



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin
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Editor:

Jim Harries, PhD,

Chairman of the AVM



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		Stan Nussbaum

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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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Conference (vulnerablemission.org) 

8th to 11th November 2017, at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.org

Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

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 Missionary Associates.
Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.
Rev. Dr. Canon John Macdonald, Trinity School of Ministry, PA.
Dr. Jim Harries, Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.
Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview Center, Portland, Oregon.
Other speakers still provisional ...









'Exclusive use of indigenous languages, and indigenous resources should be the norm for some intercultural workers.'
We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages; Korean, Swahili, Spanish, ...

Queries to: jim@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu (Details may still change. Registration to open March 1st 2017.)

Three Men to Follow

Three men who are producing some important insights on mission for us to take seriously:

1. Craig Greenfield

See here for his latest contributions to missions' discussion, writing from Cambodia, reflecting on his experiences [here](#).

Some of Craig's insights are worthy of highlighting right here and now:

- Selfies you should never take, see [here](#).
- The top-7 new books to read, see [here](#).
(Jean Johnson's book *We are not the Hero* comes out as number 1!)

2. Eddie Arthur

Eddie blogs endlessly, throwing out numerous profound insights of value to all of us interested in global mission. Welcome to [Kouyanet](#).

3. Martin Lee

Martin is the UK director for Global Connections.

About Global Connections

With over 300 members Global Connections is a growing, vibrant network of UK agencies, churches, colleges and support services linked together for resources, learning and representation. Together, we seek to serve, equip and develop churches in their mission in order to fulfil our shared vision of 'mission at the heart of the church, the church at the heart of mission'. Our members include organisations of all sizes, working in countries all over the world and with a wide variety of projects including education, relief and development, humanitarian projects as well as establishing new churches.

Drawing on this wealth of experience and expertise we seek to address the key on-going challenges in our collective worldwide mission as well as discussing how best to tackle some of the emerging issues and dramatic changes taking place in the world around us.

By operating as a network we believe that we are stronger together.

I was personally privileged to have been in attendance at the UK Global Connections conference that ran at the start of May this year. This residential (2 nights) event only happens about every 2 years. The climax for me was Martin Lee's final summing up of key points to take home. His summary is recorded in an MP3 file [here](#).

- Jean Johnson, director of WMA (World Mission Associates) here shares something of her experience of transforming a short-term mission experience into something that



Jean's Team from America

can be less dependence creating and more realistically helpful for the church being visited. Jean tells us that: “... WMA is doing our part to create and tell a new narrative for short term missions. ... WMA's aim is to provide a mission experience through the lens of respectfully relating, humbly learning, and heartily affirming our hosts. In order to accomplish this aim, a team ... studied together for one year, using a pilot curriculum designed by WMA.” See [here](#).

- **‘Does Faith in Secularism Undermine Mission and Development in Africa?’** is the title to an article by Jim Harries, just published in ERT (*Evangelical Review of Theology*). For details on how to access this article go to [here](#). Jim tells us that the Gospel of Jesus is the only true foundation for sustainable development. For it to succeed requires a holistic approach to mission and development. For Jim, a ‘holistic’ approach is NOT one in which Western money or resources are offered simultaneously to Gospel preaching. Rather, it is one which builds on majority worlds’ people’s already existing holism, which does not distinguish the material and the spiritual. This approach is to date largely unexplored.

- The *Pneuma Review* has published an article by Jim Harries entitled **‘In Witchbound**



Africa’, available [here](#). “The question of the definition of witchcraft seems to be almost insoluble. Perhaps it is helpful to say that; witchcraft is a term used in Western scholarship that attempts to align certain practices carried out in the non-Western world with beliefs and traditions apparently once widespread in the West, which the West has in contemporary times come to understand as having been misguided,” says Jim in this article.

- See some latest information from servants-asia [here](#).

- The letter below, received by a friend of mine, illustrates the need for vulnerable mission (author anonymous):

Dear . . . :

I need your help. Any insights on how to approach colleagues that are so into doing good and getting positive and loving responses from Africans, that they are absolutely blind to any possible negative implications down the line?

I seem to keep meeting and then being asked to coach some people from [organization] and others outside, who get a bug to minister in Africa and launch whole ministries with very little needs assessment/affirmative inquiry research into African/national culture, let alone the nature of the problem. As I talk to them I am absolutely astounded by their ignorance of continental African cultural issues and national peculiarities. So they show up, feel welcome, appreciated and affirmed, and conclude they must be meeting a need no one has thought of before. They continue itinerant visits with teaching and small gifts, with no real field experience or base on the ground, providing absolutely free training and coaching in topics from leader development, coach training and economic development. Then when things go sideways, or people aren't accountable or don't follow through with what was agreed, they are all shocked and hurt and wonder what went wrong.

So, here are my questions:

- 1. What is the single most effective book that describes cultural differences between the US and Africa—and national differences? With cautions that might be useful as to what to be aware of?*
- 2. What other resources do you think are most critical to put in the hands of well-meaning but ill-trained and naive ministry folks who if they knew what was ahead and how little might take root, would probably not venture forth?*
- 3. How do you even respond when an individual starts an entire organization by himself to teach “critical thinking” in [two African countries?] schools, thinking that will turn the educational system around? Is that stupid or just misguided? Or is it worth dozens of more failed, small scale efforts to make a continental impact?*

... I am despairing by poorly formed attempts to help that I think may be total wastes of money. I would appreciate your counsel.

Thanks for any help you can give me.

Anon

