



Myself and my two Luo-language students

Jim Harries News and Prayer Letter from Kenya

Dear Friends,

Some Updates

Life at home, where I am looking after 12 orphan children, is usually interesting. I still find it an enormous privilege to be able to look after so many children. Each one is of course very different. If asked, I could write an essay about every one! Every-one is very special to me. It is a special privilege to see them grow, develop, mature, and expand their outlooks. This alone is a miracle from God; you receive a small boy or girl who is really totally dependent on your care. In due course, they no longer want to be picked up. They start listening to you differently – evaluating your words, instead of just accepting them at face value. The chafing at the bit increases. Then, that little child that came because they could certainly not look after themselves, wants to leave, and off they go ...



Twin babies of one of my children (lived with me 1998-2007), now a grown woman

Ministry with local churches is as challenging and rewarding as ever. In a sense, I could say that it is more rewarding than ever. I don't really feel much different than I did 20 years ago. I am told, however, that I 'look' different. Then I looked like a youth, now I look like an old man, my colleagues tell me. That does help in terms of ministry. Someone who is older gets more attention and respect by default. Many people wonder that I am still here, after 24 years. The reason though is clear – as an expression of God's love for

them. That really can speak volumes. “You must like it here”, some people say. Well, yes I do, but that’s not why I am here. I am here to be used in a small way to embody God’s love ...

My writing ministry is proving, it seems, increasingly fruitful. I was really happy to have this article published in January:

https://www.academia.edu/30704095/The_Fallacy_of_World_Religions_A_View_from_Africa (you will need to pay to see the full article, unfortunately). This one (which is free) on a similar theme came out in October: [https://www.academia.edu/30705009/Shadow-](https://www.academia.edu/30705009/Shadow-boxing_the_missionary_encounter_with_Christian_theology_in_world_religions)

[boxing_the_missionary_encounter_with_Christian_theology_in_world_religions](https://www.academia.edu/30705009/Shadow-boxing_the_missionary_encounter_with_Christian_theology_in_world_religions) They are both about the relationship between Christianity and (so-called!) World Religions. I am looking forward, hopefully within a few months, to the publication of my novel. The title for the novel as it stands is *African Heart-beat: death of a missionary fool*. Even further in the process is an academic book that looks at atheism from an African perspective. This is entitled, as a counter to Dawkins’ book, *The Godless Delusion*, and should also be out later this year. Without mentioning names, I must say that my being able to produce these texts, and many more articles that I won’t mention here, is only thanks to the help of MANY people to all of whom I am very grateful. To see my published work, go here: <https://wciu.academia.edu/JimHarries>



Here at the Coptic mission station, where I have my office, it has been hard to see some long-term friends go. At the same time, many new people have come from Egypt. The hospital has been expanded, now boasting 45 beds, two doctors from Egypt, and so on. My major role at the hospital continues to be as an informal chaplain. I try to visit and pray for the sick twice per week, as well as sharing from the Scriptures with the hospital staff every Tuesday morning.

I was pleasantly surprised when some German missionaries recently contacted me about language study. Two German ladies spent a week here earlier this month learning the Luo language. Once or twice weekly I also give a Swahili class to one of the Egyptian doctors here. I continue also to relate to Mennonite missionaries. Unfortunately, amongst the Mennonites, many of my one-time colleagues have returned to the USA, including some of the best Luo speakers. I make occasional visits to KIST (Kima International School of Theology), at which I taught part-time for fifteen years. It has been good to have a one-time colleague, who was there from 2003 to 2010, back again on visits.

Joseph and myself, one of the new Egyptians at Coptic Hospital, Maseno

I have provisional plans to make a visit to Tanzania later this year. I had planned this to be mid-July to mid-August. I am not certain of dates now, because of the Kenyan election that should be in the first half of August. I may still call off the Tanzania trip. A number of people are quite concerned regarding the possibility of violence at our forthcoming election. God willing, I will leave Kenya on 14th September for the USA, to return on 22nd

November. Here is my programme as it stands:

15th to 17th September 2017 – *Evangelical Missiological Society* conference, Dallas, USA.

18th to 22nd September 2017 – visiting the Woods family in Vancouver, Canada, plus visits to local seminaries /Bible colleges.

23rd to 29th September 2017 – visiting Bible colleges and seminaries in and around Portland, Oregon, USA.

30th September to 6th October – visiting Bible colleges and seminaries in and around Los Angeles, staying with family.

7th October to 11th October 2017 – visiting *Oklahoma Christian University*.

12th October to 20th October – visiting Bible colleges and seminaries in and around Dallas.

21st October to 29th October 2017 – visiting Bible colleges and seminaries in and around Chicago.

30th October to 3rd November 2017 – visiting *Eastern University* and *Palmer Seminary*, Philadelphia.

4th to 6th November – visiting relatives.

7th to 12th November – *Trinity School for Ministry*, Ambridge, Pittsburgh (including : [vulnerable mission conference](#)).

13th November to 21st November 2017 at *Anderson University (Church of God)*, Anderson, Indiana.

Here is the flier for our conference:

**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.org
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, World Mission Associates.
Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.
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.
and other speakers ...

‘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 (Details may still change. Registration to open 1st March 2017.)

Trinity
School for Ministry
an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition

God willing, a few months after my return from the USA, I plan to be in Europe, primarily UK, from about mid-April to end of June 2018. Details pending. This will be primarily to visit people in my supporting churches in UK and Germany, plus attendance at one or two conferences.

As well as giving thanks and praying for all of the above, do pray also for the process of application for renewal for my work permit here in Kenya. I need a new work permit, hopefully for a three-year duration, to be ready by mid-June. This has never been a problem in the past, so I am trusting it won't be a problem this time around. I am currently working with my Kenyan bishop on preparing the application for this permit.

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