



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

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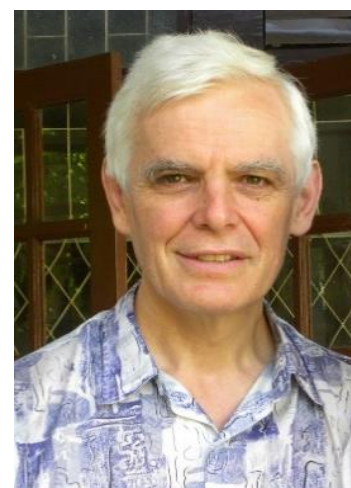


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The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.

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Hans Baer was one of the participants in the December 2019 UK vulnerable mission conference. A version of the paper that he presented at the conference has been published in the ERT (Evangelical Review of Theology), with the title: **On Becoming a Fellow Traveller in Mission**. Article details: Baer, Hans Christoph, 2020, 'On Becoming a Fellow Traveller in Mission,' ERT (2020) 44:2, 141-148.



“Nowadays, the availability of social media aggravates this problem by making it harder to leave home. Missionaries may remain so connected to their home country that they do not connect deeply with locals. But to enter something new, you have to leave the old,” says Baer.

Vulnerable Mission and Covid-19



- [Serving cross-culturally in the age of COVID-19](#) is the title to a blog recently written by missionary to Tanzania Tamie Davis. She is realizing that Tanzanians don't think 'secularly' as the West thinks they ought, and so can end up in favour of policies to tackle covid-19 that don't make sense to her. As a missionary who wants to listen and understand not dictate ... what to do, if from a Western point of view, people are engaging practices that endanger their own lives? She concludes: "what I'm trying to do is to give the benefit of the doubt to those sharing what seems damaging to me, even a health risk. I'm trying to listen to what they're actually saying, not what I hear. I'm trying to think flexibly, seeking another explanation, one that might not naturally occur to me but might have resonance in this culture."
- An article in 'the conversation' explains: [Why a one-size-fits-all approach to COVID-19 could have lethal consequences.](#) This article warns us that: "Social distancing may cost lives in Africa. In Africa, millions will starve if the global economy enters a protracted downturn. We must ask whether the number will be more than COVID-19 will kill in a region (such as in South Africa) where only 6.09% of the population is over 65." (In Kenya, this is 3.07%. UK; 18.5%)



(Illustration is of an empty street in Cairo.)

Covid-19 Instigates Western-Guided Global Wide Utopian Movement

Some Reflections from Jim Harries (25.3.20)

Session on academia.edu.

- [Jim Harries has posted a session on academia.edu, looking at today's corona virus crisis.](#) Follow the link to read the contribution and then participate in the discussion.

- [What The Early Church Can Teach Us About The Coronavirus](#)

Those of us who have hope in Christ should be there to encourage and support those who suffer, often at risk to our own lives.



- “ERT readers know Jim Harries of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission well by now, but this contribution differs significantly from his previous ones. On reading the iconoclastic Catholic scholar René Girard, Harries discovered amazing alignments between Girard’s major insights and the spiritual life of Africa, which are detailed in this article,” shares executive editor to the ERT, Bruce Barron. See article here: [A Foundation for African Theology That Bypasses the West: The Writings of René Girard](#)

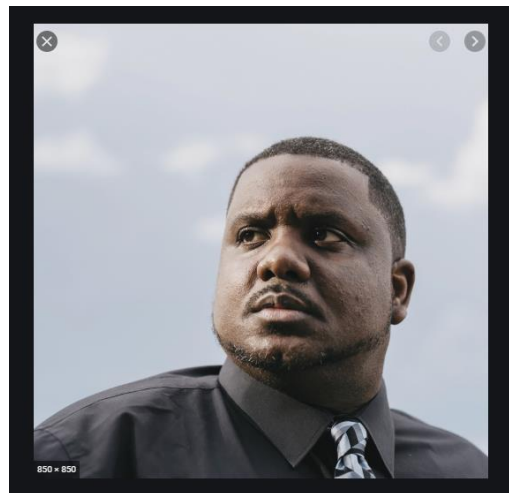


- I found that this blog addresses an issue that is very important for the AVM. It is entitled: **A eunuch for Jesus?** The blog looks at the option to be not-married to enable service to God. “then [Jesus] starts to talk about eunuchs, how some are born that way, others have been castrated, and some choose to live as eunuchs. As he did.” To find out more, read [here](#).

- [Educate children in their mother tongue, urges UN rights expert](#) “Children from linguistic minorities should be taught in their own mother tongue, said the UN independent expert on minority issues, presenting his latest [report](#) to the Human Rights Council in Geneva.”



- An article by Tommy Curry tells us that the West does not recognise African philosophy. Curry, a professor of philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, seems to be well qualified to make that claim. Instead, he tells us, any Black aspiring to a position in philosophy departments in the West must, in order to be authenticated, deny who they are! I suggest that this does not only apply to philosophy! If Blacks have to deny who they ‘really are’ in order to get on even in the West ... how much more so in Africa where crumbs from the West are mostly much more thinly spread? In Africa, lying can be mandated. (Curry, Tommy J., & Curry, Gwenetta, 2018, ‘On the Perils of Race Neutrality and anti-Blackness: philosophy as an irreconcilable obstacle to (Black) thought,’ 657-687 in: *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 77(3-4), May-September 2018.)



- See this article by Jim Harries, just published in *Faith and Thought* entitled: **‘Invisible’ Tensions in Combatting Racism – a focus on Africa.** This article outlines the case that Jim makes in detail in a forthcoming book (hopefully out next month ...) entitled *Anti-Racism Exposed*.



The practice of *racism* is an enormous taboo in the West. Few scholars have wanted to explore just what this taboo is concealing. Jim Harries does just that. He finds anti-racism as practiced in the West today to be responsible for, in many ways, numerous problems of today’s majority world, certainly Africa.

People in the West refusing to see cultural difference through fear of being accused of being racist results in ‘cultural’ issues in Africa never being addressed but always ignored. The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission says that wanton self-imposed ignorance like this is dangerous ... This ‘danger’ is threatening to bring catastrophe, as non-fitting Western-solutions to covid-19 are currently being transported to Africa.



- The AVM is grateful to be able to announce a new hosting-location for previous and up-to-date editions of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) Bulletin. The Bulletin was previously hosted on the jim-mission.org.uk site. As from January 2020, the archive is to be on the missiology.org.uk site. Please find archived editions of the Bulletin listed here: https://missiology.org.uk/journal_alliance-for-vulnerable-mission-01.php Thanks to Rob Bradshaw for making hosting-space available on missiology.org.uk

- **A report of 2019 AVM conference by Nick Henwood is available [here](#).**