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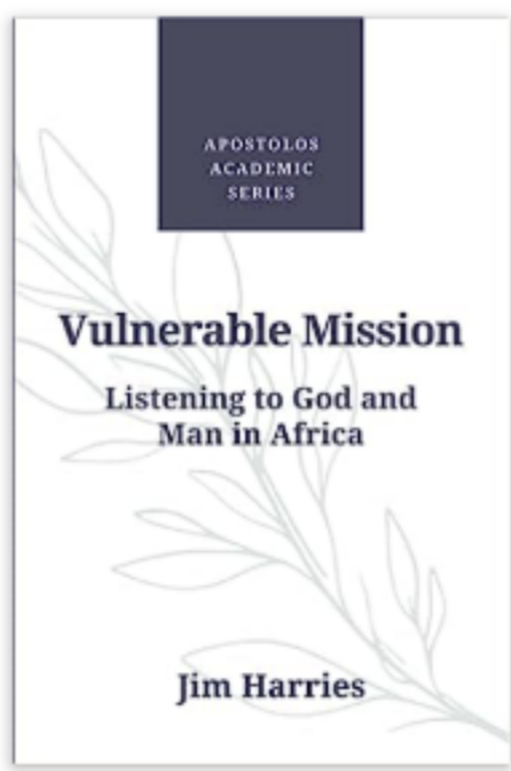


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The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.



Please suggest contributions to this Bulletin to jim@vulnerablemission.org
 This month's contents:
Vulnerable Mission: Listening to God and Man in Africa - NEW BOOK!
'They Look Down on Us'—On Myanmar and Francis Chan's Ministry Move to Asia.
Herrnhut Hiob - The Story of an almost forgotten Native American who was instrumental in the Moravian Mission endeavours.
Could Africa Catch a Cold from the West's Declining Churches? Burundi's Leaders Think So.
Review of: Seeking Reconciliation in the Context of Coloniality: A Study of White People's Approaches in a Multicultural South African Church. Marcus Grohmann.



Vulnerable Mission: Listening to God and Man in Africa. NEW BOOK!

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Vulnerable-Mission-Listening-God-Africa/dp/B0C9SHLZJC/ref=sr_1_1?

"This book defines vulnerable mission as the practice by Westerners of relating to those in other cultures using the languages and resources of the people of those cultures. This allows Majority World citizens to communicate with missionaries or development workers without fear of harsh rebuke, censure, mockery, cuts in funding, or paternalistic affront. It allows Westerners to listen attentively. This book outlines updated insights, perspectives, and experiences in the practice of vulnerable mission, providing guidance on how to do it. It is a "why to do it" and "how to do it" manual. The author draws on and challenges contemporary and historical academia and scholarship, from the coalface of indigenous life in Africa. This book will inevitably stir controversy and proposes essential globalization practices which, if ignored, spell great peril."
 (UK price £11.99)

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'They Look Down on Us'—On Myanmar and Francis Chan's Ministry Move to Asia

<https://faithfullymagazine.com/myanmar-francis-chan-ministry/>

Francis Chan concludes his article as follows: "As long as we insist on coming in power, on telling the stories on our own terms and neglecting to correct our false stories...as long as we are determined to operate as pioneers, trying to parent other adults, we're operating as oppressors. As long as we persist in looking down on people, our good news will never be their good news. Instead of it being the gospel of peace in Christ, it will be a gospel of power and domination."

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Herrnhut Hiob - The Story of an almost forgotten Native American who was instrumental in the Moravian Mission endeavours

<https://www.jim-mission.org.uk/der-herrnhuter-hiob/>

(This link is to a version of this piece posted on Jim's personal webpage.)
 This text in German speaks to the complexity of the early days of the Protestant mission movement as well as of our contemporary attempts to come to terms with perceived injustices back then and today. Moravian missionaries, probably unusually incarnational in their approach during the 18th century, were in other ways also implicated in imperialist conduct as well as paternalistic attitudes towards the people they tried to reach for Christ. Joshua Junior, a Native American who from an early age became a bridge builder between his own community and the Moravian Church, was instrumental in translating Christian worship into his culture. Only recently is the memory of him being revived. The text paints a nuanced picture that critically reflects on mission strategies that looked condescendingly on people's cultures. For this reason it raises the question of how much assimilation into European ways of life and Western value systems we implicitly expect today (be it in cross-cultural ministry, multinational organisations or increasingly multicultural Western societies), ignoring that for the gospel to take root in and transform cultural communities takes a long time and is the work of the Spirit.

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Could Africa Catch a Cold from the West's Declining Churches? Burundi's Leaders Think So

https://kirbylaingcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/TBP-Issue-07_Digital-download.pdf

"One problem is that little is being done to increase the "mastery of Kirundi" – the traditional language – among the younger generation. "The message that is being communicated is: you do not need Kirundi to succeed in life, but you need French, English or Chinese..." Could wealthy donors increase Burundi's chances of prospering by making matching gifts for Kirundi scholarship obligatory? There is just one Bible commentary in Kirundi." Shares the author to this article (pages 13-15).

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EVANGELICAL REVIEW OF THEOLOGY

Review of: Seeking Reconciliation in the Context of Coloniality: A Study of White People's Approaches in a Multicultural South African Church. Marcus Grohmann. Review by Jim Harries.

<https://theology.worldidea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ERT-47-3.pdf>

"The book, a published version of Grohmann's PhD thesis, is a challenging and ground-breaking text that deserves to be widely read. It will be of interest to missiologists, as well as to those concerned for the development of Africa or for interracial relations globally. As the foreword states, "Marcus Grohmann helps us to become conscious of the historical and inherent ways in which colonialism continues to misshape our best efforts at Christian reconciliation," states the final paragraph of the review. (Full review pages 287-288.)

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