



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

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Editor:

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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.

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An article by Randy Woodley entitled: ‘**Mission and the Cultural Other: in search of the pre-colonial Jesus**’, can be downloaded for free [here](#). Randy gives good missionary advice. He point us, it seems according to my understanding, to a perspective which a vulnerable missionary should reach. Randy teaches at George Fox University in Portland, Oregon. We hope he may join us for a ‘vulnerable mission’ event there in 2017! Randy tells us:

1. There is no place we can go where Jesus is not already present and active.

Jesus is eventually recognized by many of the writers of the New Testament as Creator. The efficacy of Christ in creation as Creator (Jn 1:1–4, 10–14; Col. 1:15–20; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:1); the fact that God has always had covenantal

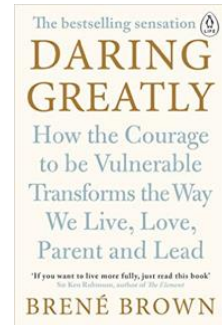
relationship with all peoples (Amos 9:7); the fact that Jesus is the truth, meaning all truth points to him and he fulfills all truth, these point to the inescapable reality that Jesus is everywhere present.

2. Since Jesus is present and active everywhere, the first responsibility of mission among any culture is not to teach, speak, or exert privilege but to discover what Jesus is doing in that culture (Jn 5:19).
3. Realize God expects two conversions out of every missional encounter: (1) our conversion to the truths in their culture, and (2) their conversion to the truth we bring to the encounter (Lk. 7:36–50; 10:25–37).
4. Our humility as servants of Jesus should naturally lead us to convert first to the truths in their culture everywhere we see Jesus is at work (Acts 10:23–48).
5. Through the work of culture guides (people of that culture), earnest study, prayer, and experiential failures, it is our responsibility to first adapt to and then embrace their culture, and as much as possible, their worldview (Acts 17).
6. Realize that conversion is both instantaneous and a process and think through those implications as we begin to consider our timelines. Then, throw out our timelines (Rom. 13:11).
7. During this time, also read, study, discuss with others ways that you can continue to deconstruct your own worldview and culture. This is a long, painful, and yet freeing process (Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:2).
8. Our own process of conversion may take years, so be patient with yourself and with God (Gal. 2:12).
9. When and if, they invite us to share the gospel they have noticed us living out, then the process formally known as cultural contextualization should occur (1 Cor. 9:20).
10. Their process of conversion may take years, so be patient (Eph. 4:2).

- Those more academically inclined, might find this article by anthropologist Bialeki interesting. It is just one of many pieces of work contemporarily being produced by anthropologists who have turned to study Christianity. A copy of the article can be found [here](#). Bialeki point us to **transhumanism as the way forward for enabling anthropologists and theologians to engage**. Transhumanism, google tells me, is “the belief or theory that the human race can evolve beyond its current physical and mental limitations, especially by means of science and technology”. Is transhumanism religion, Bialeki asks? It seems so, and it also seems to have endless parallels with Christian theology. Contemporary anthropology’s efforts at engaging the Christian faith that gave birth to it are, to me, a parallel digging into non-Western ‘religion’ as can be engaged by *vulnerable missionaries*.
- For the less-academically oriented, take a look at **Barbie Saviour, and have a laugh, as well as a reflection**. See [here](#).

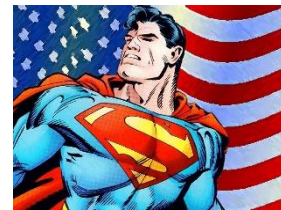


- We have already mentioned Brené Brown in previous editions of the AVM Bulletin. Jim Harries has joined her already extensive fan-club! Jim has, as many missionaries, puzzled as to how to acquire deep trust with African people? Brown does NOT write with respect to intercultural contexts. She does very clearly state though: **true trust arises from true vulnerability**. See [here](#) for Jim’s review of her book entitled *Daring Greatly*.



- Insights in a blog here come straight out of some of Jim’s recent Kenyan experiences. Have a [read](#) to think about; **how in practice to avoid being ‘Mr. money bags’ in a majority world** which is currently much stuck on the reputation of Westerners as being more concerned for money than anything else.

When we tell stories about poverty around the world, who are the heroes, asks Craig Greenfield [here](#)? All too often, Americans he says, and Brits aren’t so different, like to be known as the heroes ...



Craig tells us **WHY he is strongly motivated to live and serve in Asia**. I think he has some very good reasons. Take a look [here](#).

- David Katan looks at translation. He has produced some cutting edge articles looking at the boundaries of translation theory, such as [this on](#) one intercultural mediation – well **worth a look at by people concerned with translating across cultures**. For more of his work on translation see [here](#).



Jim Harries is to be in the USA next year. Primarily, he is to be speaking at seminaries and Christian universities. Please get in touch if you would like him to visit you:

18th to 22nd September, Vancouver, Canada.

23rd to 29th September, Portland, Oregon.

30th September to 6th October, Los Angeles.

7th October to 11th October, Oklahoma.

12th October to 20th October, Dallas.

21st October to 29th October, Chicago.

30th October to 3rd November, Philadelphia.

7th November to 12th November, Pittsburgh, PA. (see conference notice below)

15th November to 21st November, Anderson, Indiana.

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