



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

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Volume 9, Number 11.



[Click here to register for the USA conference, 8th to 11th November 2017](#)

Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM

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		Stan Nussbaum

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.

.....



Conference, entitled ***Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability***, to be held at [Trinity School for Ministry 8th to 11th November 2017](#).



- Jim Harries, chairman of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission, has been travelling through the USA in the last six weeks. Many additional recipients have as a result been added to the distribution list of the AVM Bulletin. Welcome to new recipients.

- The right-hand column of this *Rundbrief* from Marcus Grohmann considers the role of English in liberating Africa. (Link to English translation below.)

RUNDBRIEF | SEP 2017

Neuigkeiten von Annethea, Marcus + Ilse Grohmann



Liebe Familie und Freunde,

Während die Unis in Deutschland in den Startlöchern stehen fürs neue Wintersemester, befinden sich die Studenten hier in den letzten Vorlesungswochen vor der Prüfungszeit am Ende des Uni-Jahres. Wir sind immer noch dabei uns an den Rhythmus zu gewöhnen, der ja auch das *Student Y* betrifft. Es ist manchmal nicht leicht gute Zeitfenster für Treffen mit Studenten zu finden.

Im August genossen wir eine Auszeit von Kapstadt als wir zu dritt eine Woche am Rande der Klein-Karoo-Halbwüste verbringen konnten. Kurz vor der Abfahrt nach Hause konnten wir uns nicht halten vor Lachen, als Ilse komplett bekleidet in die vollgelaufene Badewanne plumpste ...

Derzeit suchen wir für 2018 für Ilse einen Kindergartenplatz und für uns alle eine günstigere Wohnung. Dafür bitten wir um Gebet.

In diesem Brief wollen wir euch im Weiteren gerne ein paar ausführlichere Einblicke in das geben, was uns durch Marcus' Arbeit in letzter Zeit sehr beschäftigt hat.

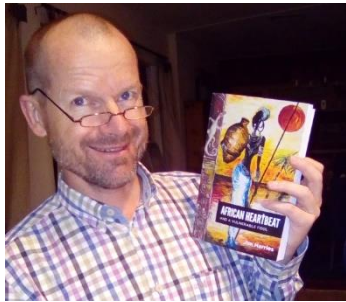
Fortschritte in der Doktorarbeit

Den Winter über (ja, der geht bei uns gerade zu Ende ...) habe ich (Marcus) intensiv an einer Überarbeitung meines Forschungsentwurfs gearbeitet. Ein spannender Prozess, der uns am Esstisch oft herausfordernde Gespräche besocht

hat. Kann es wirklich sein, dass es eben nicht zu einem Miteinander auf Augenhöhe führt, wenn Leute aus verschiedenen Kulturen und Sprachen hier in Schulen und Kirchen zusammen kommen – und dabei alles auf Englisch läuft? Kann es sein, dass Leute oft aneinander vorbei reden – gerade weil sie nur Englisch verwenden? Und kann es sein, dass die weiße, westliche Dominanz tatsächlich auch heute eine Fortsetzung findet, indem die westliche Kultur (die sich in Sprache, Lehrplänen, Theologie und vielem mehr ausdrückt) unhinterfragt als universell gültig, gut und kulturell "neutral" vorausgesetzt wird? Je mehr ich hier lerne, umso mehr muss ich die Fragen mit "Ja" beantworten (die kleine Geschichte im Kasten auf der nächsten Seite macht dies noch mal auf andere Weise deutlich). Und das ist problematisch, weil man in Südafrika doch so viel Hoffnung setzt auf ein Miteinander auf Augenhöhe, bei dem alle Kulturen zu ihrem Recht kommen – auch in den Kirchen. Es gibt eine ganze Reihe von Gemeinden, bei denen wir beeindruckt sind, wie sie die Rassentrennung der Vergangenheit versuchen zu überwinden. Und doch scheint das Miteinander der Kulturen nur vorstellbar, wenn es mit einer Integration in und einer Anpassung an die westliche, englisch geprägte Kultur einhergeht.

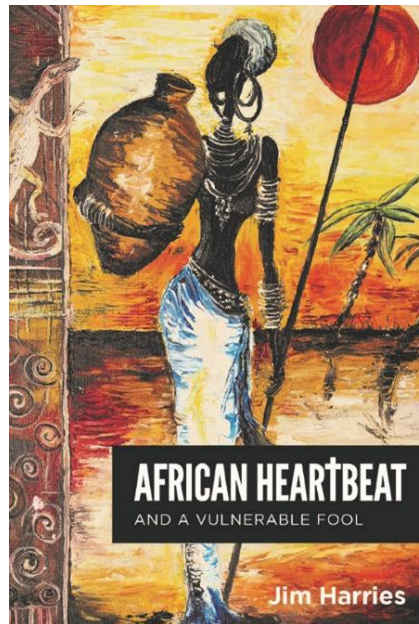
Ich gehe davon aus, dass die verwendete Sprache im Miteinander erheblichen Einfluss darauf hat, inwieweit Gemeinschaft tatsächlich multikulturell und auf Augenhöhe sein kann. Dabei erforsche ich die Auswirkungen der Verwendung von Englisch als alleiniger Sprache in christlichen Gemeinden in Kapstadt.

[English translation here.](#)



US customers from 1st November for a discount price! [\(The price only £8.99 for the first 500 books to be sold. Then the price will go up.\)](#)

- **Jim's latest novel, [African Heartbeat: and a vulnerable fool](#) is available to**



African Heartbeat and a Vulnerable Fool A Novel by Jim Harries

Can a white man thrive living as an African in an African village? Philo's adventure takes him to the fictional African country of Holima, where he is adopted by an African tribe. Should Philo follow Western wisdom, and cause problems by generous giving? Or can he convince Western people that a vulnerable approach is the best way to reach Africa? Jim Harries' Christian novel draws on his true-life experiences.

USA RELEASE 1 NOVEMBER 2017

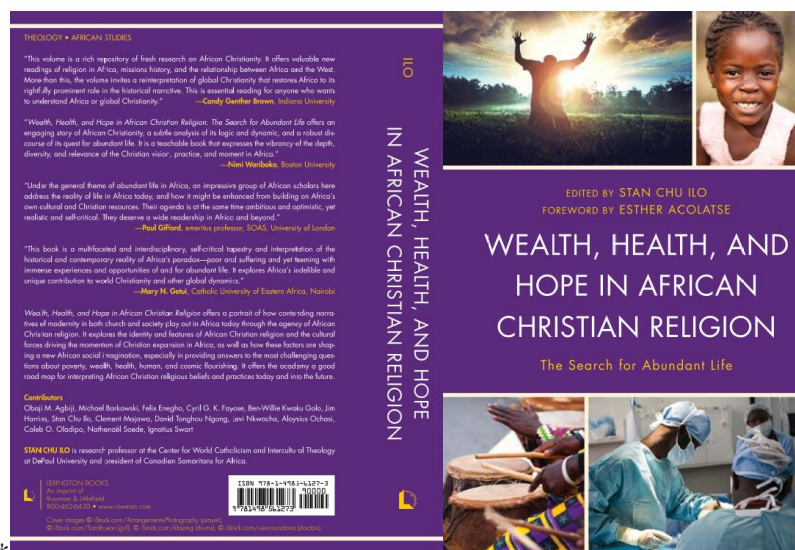
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REVIEW: "an eye-opener ... unlike anything I've read before ... an unusual story ... the social and cultural insights were full of interest and surprises."

- Stan Chu Ilo (member of the advisory board of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) and Jim Harries, are amongst the contributors to this book, that is to be out shortly, on ***Wealth, Health, and Hope in African Christian Religion***. Stan Chu Ilo writes: The African continent is burdened by what Mudimbe calls the "invention of Africa."⁹ It does not matter whether this image is negative or positive or a little in-between. What is to be noted is the importance of examining what one ever knew about Africa, and refining one's insight based on new information. This underlies the need to dig deeper beyond generalizations and stereotypes, real or imagined. This is why this volume approaches the main themes of this book through "a total picture method."





- Those with access to the EMQ (Evangelical Missions' Quarterly) can access an article recently published by Jim Harries here: [The Importance of Using Indigenous Languages](#) If you do not have access to EMQ, that link will not work, but you can look [here](#) for a brief summary.

<https://www.emqonline.com/node/3698>

- [“I almost feel like a god”: From dating to business, white men are winning in India](#)’ is the title of this short news article available [here](#). It reports on the enormous favour given to people with white skin in India. Why are Whites, whose communities have traditionally been Christian, so often given this kind of extreme favour?



- Why Tanzanians should be wealthy. “We need to ask God to make us rich,” a missionary is told by a Tanzanian. To understand this, see a short video [here](#) by Tamie Davis.

[Here](#)’s another take on the prosperity Gospel from Tanzania, also by Tamie Davis.

- See below, for details on Jim’s lecture in Philadelphia, 3rd November 2017, at Eastern University:



Friday, NOVEMBER 3*

Dr. Jim Harries, Missionary in Kenya (East Africa), and Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission
"Dramatic Insights: Vulnerable Cross-cultural Mission Service in Africa over 30 years"

Opening story: 'How to be mistaken for God in an African supermarket.'

An agriculturalist called to service in the majority world commits for lifetime service. Africa is not what he expected. The agriculturalist becomes a bible teacher. Mission senders do not want their people to be vulnerable. What to do: you've been called by God, but authorities don't agree? The honourable option is to carry on, not in defiance, but in weakness. From a position of vulnerability on the field, **amazing things begin to be evident**. What is called anti-racism in the West, is flattening the truth in Africa! Visiting scholars and missionaries who use English, with money to give, might get the wrong end of the stick. Contemporary systems of sending Western missionaries are epistemologically faulty. If the system is set up to deny the truth of Christ, then there's a problem with the system. Background reading here.

**Moving beyond post-colonial dependency:
developing sustainability through vulnerability**

sponsored by the **Alliance for Vulnerable Mission** (vulnerablemission.org)

Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.edu
 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, Five Stones Global.
 Dr. Stan Nussbaum, SYNC.
 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.
 Peter Sholl, Director, MOCLAM, Monterrey, México.

'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: allyson@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu [Click here](#) or go to: goo.gl/5SXc6t to register.

Conference outline; Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

To be held at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pittsburgh, 8th to 11th November 2017 (details: allyson@vulnerablemission.org) (Meals and breaks not included in this skeleton schedule).

Wednesday (8/11/2017)

17:00 Registration

19:00 Plenary paper 1. Dr. Stan Nussbaum "The past and future of vulnerable mission, built on attendees' p

Thursday (9/11/2017)

9.30 Plenary 2. by Jean Johnson. "An Unhealthy Self-Image = An Unhealthy Community"

14.30 Panel of practitioners each commenting on their VM experience.

16.00 Seminars 2.

18.45 Plenary 3. by Dr. Jim Harries. "Please listen carefully ... understand."

Friday (10/11/2017)

9.30 Plenary 4. Fred and Carol Lewis.

11.45 seminars 3

14.30 Outing to old economy village in Ambridge. / Meeting to plan future activities of AVM/USA.

18.45 plenary 5. Peter Sholl. "Sustainable mission in Cuba - lessons learnt (sometimes the hard way)"

20.15 Tea and discuss the conference so far in groups. Feedback.

Saturday (11/11/17)

9.30 Plenary. Summing up key points from the conference, by Dr. John Macdonald.

10.15 Working Groups.

11.00 Wrapping up, 11.40 worship.

Conference ends at 12 noon with lunch.

Provisional

- UK conference, end of May / start of June 2018, All Nations Christian College, Herts. Details pending.