



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

[www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org)

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin**

**February 2018** (Archived back-copies [here](#) Subscribe for free [here](#))

**Volume 10, Number 2.**

Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM



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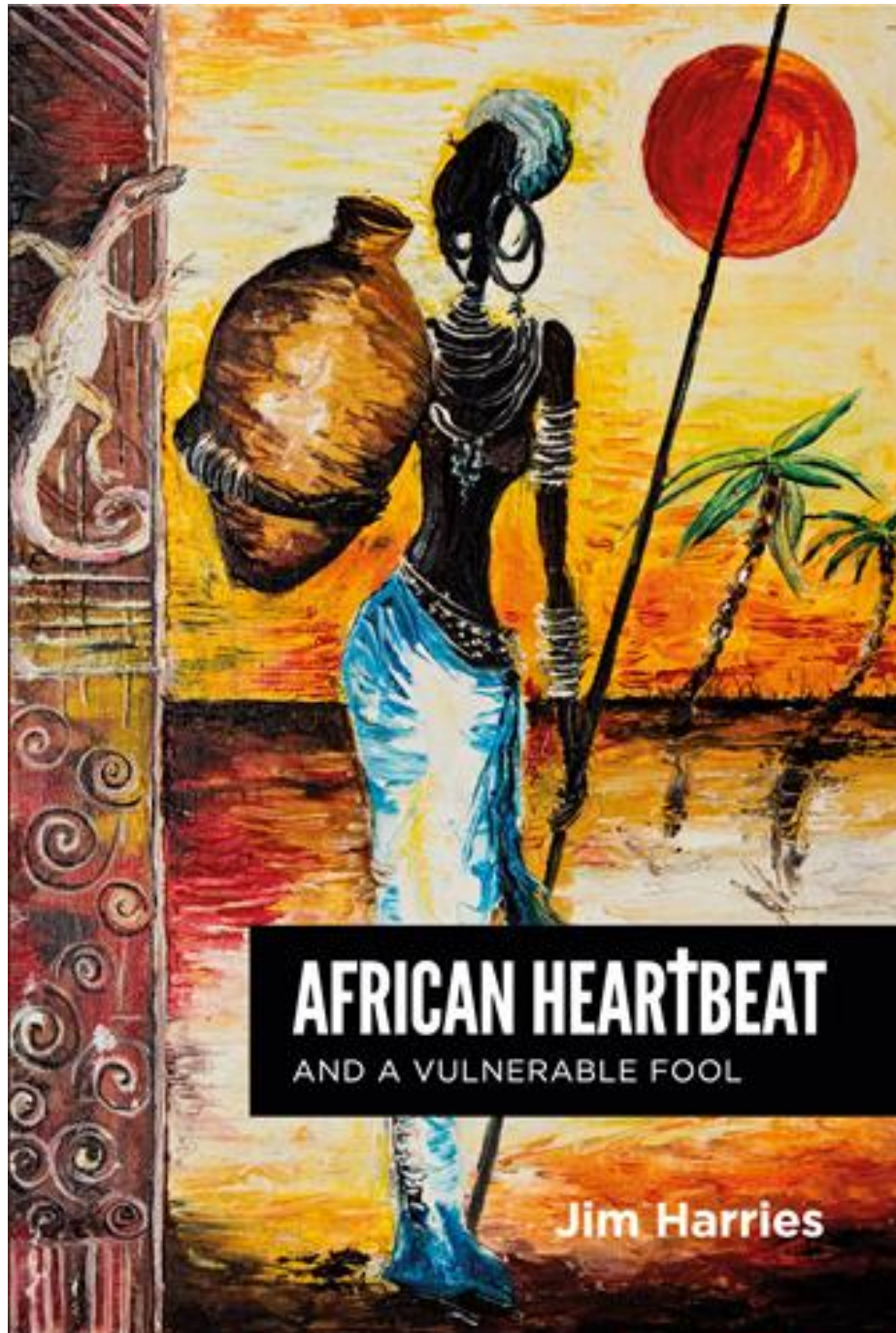
**The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.**

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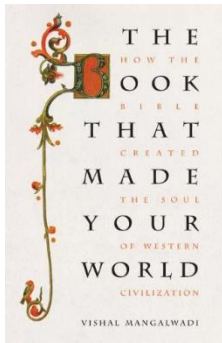


- *Mennonite Team in Argentinian Chaco Continues to Evolve* is the title to [this](#) short piece. This is the team of which AVM member Frank Paul was long a member. They are relating to an indigenous church, largely on the basis of *vulnerable mission*.

See last page of this Bulletin for up-dated news on the UK conference, to be held at All Nations Christian (missionary training) College, Ware, Herts, UK, May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Please book asap to get the early bird price.



- Want to know more about vulnerable mission *in practice*? Much of the implementation of vulnerable mission is culturally sensitive, and will be tuned differently for every part of the world. Explaining how 'vulnerable mission' works to people in the West is thus difficult. Hence this novel *African Heartbeat*, authored by Jim Harries, chairman of the AVM, uses stories based on his true-life experiences in Africa to explain, through the fictional character Philo, and his good friend Dave, and Dave's sister Julie, and many other interesting characters and situations. This novel is now available through Amazon UK and USA, or direct from the [publisher](#). Softback and kindle are available.



- Vishal Mangalwadi presents unique insights regarding the role of the Gospel in the history of the modern world in a video series found [here](#). Vishal is the author of *The Book that Made Your World*, a fascinating and life-changing text.

- **Gained in Translation** is the title of this short review that looks at a translation ‘slam’. Have a look [here](#), to discover just a few more vagaries of the art (or science?) of translation ...
- More on translation, especially for the internet and related to Africa, [here](#):

- Jens Bernhard, author of this article entitled ‘[Mission Narratives that prevent Buddhists from finding Christ within their Oikos](#)’ has long been associated with the AVM. This article, published in the *International Journal for Frontier Mission* advocates for an insiders’ approach to evangelisation of Buddhists.



- Harries, Jim, 2018, [Theology that Emerges from Cognitive Science: applied to African Development](#). *Open Theology* 2018; 4: 15–28. **Abstract here:** Recent developments in cognitive science are here interpreted as an apologetic for Christian theology. Naturalistic faiths are suggested to be dependent on the invention of ‘religion’, and domestication of the foreign through translation. A refusal to accept that a relationship with God is something that develops in the course of reflection, has added to his apparent invisibility. Advocates of embodied thinking who effectively undermine Descartes’ philosophy, open the door to theological reflection. A gender-based exploration reveals that means of predicting the embodied nature of thinking also point to the significance of God. Because human thinking is embodied, God also is perceived by people through his embodied impact – much as is the wind. That correct understanding of God brings human wellbeing, is here suggested to be as true for Africa as for Europe.

- See this blog by Jim Harries, published by Global Connections, to discover [that there are no ‘world religions’](#).



- Two important blogs by Craig Greenfield:

[3 vital skills for ministry in 2018 \(that you probably won't learn in Bible School\)](#)

[The Alongsiders Story - equipping one generation to reach the next](#)

- **Why are students rebelling against their universities in South Africa?**

People interested in vulnerable mission may be interested in following some of the amazing live developments continuing in South Africa. South African Blacks are, economically, some of the most privileged on the whole continent. Their country is known for offering high quality European-standard education, that many others only achieve by travelling internationally to Europe or the USA. Yes, S African students are creating turmoil. They seem intent on dismantling their educational system, *unless* it meets stringent requirements that they are setting for it. For example: higher education should be free, lecturers should not be predominantly white, the curriculum should be Africanised. Up to now, no one knows how to 'Africanise' a curriculum, without killing the chicken that lays the egg. Here are a few places to read more on the South African boiling pot: Here is [one recent report](#), following interviewing of some protesting students. Here is [a recent analysis](#) of what the protesters are getting wrong. For more reading see:

Heleta, Savo, 2016, 'Decolonisation of Higher Education: dismantling epistemic violence and Eurocentrism in South Africa' *Transformation in Higher Education*, 1(1), 1-8.

Mpofu, Shelpher, 2017, 'Disruption as a communicative strategy: the case of #feesmustfall and #rhodesmustfall student's protests in South Africa.' *Journal of African Media Studies*, 9(2), 351-373.

- What would a totally secular but qualitative analysis of African Christian's health coping strategies look like? Well, here's a fascinating effort at producing such: Anyan, Frederick, and Knizek, Birthe Loa, 2017, 'The Coping Mechanisms and strategies of Hypertension Patients in Ghana: the role of religious faith, beliefs, and practices.' *Journal of Religious Health*. Springer. November 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-017-0517-7> (see also [here](#).)

- See [here](#) for some oral guidance in numerous tapes on how to do better Bible storytelling through



*storyfire*. If you want to discuss this more, then please write to Regina Manley at her email ([rmanley@paraclete.net](mailto:rmanley@paraclete.net)) or through the AVM discussion forum pearl ([pearl@lists.vulnerablemission.org](mailto:pearl@lists.vulnerablemission.org))

- **Consultation:**
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- 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, Minneapolis. Please pray for a consultation being arranged to be held in Minneapolis, USA, 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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## 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 VULNERABLE MISSION IN PRACTICE. JIM HARRIES.  
14.30 GROUP DISCUSSIONS.  
16.30 MISSION TODAY, AND VULNERABLE MISSION, RICHARD AND LOUISA EVANS (PROVISIONAL).  
19.30 PANEL AND QUESTIONS.

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE.  
9.00 HRS DEPENDENCY. MARTIN GOLDSMITH (PROVISIONAL).  
11.00 LANGUAGE AND MISSION.  
14.30 SEMINARS.  
17.00 DEPARTURE.

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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 done long-term mission work in Thailand, and speaks Norwegian, Thai and Shan languages as well as English. She is learning German. She is married to Jens. She says: "My main areas of expertise and interest include contextualized church planting and evangelism among Theravada and folk Buddhists, research and strategies that lead to church planting movements and removing roadblocks to the gospel. I enjoy training and mentoring cross cultural workers in these areas, and also in how to use coaching skills to enhance their effectiveness. Exploring ways that faith in Christ can be discovered through the culture rather than brought in as a foreign entity, and teaching others how to do this is key to what drives me."

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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.