

**Call for Papers. Conference.** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**You are invited to submit paper proposals to this event**

All Nations Christian College, UK, 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
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**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: Vulnerable mission: English and Dollars Powering Ministry, Good Idea? Call for papers.

Papers should be between 4000 and 8000 words. Abstract maximum 300 words. Anyone wanting to write and present a paper other than in English, please consult.

Presentation time will be maximum ½ hour (strictly), followed by 30 to 60 minutes of discussion with those in attendance.

Submit your abstract asap, latest May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, to  
[jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

- Please give us some information on your background / experience.
- Please contact me and let me know of your interest in writing and presenting a paper.

### Conference Details

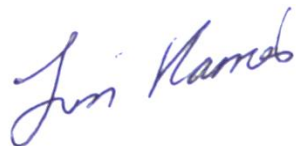
This will be a three-day residential conference. It will be held in the English country house at the attractive rural location of the UK's premier missionary training college, near Ware in Hertfordshire. Full cost will be £300, or early bird £260. (We will recompense speakers IF we get a sufficient attendance to be able to afford to do so.)



Conference: Vulnerable mission: English and Dollars Powering Ministry, Good Idea? Call for papers.

## Conference sponsors:

<i>Alliance for Vulnerable Mission</i>  vulnerablemission.org	 <b>ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION</b>
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Jim Harries, PhD.  
Board chair, Missionary in East Africa

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