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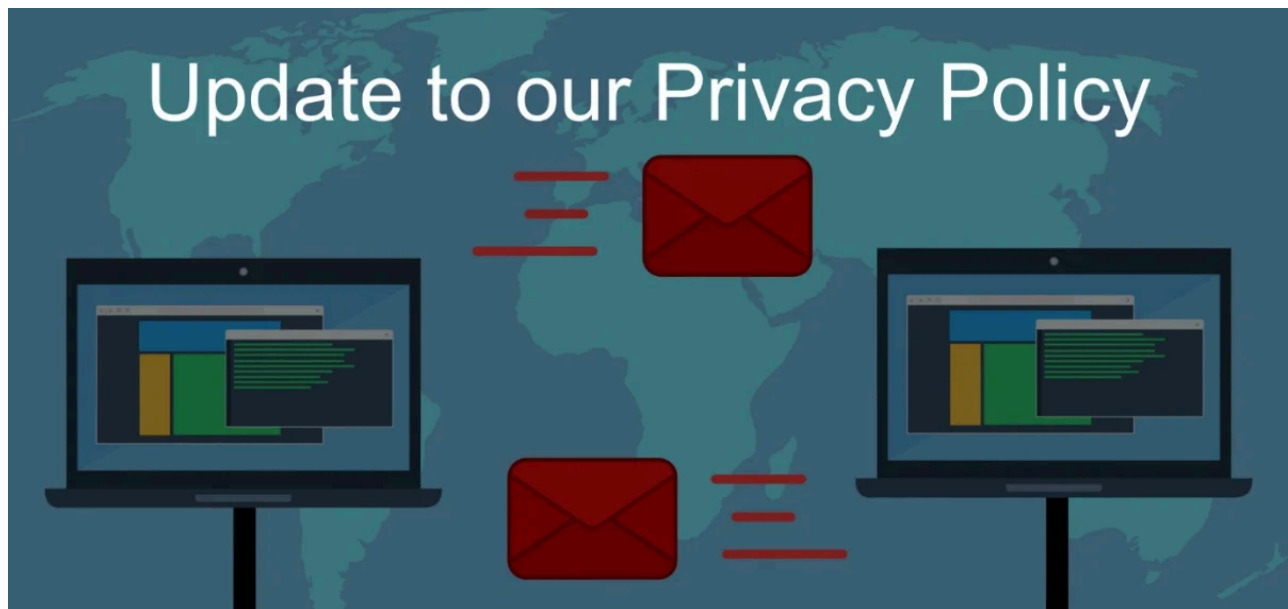


(Archived back-copies [here](#). Subscribe for free [here](#))

Editor: Jim Harries, PhD

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



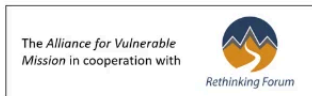
Update to the AVM's privacy policy

German:

Wir haben unsere [Datenschutzerklärung](#) aktualisiert. Neben dem Versand des AVM Bulletins können wir Sie gelegentlich separat zu Unterstützungsmöglichkeiten für unsere Arbeit informieren. Diese Verarbeitung erfolgt auf Grundlage unseres berechtigten Interesses (Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. f DSGVO). Sie können solchen Mitteilungen jederzeit widersprechen, ohne dass dies den Bezug des Bulletins beeinträchtigt. Nutzen Sie dazu diesen [Link](#) oder kontaktieren Sie uns direkt.

English:

We have updated our [Privacy Policy](#). In addition to sending the AVM Bulletin, we may occasionally inform you separately about opportunities to support our work. This processing is based on our legitimate interest (Art. 6(1)(f) GDPR). You may object to such communications at any time without affecting your Bulletin subscription. To do so, please use this [link](#) or contact us directly.



9th July 2026: Aanand A.



Cultural imperialism and the new believer
A case study of Hindu devotees of Yeshu in South Asia



Webinar on 9 July 2026

Register now!

July webinar

In this upcoming webinar, Aanand A. will address missionaries' blindspots in the context of people following Jesus who are embedded in their Hindu backgrounds. Sign up [here](#) for free!



More insights on giving to the Majority World

Bruce Barron, until recently the editor of the *Evangelical Review of Theology*, has in recent months taken to producing blogs. He targets a Christian / evangelical audience. He has recently turned his attention to the [complexities of donor giving](#) to Africa. This blog post includes 3 responses to the question on 'how to give to the majority world'. Two are from Malawians. One is from the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission's own; Jim Harries. Each contribution draws our attention to complex issues needing to be considered in order to facilitate good African-donor relations, and truly 'helpful' giving.

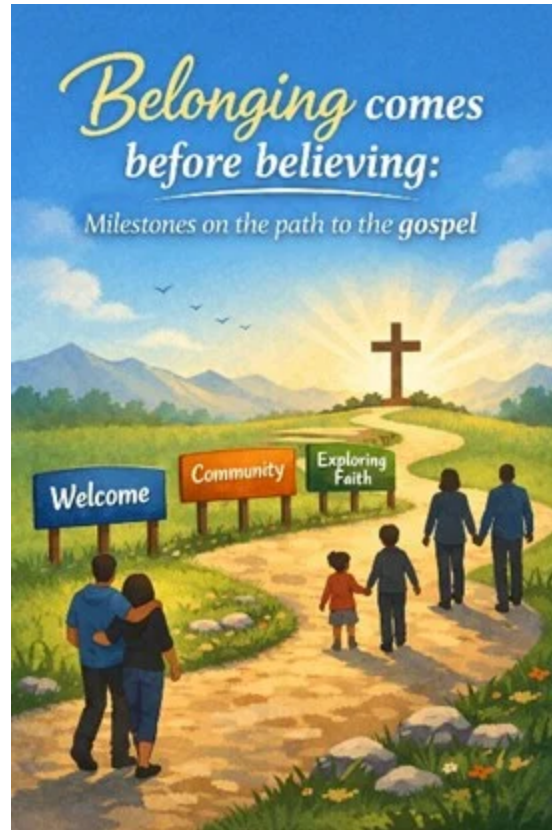


Image created by AI / Bild erstellt von KI

Belonging comes before believing: Milestones on the path to the gospel

This [article](#), by Ute Paul, describes a community forming around faith in Christ. This project is known as *senfkorn* (in German, Mustard Seed in English). Ute and members of the team prioritize giving people a place to belong. The people discover that belonging is enabled by Jesus, his life, ministry, teaching, death on the cross, and resurrection. Belonging happens before believing. Everyday relationships form the milestones to faith. Stories are told of gradual awakening. The journey is one of dialogue and lament. Embodiment of faith blossoms through community rituals.

Zugehörigkeit kommt vor dem Glauben: Meilensteine auf dem Weg ins Evangelium

Dieser Artikel von Ute Paul beschreibt eine Gemeinschaft, die sich um den Glauben an Christus bildet. Dieses Projekt ist unter dem Namen *senfkorn* bekannt (auf Englisch Mustard Seed). Ute und die Mitglieder des Teams legen den Schwerpunkt darauf, den Menschen einen Ort zu geben, an dem sie dazugehören können. Die Menschen entdecken, dass Zugehörigkeit durch Jesus, sein Leben, seinen Dienst, seine Lehre, seinen Tod am Kreuz und seine Auferstehung ermöglicht wird. Zugehörigkeit geschieht vor dem Glauben. Alltägliche Beziehungen bilden die Meilensteine des Glaubens. Es werden

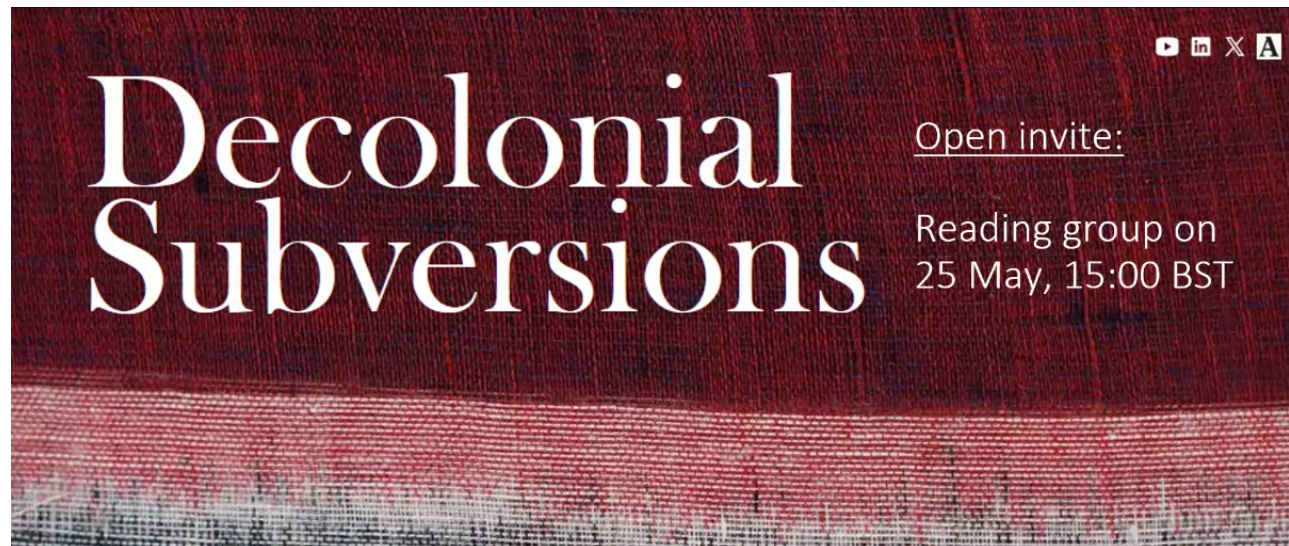
Geschichten eines schrittweisen Erwachens erzählt. Der Weg ist geprägt von Dialog und Klage. Die Verkörperung des Glaubens entfaltet sich durch gemeinschaftliche Rituale.



Launch of Theological Training in African Languages, from Primary to Doctoral Level

Click the picture or link to view this [announcement from IUDI University](#).

“It is in a spirit of faith and prophetic vision that the University Institute for Integral Development — IUDI University — took a decisive step in its academic and missionary history on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. In Mokolo, in the heart of the Far North region of Cameroon, Dr. Timothée Mouanodji, mandated by Professor Moussa Bongoyok, Founding President of the institution, officially proclaimed the launch of a training initiative in African languages — an initiative that can, without exaggeration, be described as a founding act for the future of the evangelical mission on the continent.” (Translation to English from French by google. The website text is in French. The AVM supports indigenous languages education.)



Decolonial Subversions Reading Group

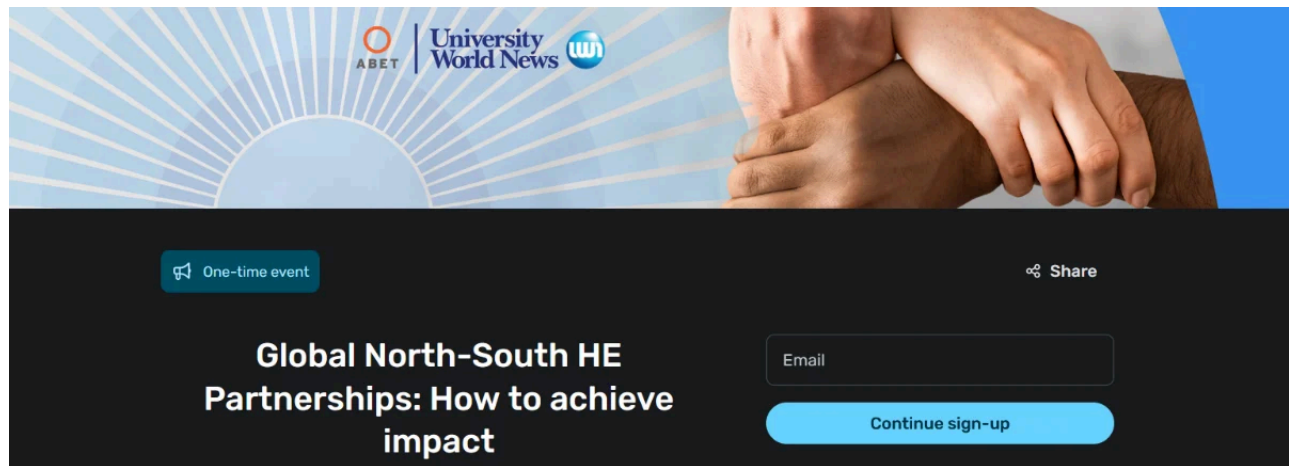
Decolonial Subversions is a publishing platform that has its roots at SOAS - the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. There is an invitation to an online reading group session on 25 May at 15:00 BST. This meeting will focus on decolonising assessment practices in higher education. Questions explored include:

- Can knowledge still be measured using globally standardised criteria rooted in formal education systems?

- Do assessments genuinely reflect students' abilities?
- Are current assessment methods still valid and equitable?

Among the five papers discussed are two by AVM founder Jim Harries who will also be participating.

Those interested can sign up via email: info@decolonialsubversions.org.



The banner features a background image of hands clasped together over a sunburst graphic. Logos for ABET and University World News are in the top left. A 'One-time event' tag is in the top left, and a 'Share' icon is in the top right. The main title 'Global North-South HE Partnerships: How to achieve impact' is centered. Below the title is an 'Email' input field and a 'Continue sign-up' button.

Top experts to talk on improving North-South partnerships

In this [free webinar](#) hosted by University World News in partnership with with ABET, expert panellists will explore what it takes to build effective and equitable North-South partnerships.

The discussion will examine how to move beyond well-meaning collaboration towards approaches grounded in mutual respect, local knowledge, strong community engagement and shared ownership - with a focus on achieving outcomes that deliver genuine and lasting change.



The banner has a dark background. On the left, the text 'Bible translation forum, Germany' is displayed in large white font, with '29-30 May 2026' below it. On the right is an image of a miniature figure in a black academic gown holding a white quill and an open book. The book's cover is visible, showing the text 'Bible des Allen Testaments & NIDÉ' and 'Das Neue Testament übersetzt von Doktor Martin Luther'. The word 'GESELLSCHAFT' is partially visible at the bottom of the image.

Bible Translation Forum, Germany

The next Bible Translation Forum in Germany will be on 29–30 May 2026 at the International Conference Center Karimu (Wycliffe Germany).

Contact [Tianji Ma](#) for more information.

- **Language:** This forum occurs primarily in German though some presentations are in English.
- **Costs:** In addition to the Karimu accommodation costs, there is a **conference fee of approximately €30–50 per participant.**
- **Call for Papers:** Email [Tianji Ma](mailto:Tianji.Ma) with your paper proposals. An annual yearbook is usually published after the Forum.
- **Plenary Speakers:** Each year, the program features around 5–7 speakers covering a wide spectrum of topics. For May 2026, **Dr. Jim Harries** and **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Tauberschmidt**, will be speaking, amongst others.
- **Organization and Intended Audience:** The Forum was originally founded in 2005 by the translator Eberhard Werner. After his passing, Tianji Ma took over the coordination. Tianji serves as a missionary with OMF International and teaches at several Chinese theological seminaries. The Forum takes place annually in Germany and welcomes a broad range of contributions related to Bible translation—exegetical, translational, methodological, linguistic, and more. They especially encourage presentations that are accessible to participants from diverse backgrounds and stimulate discussion. Presentations typically last 50 minutes to one hour, followed by feedback and open dialogue. The intended audience includes anyone interested in Bible translation, both in theory and in practice.



Evangelical Missiological Society 2026

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages participation in this event. Various regional events also occur in April.

2026 CONFERENCE THEME:

Theological Anthropology for Missional Engagement

October 9-10 2026

In-person and virtual

Dallas Theological Seminary

[3909 Swiss Ave, Dallas, TX 75204](https://www.dts.edu/3909-Swiss-Ave-Dallas-TX-75204)

<https://www.emsweb.org/conferences/annual/>

This year's theme "**Theological Anthropology for Missional Engagement**" is central to missiological reflection and practice, since acts of gospel witness, service, and cultural engagement all rest on assumptions about human identity, dignity, and destiny. In a rapidly changing world—marked by shifting views of spirituality, ethnicity, gender, technology, and ecology—the church must embrace a biblically faithful and missionally engaged understanding of the imago Dei.

At the heart of this year's theme is the exploration of *Imago Dei* in missional engagement—how human dignity, human rights, and gospel witness flow from being created in God's image. This perspective grounds reflection on the meaning of being human and how the imago Dei shapes evangelism, discipleship, community, and global mission

2026 Conference – Theme:

***From “the rest” to the “West:”
Global justice, de-coloniality,
and mutuality in Gospel witness***



asm
american society of missiology

June 19-21, 2026

St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

American Society of Missiology 2026

[American Society of Missiology - Annual Conference Call for Papers](#)

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages participation in this event.

The theme will be *From “the rest” to the “West:” Global justice, de-coloniality, and mutuality in Gospel witness.*

Join AVM
Webinars in
2026



22nd January 2026: George M.

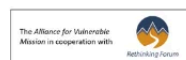
When the Change Begins in Us

Beyond new skills – a transformation of perspective



16th April 2026: Deborah Bernhard & Jim Harries

The Limits of Letting Go Navigating the complexities of submitting to local leadership in Vulnerable Mission



9th July 2026: Aanand A.

Following Jesus as Yesu Bhakta in the Hindu context



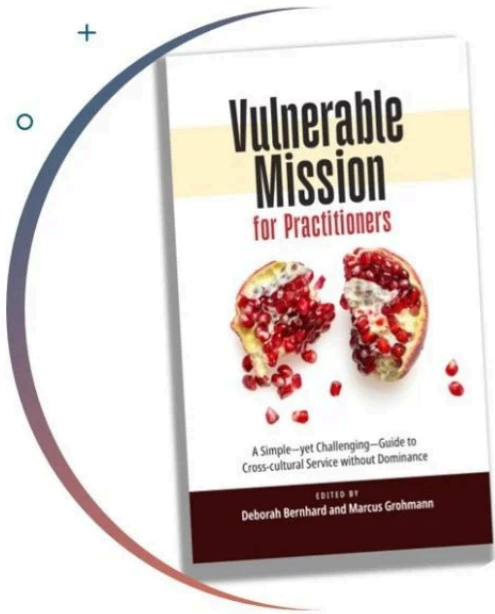
15th October 2026: Anna T.

Serving as alongsiders in the Muslim world



Join the AVM Webinars in 2026

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (AVM) invites you to its **2026 webinar series**, a space for humble dialogue on mission, language, and culture. Themes include *transformation of self, the complexities of submitting to local leadership, and humbly walking with Christ-followers in different cultural-religious contexts.* These online gatherings bring together a range of voices for shared learning and reflection. To join, please register [here](#).



A compact book for practitioners that explains ...

- what vulnerable mission is
- what it can look like in a variety of cultural contexts
- how vulnerable mission differs from other mission approaches
- why vulnerable mission is so important
- what serving according to the principles of vulnerable mission may require

Explore *Vulnerable Mission for Practitioners*—A Resource for the Year Ahead

After its publication in 2025, *Vulnerable Mission for Practitioners* remains available to those interested in exploring the principles and practices of vulnerable mission. The book can be ordered through [Amazon](#) or via the [AVM website](#) in both paperback and PDF ebook formats. A 5-minute AI-generated [podcast summary](#) is also available for a quick introduction.

Since the book is offered on a donation basis through our website, it may be a helpful option if you'd like to request multiple copies—for example, for your organisation, missionary colleagues, or ministry partners.

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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).

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Allianz für Verletzliche Mission

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