



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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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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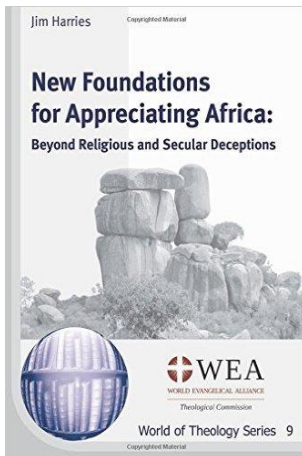


- **Xavier Massingue**, from Mozambique, has written an article entitled: ‘Dewestoxicating Mission’ that can be downloaded [here](#). Xavier’s conclusion states:

“Transformational Development is historically the brainchild of western Christianity and therefore it shares the shortcoming of integral mission in relation to African worldview. Western Christian “spirituality has for so long been the domain of a type of mysticism that has sought God apart from a real engagement with the world. It has been assumed that God

can only be related to by either negating the world or bypassing it” (Frost & Hirsch 2003, 111). The inappropriateness of this spirituality to engage problems deep-rooted in African worldview is captured by Adamo’s contention that “the missionary/western ways of reading and interpreting the Bible is too foreign to meet the urgent needs of Africans” (Adamo 2001, 37). It is time to explore local initiatives. **Can the Zionist Churches approach of healing of affliction of the most vulnerable offer a clue of engaging the mission of God in a way that catalyzes authentic development in Mozambique?”**

- **The most popular article of all time in the journal *missio dei* is that by Jean Johnson!** ‘What is that in your hand’, was originally presented at the AVM conference in 2012 in Abilene Christian University! See [here](#). Meanwhile, the editor’s most liked article is one by **Robert Reese**, also a very valued friend and a founder member of AVM.



- A reviewer of Jim’s latest book has made the following observations, found on amazon [here](#):

“Harries offers **an intriguing perspective on the topic of justice in our globalized world**: the hegemony of Western dualistic thinking undermines human flourishing among majority world peoples. A primary cause of this unintended disconnect lies in the fact that the juxtaposed categories of "religious" and "secular" in Western thinking do not exist in the daily lives of many majority world peoples. Development efforts championed by the West, however, are conceived and implemented from a "secular" or "rational" standpoint which by definition must ignore African values which fall into Western categories of "religion". The fact that English is the language of interaction contributes to an obscuring and even denial of the integrity of an African voice at the table. Human flourishing for majority world peoples begins with those willing to interrogate their own categories of thinking and a willingness to give credence to non-dualistic frameworks of being.”

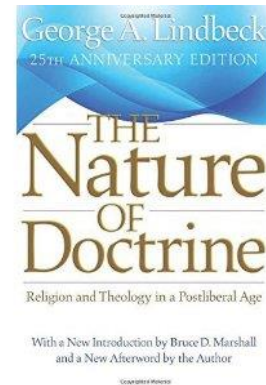
Sometimes reviewers can miss the point, but this one seems to be bang on, says Jim! A pdf copy of this book is available for free [here](#).

- Eddie Arthur makes some amazing observations. Are maids and taxi drivers better at doing Christian mission than are the missionary pros? Look [here](#) to find out more. This piece is entitled: **‘Maids and taxi drivers: the new face of the missionary movement.’**



- See [here](#) for a blog by Jim Harries posted by Global Connections UK. The blog is entitled **‘Anti-racism legislation and Global Christian Mission’**. In it Jim suggests that anti-racism legislation in the West is a major impediment to contemporary Christian mission. (For a closely-related ongoing discussion on academia.edu, see [here](#).)

- See [here](#) for an article on **vulnerability in mission** by Steve Wiebe-Johnson, published by Mennonite Mission Network.
- See [here](#) for Jim’s review of **The Nature of Doctrine** by George Lindbeck. Here is a part of Jim’s review: “Locating ... the constant ... in a religion ... [in] inner experience ... result[s] in the identification of the normative form of the religion with either the truth claims or the experiences appropriate to a particular world ... [e.g.] Florida” states Lindbeck (70). In so doing, he identifies the abiding ‘sin’ of Western theologians reaching Africa: they end up communicating not the God of the Scriptures, but their home culture. To not-do-so requires use of appropriate categories, hence as pre-requisite, a grasp of indigenous culture, plus use of languages that make sense of that culture. To do this, frankly, as a further pre-requisite, requires a theologian to avoid forcing their agenda using outside funding.”



**Moving beyond post-colonial dependency:
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Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.org
 Wednesday 8th November 2017 registration at 5.00pm, finishing 12 noon on Saturday 11th November.
 Cost: \$270.00 conference and meals. Bed and breakfast separate. Discounts available for those attending part-time and/or students.

Speakers to include:

- Jean Johnson, Director, World Mission Associates.
- Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.
- Rev. Canon Dr. John Macdonald, Trinity School for Ministry, PA.
- Dr. Jim Harries, Chair, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.
- Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview, Portland, OR.
- and other speakers ...







‘Emphasising the use of indigenous languages and resources as the norm for some intercultural workers.’
 We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages: Korean, Swahili, Spanish ...

Queries to: jim@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu (Details may still change. Registration to open 1st March 2017.)



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