanations of Vulnerable Mission in text and video format, for helpful resources like webinar recordings, news, upcoming events, etc.

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in cooperation with



23rd January 2025: Dr. Debbie Kramlich



Learning Over Power

Moving Beyond Cross-cultural Competency to Cultural Humility



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

Advance notice of webinar

On 23rd January 2025, Dr. Debbie Kramlich will speak about the essentials for transformative learning in ministry and mission. For further details on this intriguing topic, and to register, go to this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/avm-webinar-learning-over-power-tickets-1056454557019?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



Religious liberties of missionaries under pressure from within: The unsettling nature and the potential of vulnerable approaches to mission (Paper published by Dr. Marcus Grohmann)

<https://journals.mf.no/ntm/article/view/5589> (open access)

This article engages with critique and suspicion of Vulnerable Mission, i.e. (particularly) Westerners exclusively using indigenous languages and local resources in cross-cultural ministry. Such wariness about vulnerable mission has the potential to effectively curb religious freedom which missionaries require to follow their calling. The paper delves into reasons for critique and demonstrates why supporting vulnerable approaches to mission ought to be worth the risk.



Webinar: Missionaries and Language Learning: What Can Missions Organizations and Missions Leaders Do to Help Their Missionaries Succeed?

<https://missionexus.org/webinar-missionaries-and-language-learning-what-can-missions-organizations-and-missions-leaders-do-to-help-their-missionaries-succeed/#comment-16613>


Research shows that missionaries have the best chance at longevity on the field if they can communicate at ease and at the heart level in their host places and spaces. This means that language acquisition must be at the forefront of the missionary task for the long-term. However, one of the behind-the-curtain secrets of missionaries is that many struggle with language learning, and it interferes with everything in life—including staying on the mission field. Dr. Natalie Mullen Leisher, the director of the Institute for Cross-Cultural Training at Wheaton College, will discuss what we know now about missionary language acquisition and how missions organizations and on-field teams can help missionaries succeed in this all-important and extremely difficult task. (Freely available to missio-nexus members only.)




A Discussion of Vulnerability in Mission for the Twenty-first Century from a Biblical Perspective

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/90008944>


Anne Dyer, long term supporter of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission), made a friendly critique of our work, that was published in 2017, from a biblical perspective. Anne perceives, and discusses, many of the reasons in favour of vulnerable mission. For example, she realises that the problem of today's wisdom that a Western missionary "should come under local leadership" is that if the missionary agrees to help financially "a poor community may well demand that the incomer find outside resources, which would turn the whole idea [of being under local authority] on its head [because being the funnel through which resources flow would again give the foreign missionary a lot of power]." (p40) Anne's article is an intriguing read. It does not have a conclusion as such, but seems fairly clearly to be in favour of vulnerable mission.



The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in cooperation with
Rethinking Forum




23rd January 2025: Dr. Debbie Kramlich



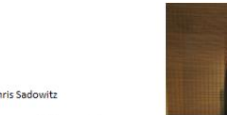
— WEBINAR —
ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

Learning Over Power

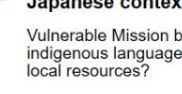
Moving Beyond Cross-cultural Competency to Cultural Humility



The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in cooperation with
Rethinking Forum



24th April 2025: Dr. Chris Sadowitz



— WEBINAR —
ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

Serving in an affluent Japanese context

Vulnerable Mission beyond indigenous languages and local resources?

Future Webinars (2025)

For more information on these webinars, and to register in advance, go to:

<http://vulnerablemission.eventbrite.co.uk>

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The AVM Bulletin is published by Allianz für Verletzte Mission e. V. / Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (AVM), Heynathstr. 7, 01309 Dresden, registered under Association Register Number 14892 by the local court in Dresden. The AVM is represented by Marcus Grohmann (Director). Contact via phone (+27 81 586 1484) or email (info@vulnerablemission.org).