



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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**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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*8th to 11th December 2019*

At: All Nations Christian College, Herts.

What: Conference

Title: **Missionaries: aliens, providers, or fellow travellers?**



Sub-theme: Should the majority world be the target of patronage from rich missionaries?

“Outside Christian workers who build on foreign presuppositions in work amongst indigenous communities can, especially when foreign funded and using outside languages, unwittingly be damaging to indigenous sensibilities. This conference seeks to promote the idea that true empowerment of local people requires getting alongside them. This necessitates vulnerability to their position and context. Such vulnerability can best be achieved if one shares the Gospel using indigenous languages utilising local resources.

- **Missionaries abroad ‘should be vulnerable’**



Hattie Williams  
(journalist)

Article by journalist Hattie Williams in the *Church Times*: [“SHOULD the majority world be the target of patronage from rich missionaries?”](#)



This question will be asked at the next Alliance for Vulnerable Mission ([AVM](#)) conference, which is to be held in at All Nations Christian College, Hertfordshire, in December.” 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. [More information here.](#)

- **Missionaries: aliens, providers, or fellow travellers?**

### International Conference

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December for a 6pm start to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 finishing at midday. **All Nations Christian College, Easneye, Herts, UK.**

**Details and registration here:** <https://www.allnations.ac.uk/events/missionaries-aliens-providers-or-fellow-travellers>

Could the majority world be suffering from patronage by 'rich' missionaries – and if so, what could be done about that?

Outside Christian workers who build on foreign presuppositions in work amongst indigenous communities can, especially when foreign funded and using outside languages, unwittingly be damaging to indigenous sensibilities. This conference seeks to promote the idea that true empowerment requires getting alongside them. This necessitates vulnerability to their position and context. Such vulnerability can best be achieved if one shares the Gospel using indigenous languages utilising local resources.

Paper 1. *Introducing Vulnerable Mission, and paper: Mission Vulnerability essential to avoid conventional-mission pitfalls.* Jim Harries

Paper 2 *Mission without Conquest – learning to be guest, companion and friend in the Argentinian Chaco: an alternative missionary practice* Frank Paul

Paper 3 *How to establish yourself as a fellow traveler - with many positive examples of learning language/culture and using the local resources.* Hans Baer

Paper 4 *How can Western Missionaries best support a viable Mexican church planting network without dominating it.* Peter Sholl

Paper 5 *Undress, Be Enslaved, Wash: Three Movements in Cross-Cultural Mission from John 13.* Andy McCullough,

Paper 6 *Putting Reconciliation at risk? Engaging in vulnerable mission as a multiracial church in South Africa.* Marcus Grohmann

Paper 7 *Going alongside unreached people groups.* Mark Smith

Paper 8 *Understanding, embracing, enacting ministry from a position of weakness.* Chris Sadowitz

Paper 9 *Money, Vulnerability and Mission: The Example of Paul and the "Collection" For the Poor.* David Smith

#### Speaker Biographies

- Frank Paul (58), member of an intentional community of families in Germany ([www.ojc.de](http://www.ojc.de)), 18 years of family & missionary collaboration in a slum in BsAs and with indigenous churches in northern Argentina.
- David Smith was a pastor in Cambridge before moving to serve in Nigeria for five years and on many subsequent visits. He has taught in many institutions and has published work on various aspects of mission, including *Mission After Christendom* (2003), *Liberating the Gospel* (2013) and *Seeking A City With Foundations: Theology for an Urban World* (2nd.ed. 2019).
- Marcus Grohmann, Cape Town/South Africa, PhD student from Germany in the field of reconciliation studies, studying how white Christians in multiracial churches try to work for reconciliation in contexts they are usually dominating. Living and working on his research project involves learning the Xhosa language. With his wife, Marcus is serving part-time with the Student YMCA at the University of Cape Town. Together they have two daughters, 4 and 1 years old.
- Nick Henwood lives in multicultural Leicester. He works almost full time as a GP, is a member of a local New Frontiers church, and has an allotment for growing vegetables. He and his wife seek to be good news for the neighbours on their street. They are associates of Interserve - that ministers to people from an Asian and Middle Eastern background. Previously Nick and Ros spent 9 years in medical / community / church work in Nepal. He teaches about community health for Christian Medical Fellowship. He's a board member of Arukah Network - a global community health NGO. (Nick Henwood is to lead a workshop.)
- Jim Harries, PhD (theology, Uni. Of Bham, UK). Missionary in East Africa from 1988 to date. Main ministries include: bible teaching to indigenous churches using East African languages, looking after orphan children who stay in his home, reading, writing and research related to mission, development, linguistics, and anthropology. Chair of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.)

- Mark Smith, one-time missionary in Africa, first heard about the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) in 2012. He is very concerned to encourage missionaries to work in such a way as to be vulnerable to the people being reached. Mark's dedication is demonstrated by his and his family's having spent over two decades in Africa.
- Hans Christoph Bär (DMin), from Switzerland, married to Beatrice, four children, four grandchildren. Working with OMF among the Karen people in North Thailand 1982-1998 and 2006-present as fellow traveler, church planter and Bible teacher. 1998-2006 pastoring the evangelical free church, Chrischona Stammheim (CH).
- Peter Sholl has lived in Monterrey, Mexico for the last 11 years. He serves as the director of MOCLAM, an organisation that offers theological education by distance in Spanish to students all over the Spanish speaking world. Pastors, campus workers, youth leaders and more study using locally produced core materials and study aids. Peter is Australian, and is a graduate of Moore Theological College, Sydney, Australia.
- Andy McCullough was born and grew up in Cyprus, has been involved in cross cultural church planting in Turkey, and is the author of *Global Humility: Attitudes for Mission*.
- Chris Sadowitz has served as a missionary to Japan since 1993. His educational background includes a BRE from Baptist Bible College In Clark's Summit Pa. and a M-Div from Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary in Michigan. Chris writes: "Most recently we are coming to realize that there is more truth and praxis to be mined from ways of weakness than our present practice and cultures admit."

- **Needed: Recruiter for the Transformational Urban Leadership Institute**

Needed: an entrepreneurially minded recruiter/communicator, event manager who can develop recruitment mechanisms for launching Transformational Urban Leadership processes. Ideally someone with overseas academic experience among the urban poor.

[William Carey International University](#) in Pasadena, is a small University focussed on International Development. It is in process of launching an Urban Leadership Institute responding to the roots of global urban issues. This will partner with overseas institutions that deliver the MA in Transformational Urban Leadership programs globally.

This person would work with a deeply spiritual, entrepreneurial and missional team of academics, and report directly to [Dr Viv Grigg](#).

Please see this [Job Description](#) and respond with initial enquiries to [viv.grigg@wciu.edu](mailto:viv.grigg@wciu.edu)

You can see more about the MATUL at [www.matul.org](http://www.matul.org)

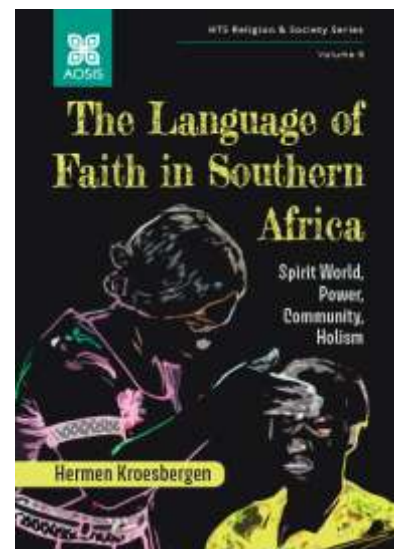
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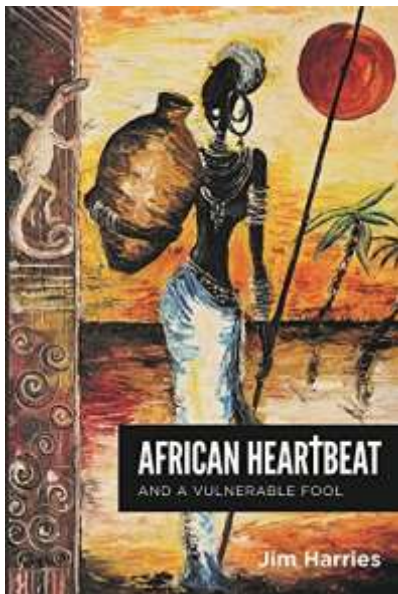
- [Go here](#) for a lot of insights regarding indigenous churches in Bolivia.

- [A preview of a book on science and religion](#). “Our book proposes to detail the sea change in the historiography of Christianity and science that has taken place in the last fifty years or so, which has completely undone the so-called “conflict thesis” describing the perennial war between science and Christianity. With this dismantling of the trope of warfare also comes the question: how, when, and by whom was this story of conflict constructed? Why does it persist still as a story? Sadly, though these exciting and thorough historiographical revisions dominate the academic landscape, ...” say the authors.

- See [here](#) for a review by Jim Harries of this book: Kroesbergen, Hermen, 2019, *The Language of Faith in Southern Africa: spirit world, power, community, holism*. *HTS Religion and Society Series*. Volume 6. Cape Town: AOSIS (Pty) Ltd. (This book is available for free pdf download [here](#).) The review includes these comments: “Kroesbergen does a wonderful job of upsetting sacred cows in Western belief. These include that spirits ‘exist’ in ephemeral bodies, that Africans are community oriented (as the West understands ‘community’), that holism and *Ubuntu* are entirely wonderful, that African people are neither materialistic nor individualistic. Thus Wittgensteinian insights throw helpful light on many aspects of the West’s understanding of Africa.”



- [Here's a review of Jim's book \*African Heartbeat\*, review by Eddie Arthur.](#)



Eddie's summary: "Who should read this book? Despite my reservations, I would not hesitate to recommend this to someone who wanted to understand some of the complexities of Christian mission, but who is unlikely to read a mission text book. It is engaging enough to keep the casual reader involved and it is informative enough to help anyone gain a deeper understanding of mission. Buy it for your pastor or a member of your church mission committee."

[Get the book here.](#)