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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin
October 2024
Volume 16, Number 10

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.



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

Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to jim@vulnerablemission.org

This month’s contents:

Teaching the Bible cross-culturally in a local language: Benefits and requirements

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Dr. Jim Harries’ programme, events engaged in South Africa (Cape Town), 27th August to 12th September 2024.

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Report by Jim Harries of his South Africa Visit

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Missiological Conference, annual national event in the USA, 4th to 5th October.

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Theology, Missions, Prayer, and the Ethiopian Church | White Horse Inn

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Review of: The Air we Breathe: how we all came to believe in freedom, kindness, progress and equality.

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Upcoming webinar in 2024

24th October 2024: Craig McCorkindale

Teaching the Bible cross-culturally in a local language

Benefits and requirements

Click on this image for details of, and registration for, this webinar of 24th October. Welcome to join us!

..ooOoo..



Dr. Jim Harries’ programme, events engaged in South Africa (Cape Town), 27th August to 12th September 2024.

I have added links below to recordings of the events for those interested.
(Although they were public events, some of the recordings are my own, and audio only.)

Date	Location	Activity	Link
27 th Aug. 2024	University of Western Cape. 13.00hrs lecture.	<i>Title: Comparison Between Sport-Languages Illustrates the Urgent Need for Translation to be into the Known, with respect to Europe and Africa.</i>	https://youtu.be/qM2ui3m2P2M
28 th to 30 th August	IAMS (International Association of Mission Studies) Africa Conference. Stellenbosch University, Cape Town.	Dr. Marcus Grohmann and Dr. Jim Harries presented papers at this conference. Marcus’ title: <i>Vulnerability in Missiological Research: A</i>	Jim Harries’ presentation, audio: https://youtu.be/CUH9IOiRmY (This presentation parallels the article published by OMF in <i>The Mission Roundtable</i> , listed below and found at this link: https://omf.org/mrt-the-role-of-western-people-in-theological-education-for-africa

		<i>Challenge for Westerners in Empirical Intercultural Theology.</i> Jim's title: <i>The Role of Western People in Theological Education for Africa Today: An Appeal for "Vulnerability"</i>	today-an-appeal-for-vulnerability/)
1 st Sep. SUNDAY	Preach at a Reformed Anglican church.	Title: 'Portraits of Christ: The role of the sacrifices and how Christ fulfils them'	https://youtu.be/ZHWj3QZ1aNU
8 th Sep. SUNDAY	Visit an indigenous church in Cape Town		
9 th Sep	George Whitefield College, 14.00hrs. Lecture:	<i>Title: Jesus Retreated Alone so as Not to be Made King (John 6:15) - Truly Holistic Intercultural Mission from Personal Experience.</i>	https://youtu.be/tkZlixuiqxE
10 th Sep.	People invited to a gathering exploring the relevance of vulnerable mission to ministry with Africans in Cape Town.	<i>Title: Can Vulnerability Allow Deeper Relationships?</i>	
11 th Sep.	University of Cape Town, dept. of Theology. 16.00hrs. Lecture.	<i>Title: Tackling Envy and Witchcraft Biblically: Differences Between the West and Africa</i>	https://youtu.be/z-zRMN46l6I

Great thanks to Dr. Marcus Grohmann who has arranged these events, and who accompanied Jim to them.

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Report by Jim Harries of his South Africa Visit

<https://www.jim-mission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/cape-town-report-2024.pdf>

Go to this link to download a pdf reporting on Jim's recent visit to South Africa, beginning with how he first got to know Marcus Grohmann who had invited him, and how Marcus and he have been working very closely together, especially since 2016.

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2024 CONFERENCE THEME

New Frontiers in Missiology

October 4-5, 2024
in-person and virtual

Dallas Theological Seminary
3909 Swiss Ave, Dallas, TX 75204

 Register

Missiological Conference, annual national event in the USA, 4th to 5th October.

<https://ems.regfox.com/ems-2024-annual-conference>

Jim Harries, chair of the AVM, is to present a paper at this conference, entitled: **Bridging the Culture Gap between Africa and the West in the Light of the Contextuality of Knowledge.** Here is the abstract to his paper: “Language is neither objective, a ‘silver bullet’, nor capable of carrying all the meaning someone can derive from it. Secular liberalism, in the light of diverse cultural realities, should be seen as one of many rather than ‘the’ option for humankind. Suggesting these things today is a problematic hot potato, given that the multitudes are happy to be duped. (Not that one wants to reject benefits of modernity.) It follows, that culture gaps (not genetic!) between ethnicities may be large and real, including the gap opened by Western Christendom’s historical, determined, and devoted engagement with God’s essence. Europeans’ proximity to God, having enabled

them to appropriate the role God should play in a society, has opened a ‘gap’ with African theology, which secular liberalism and formal theological education ignore at their peril, and at peril to the Gospel of Jesus.”

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‘The Role of Western People in Theological Education for Africa Today: An Appeal for “Vulnerability”’

<https://omf.org/mrt-the-role-of-western-people-in-theological-education-for-africa-today-an-appeal-for-vulnerability/>

Blurb on this article provided by the journal editors: “There are serious questions about whether foreigners should perceive themselves as having some kind of power that they can bestow upon local people. Through his decades-long service in Africa, Jim Harries has come to understand how the issues involved in this thinking impact our practices in theological education. His solution? Become “vulnerable” by using only local languages to train people for ministry and living at the local level so that it is clear you have nothing to give but service.”

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Theology, Missions, Prayer, and the Ethiopian Church | White Horse Inn

Whole recording:

<https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/shows/the-state-of-theology/>

Clip of particular interest with respect to vulnerable mission:

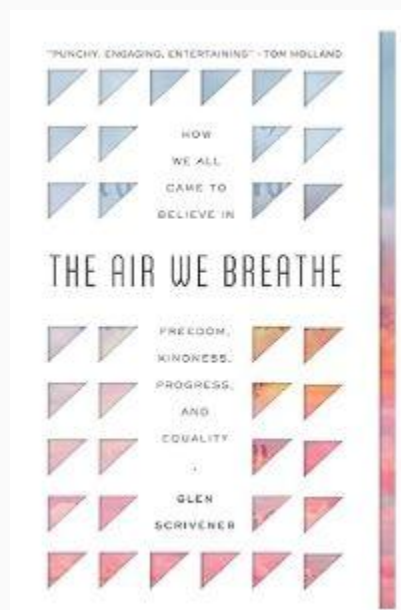
<https://youtu.be/PVB1Z3bG-Uo>

Hosts Michael Horton and Justin Holcomb travel to Nairobi, Kenya, for Sola Media’s annual Theo Global Symposium. They are joined by Dr. Frew Tamrat and Dr. Seble Daniel. They discuss the challenges and opportunities in advancing theological education and deepening the church’s understanding of the gospel in the region.

Sola is home to White Horse Inn, Core Christianity, Modern Reformation, and Theo Global. Their mission is to serve today’s global church by producing resources for reformation grounded in the historic Christian faith. They want to see reformation in hearts, homes, and churches around the world.

This interview of two Ethiopians who are heavily invested into Western-led seminary education, contains some gems of insights for those ready to ‘read between the lines’. I believe the latter segment (this part of the total interview: <https://youtu.be/PVB1Z3bG-Uo>), is of particular interest to vulnerable mission, and represents the view of the Ethiopians interviewed; an appeal for theology to be rooted in local contexts.

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Review of: The Air we Beathe: how we all came to believe in freedom, kindness, progress and equality.

Full review here:

https://www.amazon.com/review/R1M72A1WDWE3IY/ref=pe_1098610_137716200_SRTC0204BT_cm_rv_eml_rv0_rv

Glenn Scrivener shows that Western values, that are today drawing immigrants from around the world to Europe, originate in the West’s historical devotion to the Christian faith. [...] Read in reverse, the book represents the message that missionaries from the West ought to be carrying ‘to the rest’ of the world. It even tells them how to carry it; by persuasion, as Jesus did. (Review by Jim Harries.)

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24th October 2024: Craig McCorkindale

Teaching the Bible cross-culturally in a local language

Benefits and requirements



Upcoming webinar in 2024

Details and registration: <https://www.vulnerablemission.org/quarterly-webinar>

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