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

Towards a North American AVM Network
The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) is 12 years old. To date, it operates as a ‘global’ alliance. Some of us want to strengthen the specifically American-component. The AVM advocates that some Western missionaries should carry out their ministries in the majority world using local languages and resources.

The NAMS (North American Missions Ship) is off course. To change the course of NAMS – to reconceive and reconfigure NAMS as something other than an old-style ocean liner that won’t turn at a hurricane never mind on a sixpence – will take a lot of work, beginning and continuing with a lot of prayer. A few of us since mid-2018 have been talking about creating a website as a place for AVM-minded people in North America to interact with. Then we need to act. We’ve made some preliminary decisions, written a few things for the website,
reserved a domain name. Our first need is prayer. We also need more AVM-minded people who will contribute their knowledge, energy and vision to changing the course of NAMS. If you are one of those American people, please write to me at the email address below.
Fred Lewis
Member of the AVM (global) Executive Board

Flewis.ecmna@gmail.com

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- One of Jim’s books, Three Days in the Life of an African Christian Villager, a short fictional account of ‘real’ life in an African village, has been republished so is back in print. Order your copy here. Here is the amazon review of this book: “This book bursts like a breath of fresh air into the reader's mind. What it promises, it gives - a fascinating insight into life in an African village as seen and interpreted by a Christian man. We are privileged to be given a penetrating glimpse of life for this man over just three days - three days packed with work, domestic life and family problems, and church services, including funerals (ever-present in Africa). I commend this book to anyone teaching or studying missiology, but also to anyone interested in mission work.”

- Jim’s latest novel is now out! This is a Romance, that at the same time teaches about mission, about how to relate cross culturally, and about how not to do things in Africa. It tells, indirectly, in fictional form, a bit about the life and ministry of Jim Harries. (One has to use fiction in order to tell truths that are otherwise too sensitive.) Order your copy here for just £8.99. (Not yet available over Amazon.)
See here for some ‘live’ discussion sessions on academia.edu:

An innovative approach to cross-cultural training.
A rant on the folly of the West in Mission and Development
A suggestion that; Witchcraft saves-lives in Africa

The Easter Story you have never heard of … take a look at this, by Craig Greenfield.
“This Easter, I’d like to offer another way to understand what Jesus did on the cross. We live in a world racked with more and more violence. (I live in a country that lost more than a million citizens to a brutal civil war - not to mention hundreds of thousands of deaths by American bombs). But as Christians, we haven’t always offered a Christlike nonviolent alternative. Which is super SAD, because what Jesus did at Easter was the ULTIMATE act in God’s plan to overcome violence in the world. There are heaps and heaps of theories about what the cross meant. These atonement theories have sometimes fallen short of describing what happened. Frankly it’s a mystery that I struggle to comprehend. But this Easter let’s look at the cross from another angle. One with huge ramifications for how we walk in the world. This perspective goes all the way back to the earliest Christians. But it speaks directly to our world today.” Continued …

This book, that seems to have spawned much interest over the last 20 years, looks at how to do research from an indigenous perspective. Title: Deconolonising Methodologies: research and indigenous peoples. (Get a free pdf of this book here.)

For a review by Jim Harries: “I found myself nodding in approval as I read this book. Smith has a sufficient understanding of the intricacies of options in research methodology to titillate the experts. I found myself thinking that her level of understanding was impressive for an indigenous Maori. My joy was dampened when I realised that underlying her text is really a clear message: ‘you Western researchers aren’t helping us. Get out of the way, and let us indigenous people research ourselves’. My heart sank. I would love for there to be more intimate involvement of Western people with indigenous minorities and majorities. Smith tells us repeatedly that indigenous people are tired of being abused by Western people in the name of ‘research’. Westerners should read this book. It declares a failure of the West” … continued
UK conference planned for December 2019, title:

Title: Missionaries: aliens, providers, or fellow travellers?
Strapline: Should the majority world be the target of patronage from rich missionaries?

Any potential speakers please write to me at jim@vulnerablemission.org

- To be held at All Nations Christian College, Ware, Herts, UK. Sunday 8th December 2019 5 pm, to Wednesday 11th December 2019, 1 pm. (see call for papers below).