

# **CARGO CULTURE & AUDIOLOGY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

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# WHAT IS CARGO CULTURE ?

## Cargo cults

religious practices that have appeared in many traditional tribal societies  
in the wake of interaction with technologically advanced cultures  
who focus on obtaining the material wealth (the "cargo") of the advanced culture  
through magical means such as building mock aircraft landing strips, etc.



## **RESPONSE TO A RECENT QUERY OF A HEARING CARE PROFESSIONAL IN PNG ABOUT CARGO CULTS:**

- YES!!!, PNG is still influenced by cargo cults, everything is a version of: “What sequence of things do we have to do to get the cargo the whites stole from our tambuna (forebears)”
- It’s deep seated in even the most sophisticated. Once the cargo is obtained it’s theirs with no sense of obligation”

# What's the connection with Audiology?

- Do we feel good using our training to “save” the hard of hearing and in the process sometimes unintentionally reduce them to objects while fulfilling our social responsibilities and/or personal need to accomplish something of significance ?
- For years, people and organisations with the best of intentions, end up developing unhealthy relationships with the very same people they are trying to assist
- This form of Charitable Giving goes back hundreds of years
- Often, there is little transfer of knowledge and skills – only self satisfaction
- Last CGHH conference included references to Hearing Aid Dumping

# Recommendations ?

In the way we provide Aid, let us evaluate how to:

- Reduce harm to “recipients, ourselves and others”
- Develop policies to avoid establishing Co-Dependencies
- Spend dollars on creating self sustaining projects
- Satisfy the rightful beneficiaries: The Recipients or the Donors?

**From Slovakia, Cargo Cult (aka Allan Vilhan ) was the bass guitarist in the rock band *Stirba* from 1989-1992**



***Cargo Cult: electro-rock with a tribal, world flair.***

**IN GLOBAL HEARING HEALTH  
CULTURAL NUANCES  
ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD**

**IT IS HOPED THAT DISCUSSIONS  
WILL LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF  
“NEW STANDARDS OF PRACTICE”  
FOR CROSS CULTURAL PROJECTS**



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