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## Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

### March 2025

### Volume 17, Number 3

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Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, AVM Governing Board.



*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](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

*This month's contents:*

**AVM Transition Celebrations, in English and in German, were held on 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

- **Jesus in der Nachbarschaft entdecken**

- **Webinar (in German) on colonial continuities in church praxis and theology: Koloniale Kontinuitäten und dekoloniale Perspektiven -- Koloniale Kontinuitäten in kirchlicher Praxis und Theologie**

- **VM-relevant papers for Evangelical Missiological Society regional conferences**

- **Future Webinars (2025)**

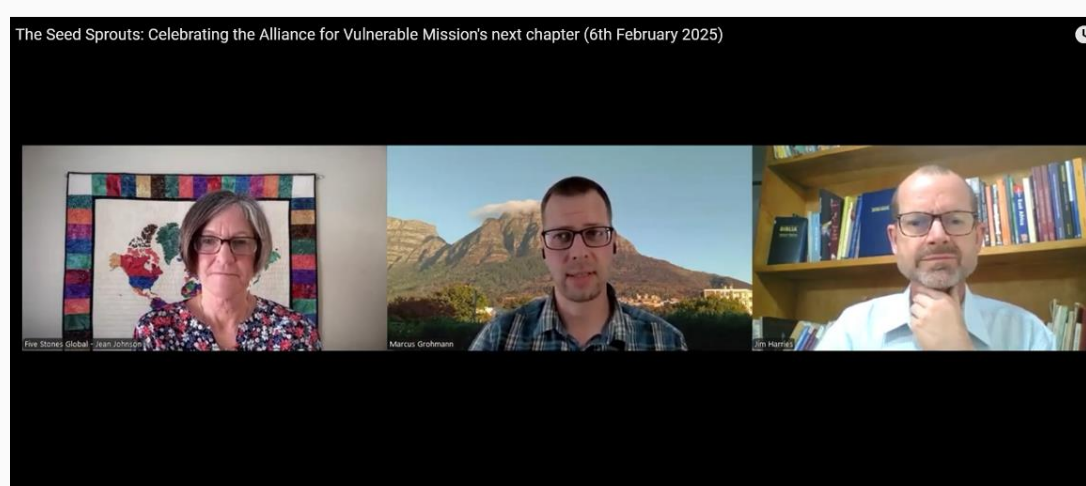
**AVM Transition Celebrations, in English and in German, were held on 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

Two celebrations, both entirely on-line, were enjoyed by a total of about 75 people, many of them mission scholars, and others very concerned for spreading of the Gospel of Jesus around the world! The first one was in English, and included a lot of people from the USA and UK. The second was in German, with German speakers in attendance. The programmes included music, questions and discussion, outgoing and incoming CEOs being interviewed, Bible sharing, prayer, and speeches by people who emphasised the key importance of the practice of vulnerable mission today.

Dr. Marcus Grohmann (Director), a German ministering in South Africa, has now taken over CEO responsibilities from Dr. Jim Harries, a Brit living and working in mission in East Africa. Deborah Bernhard (Deputy Director, who has experience in Thailand) and Maria Richter together with Marcus form the new Executive Board. The AVM is now registered as a charity in Germany, and has a new website: [vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org).

English-language event: [https://youtu.be/JFxOVp9RL\\_Y](https://youtu.be/JFxOVp9RL_Y)

German-language event: <https://youtu.be/HcfZ-PWtpls>



**Jesus in der Nachbarschaft entdecken**

<https://ojc-feinhoerig.letscast.fm/episode/jesus-in-der-nachbarschaft-entdecken>

Ute Paul gehört zur senfkorn.STADTteilMISSION in Gotha. Im Gespräch mit Jeppe Rasmussen berichtet sie darüber, was passieren kann, wenn man davon ausgeht: Gott ist immer schon da! Also auch dort, wo keine sichtliche Kirche ist, wo Leute über Gott nicht sprechen, sondern eher sagen: „Brauche ich nicht!“ Utes Erfahrung: Gott lässt sich davon nicht abhalten, sondern Er ist auf der Suche, und die Menschen suchen ihn. Sie würden es vielleicht nie so sagen, aber es geschieht trotzdem!

## (ENGLISH VERSION)

*Ute Paul: "Discovering Jesus in the neighbourhood"*

*Ute Paul is a member of the senfkorn (mustard seed) initiative in the East German town Gotha. In this podcast, she tells listeners what can happen when working on the assumption: God is always already there! This includes contexts, where no visible church exists, where people don't speak about God but rather shrug: "Don't need him!" Ute's experience is that God doesn't contend with that but remains on the lookout for his people - and people are actually looking out for him. Perhaps, they would never couch it in these words but it is happening anyway!*

More on Ute and her team under <https://www.senfkorntadtteilmission.de/>. (Ute also facilitated the German version of the AVM Celebration on 6th February)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcfZ-PWtpls&t=24s>).



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### **Webinar (in German) on colonial continuities in church praxis and theology: Koloniale Kontinuitäten und dekoloniale Perspektiven -- Koloniale Kontinuitäten in kirchlicher Praxis und Theologie**

Datum: 01.04.2025

Kostenlose Anmeldung: <https://www.ev-bildung.de/bildungsangebot-detail/koloniale-kontinuitaeten-und-dekoloniale-perspektiven-teil-2-koloniale-kontinuitaeten-in-kirchlicher-praxis-und-theologie-online-veranstaltungsreihe.html>

Das zweite Seminar der Reihe "Koloniale Kontinuitäten und dekoloniale Perspektiven" untersucht die kolonialen Einflüsse auf theologische Aktivitäten. Es bietet Raum für Reflexionen über historische Auswirkungen auf die heutige theologische Praxis und regt Diskussionen zu postkolonialen und dekolonialen Theologien an, mit einem besonderen Fokus auf Perspektiven aus Südafrika und Deutschland. Sarah Ntondele von der Initiative Decolonize Theology und Quinton Ceasar führen thematisch in das Thema ein. Es wird Arbeitsgruppen geben, in denen die Teilnehmenden die Gestaltung theologischer Aktivitäten diskutieren -- etwa in den Bereichen theologische Ausbildung, Liturgie und Hermeneutik.



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### **VM-relevant papers for Evangelical Missiological Society regional conferences**

Two papers of AVM Governing Board members have been accepted for regional meetings of the Evangelical Missiological Society (EMS) in March. Both conferences are available for online access, fees listed below are for EMS non-members:

"Exorcising Sins: the understanding of spirits in Europe and in Africa" by Jim Harries (via livestream)

Northeast (USA) regional conference held at University of Valley Forge  
1401 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19460

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Saturday, March 29th, 9:00am-3:00pm (\$15 fee)  
<https://www.emsweb.org/conferences/northeast-region/>

"Church Supplanting: Not-Christian Churches and Judaism" by James Alongi

South Central regional conference held at Dallas Theological Seminary  
3909 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75204  
Friday, March 28th, 9:00am-4:00pm (\$30 fee)  
<https://www.emsweb.org/conferences/south-central-region/>

Visit the links above for more information.



Upcoming Webinars (2025)

For more information on these webinars, and to register in advance, go to:

<http://vulnerablemission.eventbrite.co.uk>

24<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Dr. Chris Sadowitz

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**Serving in an affluent Japanese context**

Vulnerable Mission beyond indigenous languages and local resources?

A headshot of Dr. Chris Sadowitz, an older man with white hair and glasses, smiling. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

The logo for the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (AVM) Webinar. It features a stylized 'A' and 'M' in red and yellow, with the word 'WEBINAR' in black text between them. Below the logo, it says 'ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION'.

ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in cooperation with

The logo for Rethinking Forum, featuring a stylized mountain and a circular arrow.

Rethinking Forum

24<sup>th</sup> July 2025: Claire Chong

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**Is Religion a Western idea?**

Some Emerging Ideas on the Khmer Notion of Sasna ('Religion')

A headshot of Claire Chong, a woman with dark hair, smiling. The background is a light-colored wall with some plants visible on the left.

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ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025: Mark Smith

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**Doing Research in 21<sup>st</sup> century Africa as a European**

A decolonial approach

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ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Maria Richter (Secretary)	James Alongi	Jay Gary
	John Macdonald	Jean Johnson
	Dorothea Witte	Gernot Spies
		Tim Reeves

*Relating to people through their languages and local resources*



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