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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin April 2025 Volume 17, Number 4

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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 bulletin@vulnerablemission.org

This month's contents:

The Parable of the Wounded One

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“Take nothing with you ...” inspiring disciple-making movements

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This month: AVM Webinar with Dr. Chris Sadowitz (24 April 2025, 14:00 London time)

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Other webinars coming up later this year

The Parable of the Wounded One

Blogger and past missionary to Somalia, Rachel Pieh Jones writes of discovering her own fundamental vulnerability in intercultural ministry. Inviting readers to consider to identify themselves with ‘the wounded one’ in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Rachel points people to the basic need for vulnerability and humility in contexts of difference. This posture underlies the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission’s striving for ‘mission without conquest’ by centering people’s home languages and locally available resources.

<https://rachelpiehjones.substack.com/p/the-parable-of-the-wounded-one>

(image gleaned from Rachel’s blog post)



“Take nothing with you ...” inspiring disciple-making movements

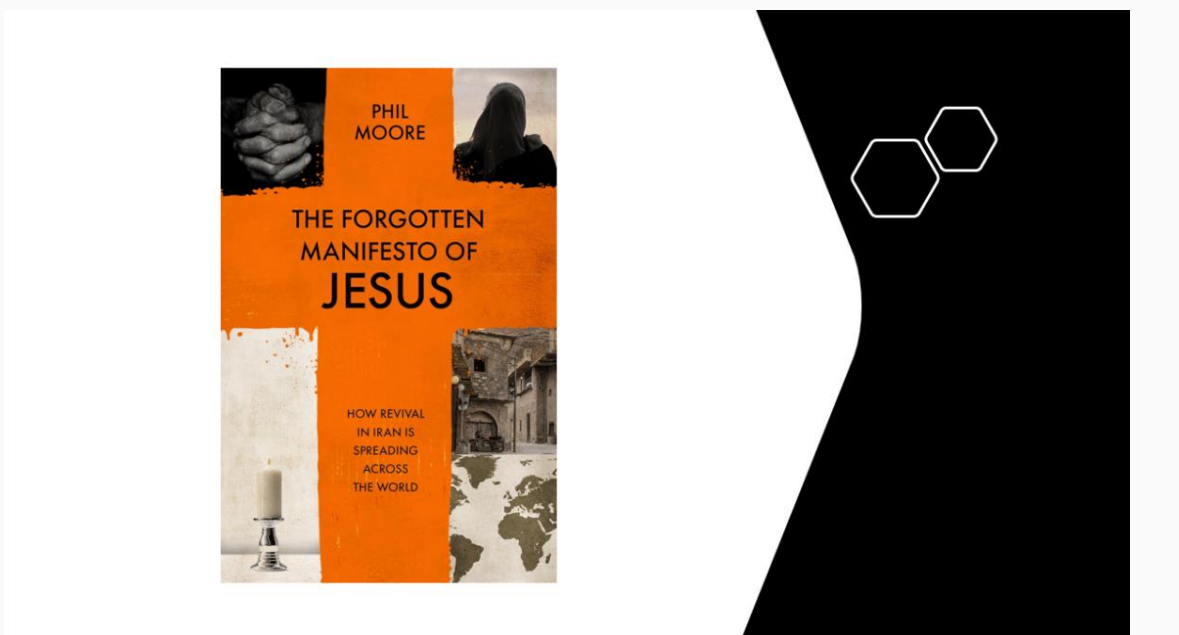
In a video podcast, Phil Moore speaks about his new book [“The forgotten manifesto of Jesus: How revival in Iran is spreading across the world”](#). He raises awareness for the rapidly growing disciple-making movements in India, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan that are also spreading into the Western world. Fascinating here is that he regards the vulnerability they are required to embrace as key to their success. Finding inspiration for their evangelistic endeavours in Jesus’ sending out of the 12 and the 72 disciples, people discover new ways of relating the gospel and being church that are different from traditional church structures.

Particularly striking is his assessment of why there has so far been such opposition to the gospel in these Islamic Middle Eastern countries. From timestamp 09:20 onwards, he explains how “Christianity coming in strength” with an attitude of superiority has provoked resistance. Rather, Phil holds, “the instructions that Jesus gives us in Matthew 10 and Luke 10 are the exact opposite. He says, ‘I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. ... Don’t take any money. ... Don’t invite people to your thing. Just be vulnerable and look for people who are willing to look after you and invite you into their house and help you.’”

Intriguing also his conclusion from personal experience how such Bible-centred

approaches of ministering ‘in weakness’ could potentially revolutionise mission even within Western societies, even among those of European heritage who feel that church is no longer for them.

(The video podcast is unlisted – please message bulletin@vulnerablemission.org to receive the link.)



This month: AVM Webinar with Dr. Chris Sadowitz (24 April 2025, 14:00 London time)

Serving in an affluent Japanese context: Vulnerable Mission beyond indigenous languages and local resources?

Growing out of Jim Harries’ ministry in Kenya, the AVM has mostly promoted vulnerability in mission with respect to the ‘developing world’ in the Global South. And yet, vulnerability modelled on Jesus’ posture of God becoming human, even a slave in our world (Phil 2:5 ff.) means doing ministry in a way that reveals a particular approach that is irrespective of the context. Webinar speaker Dr. Chris Sadowitz, missionary in Japan since 1993, will explore how the concrete outworkings of vulnerable mission as defined by the AVM (cross-cultural ministry using indigenous languages and local resources) relate to missionary work in the country of Japan with its high levels of education and income.

Chris Sadowitz, together with Jim Harries, was co-editor of the recent publication [‘Paul Planted, Apollos Watered, but God: Vulnerable Weakness in Ministry and Mission’](#).

Please click [here](#) to register for this free webinar (donations appreciated).

24th April 2025: Dr. Chris Sadowitz

Serving in an affluent Japanese context

Vulnerable Mission beyond indigenous languages and local resources?



Other webinars coming up later this year:

Is Religion a Western Idea? Some Emerging Ideas on the Khmer Notion of Sasna (‘Religion’) – 24 July 2025

In September of 2023, the Pew Research Center released a report entitled 'Buddhism, Islam and Religious Pluralism in South and Southeast Asia' which shows that people in Buddhist Southeast Asia have a distinctly different perspective of religion than people in Singapore which is the most Westernised country in the region. In this webinar, Claire Chong presents, from her fieldwork research, some emerging ideas on the Cambodian notion of 'religion.' It is hoped that with a better understanding of what religion is in other societies, Christians may engage with people of other faiths in more meaningful ways.

Sign-up [here](#).

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission in cooperation with



Rethinking Forum



24th July 2025: Claire Chong





– WEBINAR –
ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Is Religion a Western idea?

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

Doing research in 21st century Africa as a European: A decolonial approach – 9 October 2025

Dr. Mark Smith shares from his work in North Africa and what steps he took towards vulnerability in research.

Sign-up [here](#).

9th October 2025: Dr. Mark Smith

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Doing Research in 21st century Africa as a European

A decolonial approach



– WEBINAR –
ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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- Relating to people through their languages and local resources -













The AVM Bulletin is published by Allianz für Verletzliche Mission e. V. / Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (AVM), registered under Association Register Number 14892 by the local court in Dresden. The AVM is represented by executive board members Marcus Grohmann, Deborah Bernhard, and Maria Richter. Contact via phone (+27 81 586 1484) or email (info@vulnerablemission.org).