



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin May 2013

Volume 5, Number 5.

Editor: Jim Harries, PhD, Chairman of the AVM.

Executive board	Advisory board		
<i>Jim Harries</i>	<i>Alex Araujo</i>	<i>Stan Chu Ilo</i>	<i>Timothy Reeves</i>
<i>Stan Nussbaum</i>	<i>Jay Gary</i>	<i>Frank Paul</i>	<i>Gord Sawatzky</i>
<i>Chris Flanders</i>	<i>Tomas Dozier</i>	<i>Jean Johnson</i>	

- “Get a hold of the current copy, April, 2013, of Christianity Today” Woodrow Walton shared with us in pearl recently. “There is an article written by Bob Smietana entitled ‘First Language First’ which tells about Ched Estigoy-Arzadon, a Christian worker, in the Philippines, who later became the initiator of ‘mother tongue-based multilingual’ instruction for children. This is spreading and gaining traction worldwide” Woodrow added. See this article here: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/april/first-language-first.html>
- Relief and development forum to be held in London 21st May 2013. Looking at the role of the church in community transformation. Would be good to have VM spokespeople there!
<http://www.globalconnections.co.uk/events/networkevents/currentevents/random1305>
- A VM’ish analysis of ministries in the US’s own city of Philadelphia. Very interesting. Take a look: <http://jofum.com/editorial/articles/the-outsiders-and-their-role-in-urban-mission/>
- Here’s a searchable index to the journal the Bible Translator. Bible translators have long been world-leaders in exploring translation issues, many of which are of pertinence to VM:
http://www.facebook.com/1/LAQEXgnhW/www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_bible-translator_01.php

- **Mission-Net European missions' conference for young people.** Mission net's Europe-wide biannual congress held in Germany is regularly attended by thousands of young people who are interested in committing themselves to mission. AVM had a stand there in 2011/12. **We are looking for people** to take responsibility for organising a stand in 2013/14. This is an excellent opportunity **to reach thousands of youth.** Write to jim@vulnerablemission.org. Congress information: <http://www.mission-net.org/mission-net/home/>
- Download your brochure for omsc seminars here: <http://www.omsc.org/2013-2014-brochure.pdf>, then look for Jim's presentation to be on 25th to 26th October. OMSC (Overseas Ministry Study Centre) is located in New Haven, Connecticut. Cut out from page 2 of the brochure below:

2014 OMSC STUDY PROGRAM

2013

p.m.)

2013-2014 OMSC international
Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. All are



October 25-26, 2013 (Friday-Saturday)

Indigenous Initiatives in Mission.

Dr. Jim Harries, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission, considers how using indigenous languages and local resources in ministry counters neocolonial missionary impacts and creation of dependency. Cosponsored by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church, North America; and SIM USA. \$95.

2013 (Thursday-Friday)
day.

2013, All Nations Christian Church
gives an overview with a guided
tour of area churches. Cosponsored

October 28-31, 2013
(Monday-Thursday)

Doing Oral History: Helping Christians Tell Their Own Story

Dr. Jean-Paul Wiest, Jesuit Beijing



- An article by Jim Harries entitled 'African Pentecostalism in Intercultural Linguistic Context' has just been published in *The Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association*, 33(1). See here for a copy of the article: <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/articles/linguistic-context.html> "This study reveals that the origin of many defining features of African Pentecostalism arises through miscommunication with the West, especially the misguided attempt at avoiding troublesome processes of translation by advocating and then strongly supporting financially and in other ways the use of European languages in almost all formal theological dialogue in Africa" Jim reports in this article." (Friend of AVM Anne Dyer did a lot of the work towards getting this published. Thanks to Anne!)

Doing Mission Partnerships Better with Africa, Asia and Latin America

Vulnerable Mission Workshop

September 24, 2013
Ralph D. Winter Strategy and Innovation Center
Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Following vulnerable principles, using local language and local resources, levels off international partnerships.

Organizations/churches are encouraged to send two or more persons so they can process and apply the input together during the group discussion times.

Speakers

Jean Johnson, 16 years church planting experience in Cambodia, author of *We Are Not The Hero* and co-director of WMA (World Mission Associates). Jean will address avoiding and overcoming dependency.

Dr. Stan Nussbaum, missionary statesman, researcher, innovator, trainer, author, works with GMI (Global Mapping International) as their staff missiologist. Stan will set the missiological scene and issue a challenge to more radical practice of widely professed partnership ideals.

Speakers Cont...

Dr. Jim Harries, 25 years to date missionary in East Africa, author, chairman of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission. Jim will draw on personal experience of grass-roots partnerships to discuss vital language and power issues.

Dr. Viv Griss, (opening devotions) prophetic voice, social entrepreneur, servant among the urban poor, urban missiologist.

Ralph D. Winter Strategy and Innovation Center, Pasadena California.
No charge. Love offering. Snacks available. Pay for your own lunch.
For more information and to book lunches e-mail Alyssa Soule at alysasoule@wmausa.org or call 1-800-230-5236.



www.vulnerablemission.org

Partnering Organizations
Alliance of Vulnerable Mission and
World Mission Associates



www.wmausa.org

A pdf copy of this flyer can be found here:
<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Vulnerable-Mission-Conference-Flyer-September-2013-1.pdf>

Vulnerable Mission

Issue 4, Volume 1

Read online for free: <http://missiodeijournal.com>

Editorial Preface

Chris Flanders, "Vulnerable Mission"

Missional Theology

Paul Yonggap Jeong, "'Mission in Weakness and Vulnerability' in Selected Writings: From Lesslie Newbigin's and David Bosch's Missiological Books"

P. Kent Smith, "Economy of Grace: An Early Christian Take on Vulnerable Mission"

David Pritchett, "Unveiling Empire: Ecclesial Resistance to Global Capitalism"

Missional Praxis

Jim Harries, "The Need for Indigenous Languages and Resources in Mission to Africa in Light of the Presence of Monism/Witchcraft"

Stan Nussbaum, "Vulnerable Mission vis-à-vis Mainstream Mission and Missiology"

Jean Johnson, "What Is That In Your Hand?: Mobilizing Local Resources"

Dyron Daugherty, "The King's English in a Tamil Tongue: Missions, Paternalism, and Hybridity in South India"

Greg McKinzie, "Vulnerable Mission: Questions from a Latin American Context"

Below is a copy of the brochure for the UK conference:

**Conference on
Vulnerable Mission**

The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission (AVM) sees vulnerability in mission as a positive thing. "Vulnerable mission" (VM) is a practical step towards contextualization of the Gospel of Jesus, which seems to be the theory of many and the practice of few.

We long to see an end to Western pseudo superiority propped up with outside money and for more genuine reliance on local languages and resources in mission.

Can this work? What are the hindrances? What are the benefits? Please come and join us to pray, think, talk and explore some more . . .

vulnerablemission.org

Call for Papers

A call for conference papers and seminar leaders has been issued. See details at vulnerablemission.org.

Sponsored by:



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION



www.wmausa.org

Details of:
accommodation possibilities
travel directions
and parking may be found at

<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/venue/>

Guest speakers to include:

Jean Johnson, experienced missionary to Cambodia, author. (Keynote speaker)

Dr. Mark Avery, Fuller Theological Seminary, California.

Ralph Hanger, 30+ years experience in mission work in East and central Africa

Dr. Jim Harries, missionary to East Africa.

Conference and registration details

Full Conference fee (excluding accommodation) £50

14th November 12.00 noon to 16th November 2.00pm
£10 early bird discount for bookings before September 2013.

Cost and Part attendance

Delegates are invited to attend part or all of the conference.

Lunch £ 3 each. Evening meals £6 each
Part-attendance of any day is £10.

(Those choosing to come Friday evening will be required to pay only for the meal.)

Total cost for three days £50.
(Bed and breakfast not included.)

Location: Norwich Central Baptist Church,
Duke Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 3AP

<http://www.norwichcentral.org/welcome.htm>

Contact: emailtvreeves@yahoo.co.uk
Queries: phone: 01603 449653
or
024 7767 4081

Registration form

Title: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Post Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Special requirements (diet): _____

I would like to register ___ adults for the Vulnerable Mission conference.

Meals wanted: Thursday lunch:	
Thursday supper	
Friday lunch	
Friday Supper	
Saturday lunch	
(Give number as appropriate)	

Amount paid: _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please send to:

Vulnerable Mission Conference
15 Rowington Road, Norwich NR1 3RR
Enclose a cheque payable to 'Alliance for Vulnerable Mission'

"Vulnerable" mission?

"Vulnerable mission" is seen as an approach to mission and development strategies which, by relying on local languages and local resources instead of those from the Materially Developed World, achieves greater contextualisation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and goes a long way towards avoiding unhealthy dependency.

Strategies such as this avoid much of the confusion which arise from cross cultural communication as they do not depend on potential translation misunderstandings or confusion of the Gospel with material benefits. They also avoid the dangers of "apparent" success of projects which are merely being propped up by donor resources, allowing for the possibility of "failure".

Such an approach can be uncomfortable for the practitioner who adopts it as they are really vulnerable and humanly speaking at the mercy of local people and circumstances. We are reminded, however, of the exhortation to "have the same mindset as Christ Jesus" who "made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil 2:5-7).

In the current extremely varied and complex arena of cross-cultural mission, there are clearly many different approaches to mission in many different situations, most with Biblical mandates. In the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission, we would like to see more missions, agencies, churches and individuals taking this approach to vulnerability – local languages and local resources – more seriously.

If you already agree with this approach or would like to explore how this could really work in your situation, join us to think through these ideas at the conference.

Companion conference September 24th 2013
William Carey Int'l University, Pasadena, USA
www.wciu.edu
Details from usa@vulnerablemission.org

**Conference on
Vulnerable Mission**

*Post-colonial mission and development at depth
without dependency*



14 - 16 November 2013

Norwich Central Baptist Church,
Norwich

www.norwichcentral.org