



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM



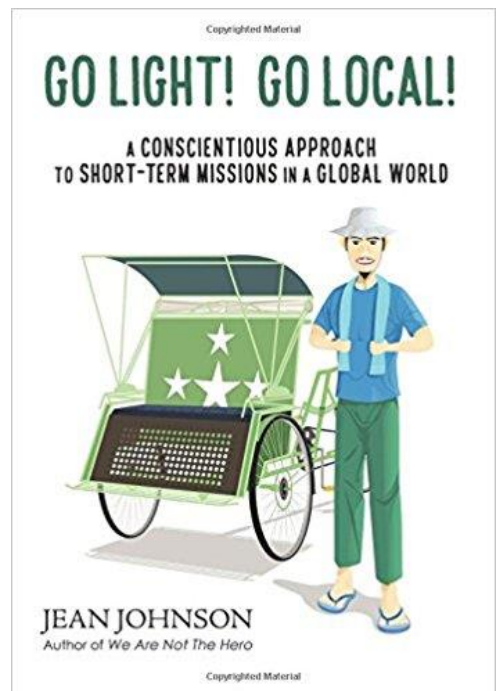
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Jim Harries	Jonathan Winter	Chris Flanders
Timothy Reeves	Jay Gary	Stan Chu Ilo
Fred Lewis	Tomas Dozier	Frank Paul
John Macdonald	Jean Johnson	Gord Sawatzky
		Stan Nussbaum

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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[Go Light! Go Local!: A Conscientious Approach To Short-Term Missions in a Global World](#) is the title to a recent book by Jean Johnson. “There are plenty of books on short-term missions. So how is this guidebook different? - It was written by a long-term missionary with long-term transformation in mind. - The recipients of missions and the long-term impacts on them run through the veins of the entire guidebook. - It provides a way to prepare, train, and develop missional people for a lifetime and as a lifestyle, rather than for a mission trip or mission project.” Shares the author Jean Johnson, an advisory board member for the AVM.

- How should we [avoid music colonialism](#) ? Jean tells us in this short piece.





- OCMS (Oxford Centre for Mission Studies – located [here](#)) hosted a lecture by AVM chairman Jim Harries on 29th May 2018, that in various ways drew on vulnerable mission. The lecture was entitled *Race and Mission Contra-twined: some challenges from Africa*. In the lecture Jim Harries showed ways in which efforts at countering racism in the West might be hindering development in Africa. Particularly, it could be hindering contextualisation and concealing the impact of the Gospel, Jim suggested.
- ‘This simple question will help you evaluate any ministry among the poor,’ , Craig Greenfield tells us. See [here](#) for more from Craig.
- ‘How to avoid negative donor impact in development and mission to Africa,’ is the title of this article by Jim Harries, recent published in *The Journal of Transformative Innovation*. Here’s the first part of the abstract: “MDWs (missionaries and development workers), the poor in Africa, and Western donors, are engaged in a three-way dynamic fundamentally different from the work of change-agents of old. Donors hope to increase human flourishing by funding programs which ease the plight of the poor. They want that to happen in visibly quantifiable ways. They often do not realize how strongly their money determines paths and outcomes of the intervention. ...”

- **Consultation:**
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- 8th to 10th June, Minneapolis. Please pray for a consultation being arranged to be held in Minneapolis, USA, 8th to 10th June 2018. It will be an exploratory / collaborative meeting of VM board members and others who are not explicitly committed to AVM, drawn from those who came to Trinity in November 2017. We'll be looking for ways to widen the awareness of VM principles in the U.S. setting.
- **A summary of the November 2017 consultation, *Moving Beyond Post-Colonial Dependency: Developing Sustainability through Vulnerability*, held at the Trinity School for Ministry in PA, can be found [here](#).**
- **Advance notice:** Please note that the April 2018 edition of *Global Missiology* (globalmissiology.org) will be a special edition devoted to vulnerable mission, especially containing papers presented during the 2017 consultation in the USA.

Vulnerable Mission: WHAT IT IS, AND WHY WE NEED IT



Mission Conference may 31 - June 2 2018

allnations
training for mission

hosted at
All Nations Christian College
Easneye, Ware, Herts
SG12 8LX UK



Frank Paul
Argentina/Germany



Deborah Bernhard
Germany/Thailand



Dr. Jim Harries
East Africa

Vulnerable Mission is a means of Christian outreach using the language and resources of the people being reached.

£ 179 early bird rate
£ 199 after 30 April
F/T students pay 80%
conference@
vulnerablemission.org

sponsored by:



www.vulnerablemission.org

[Register here.](#)

Conference: Vulnerable Mission: what it is and why we need it.

All Nations Christian College, Ware, Hertfordshire,
31st May to 2nd June 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 31st May.

17.00 hrs Arrival

18.00 Introductions

20.00 'What is vulnerable mission?'

Friday 1st June.

9.00 hrs Keynote paper, Mission in the Chaco, Argentina, **Frank Paul**.

11.00 Ignoring Advice: implementing Vulnerable Mission in Africa. **Jim Harries**.

14.30 Group discussions.

16.30 Mission Today, and Vulnerable Mission, Richard and Louisa Evans (provisional).

19.30 Panel and Questions. **Harries, Paul, Bernhard**.

Saturday 2nd June.

9.00 hrs A paper on South Africa, **Marcus Grohmann**.

11.00 Contextualization as vulnerable mission. **Deborah Bernhard**.

14.30 Seminars – various topics.

17.00 Departure.

VULNERABLEMISSION.ORG

Provisional

Bios of our guest speakers, for the conference 'Vulnerable Mission: what it is, and why we need it.'

Conference to be held at All Nations Christian College, UK, May 31st to June 2nd 2018.

Deborah Bernhard

Deborah has lived in cultures other than her own for over 20 years. Every place she's lived she has learned the local language. In her church planting work in Thailand among the Shan people, she used only local language and resources in her work. She found herself on a discovery of also using only local culture. Questions of "what does Jesus and his church look like in the skin of the local people and context?" led her to discovering barriers to the gospel and seeking to overcome them. Realizing that the answers require some paradigm shifts in the way we do mission among Buddhists, Deborah and her husband Jens have committed themselves to learning more about the local context, understanding barriers to the gospel, and sharing with others specific ways of overcoming them. Deborah is an Associate Certified Coach with the International Coach Federation, and coaches missionaries in SE Asia. She and her husband also lead groups of practitioners who are seeking to see Christ in the local culture, and are writing a book about following Christ in the context of Buddhist traditions.

Frank Paul

Ute and Frank Paul have three children. They belong to OJC, an intentional interdenominational community in Germany - sharing life, daily work, resources (see: www.ojc.de). Their vision focuses on living and offering (mainly) to young people: friendship, a place of belonging, and a sense of direction in Jesus Christ. For 18 years Frank and Ute lived in Argentina - a few years in the slum areas of Buenos Aires (www.kairos.org.ar). Afterwards they joined an international team of fraternal workers who were accompanying independent indigenous churches in the Chaco area in northern Argentina. Frank, fluent in Toba and Spanish as well as German, is a board member of the AVM-Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (www.vulnerablemission.org) that encourages others to lean on local strengths, resources and mother tongues.

Jim Harries

Jim, is the chairman of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission), that advocates for use of indigenous languages and resources in ministry overseas. Jim has a PhD from University of Birmingham, UK. He has lived and worked in East Africa since 1988, engaging indigenous and other churches with bible teaching using the Swahili and Luo languages. Jim, who is single, has been looking after orphan children in his African village home since 1997. He has published many missiologically related articles, and eight books, including *The Godless Delusion* (2017), and a novel, *African Heartbeat* (2018). Jim recently spent 10 weeks visiting 15 seminaries and Christian universities in the USA and Canada. Jim, who also speaks German, was born and raised in the UK. He attended All Nations in 1992/3.

“Why should a missionary be vulnerable?”

(This is not about mission to vulnerable people, or vulnerable children, but it is about the need for a missionary to the majority world him/her-self to be vulnerable.)

Vulnerable to what? Vulnerable to failure. Vulnerable to getting ‘hurt’. Vulnerable, like, sensitive to what is going on. Vulnerable like - what you do won’t work at all unless local people invest their time, energy, and money into helping you ...

How do you become vulnerable?

1. Use their language. If you use their language, you will start to hear their criticism as they intend it. Then, in due course, you might learn how to function according to their social rules. Then God might be able to use you to reach them with the Gospel in a way that makes sense to them.

2. Don’t use outside money to subsidise what you are going to do. That is - even if the people you are going to work amongst are poor. That way you won’t buy your influence. You’ll have to sweat for it.

Who does vulnerable mission? Our focus is on helping Westerners to do vulnerable mission as a means to reaching people in the majority world.

Why do we need vulnerable mission? So as to be able to listen to the heart of people in the majority world. So as to share the Gospel of Jesus, meaningfully.

[Download the provisional programme here.](#)