



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

[www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org)

## Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin September 2013 Volume 5, Number 9.

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

<b>Executive board</b>	<b>Advisory board</b>		
<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>	

**Only a few days left to enjoy the £10 discount  
for your place at the UK conference.**

### Events 2013: US Workshop and UK Conference and more ...

A 20% discount is available to those who register on the UK conference before the beginning of September 2013.

24<sup>th</sup> September is the date for the US workshop in California that will look at vulnerable mission in relation to mission 'partnerships'.

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November are the dates for the UK conference on vulnerable mission.

**Details at: [vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org)**

We are increasingly excited by the level of interest that we are finding in the UK conference to be held in Norwich in November. As well as having 12 plus well qualified speakers committed to sharing at the event, increasing numbers of mission agencies and bible colleges are showing interest. I have produced this Bulletin a few days early to act as a reminder to people to reserve their place at the UK conference as soon as possible so as to benefit from the early bird discount that expires on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

For details on other major 2013 vulnerable mission events go here:

<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/Other-VM.pdf>

For details of Jim's travel destinations over the next 4 months look here:

<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/2013-trip-schedule-1.pdf>

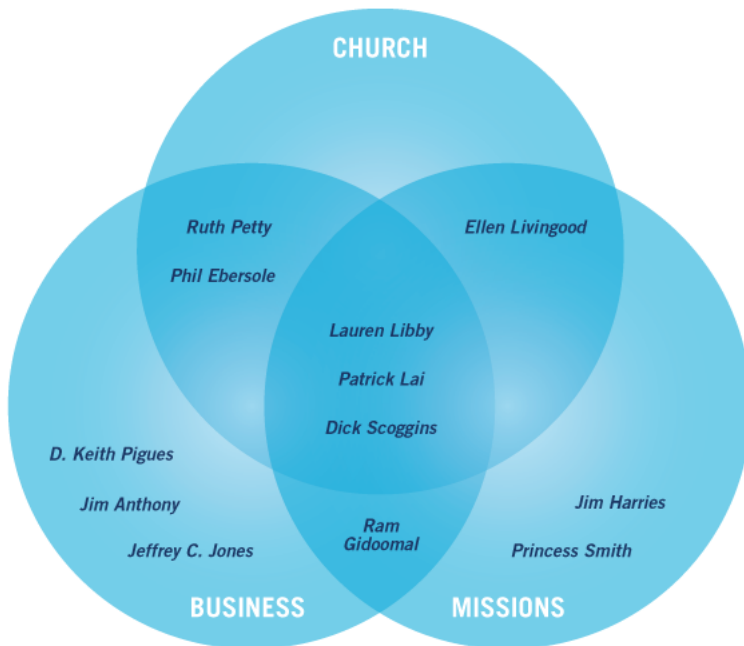
*See below for details of a webinar to be held by Jean Johnson on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013; especially for those who may not be able to make it to any of the above conferences.*

A couple of pictures from last year's UK vulnerable mission conference that was held at Cliff College in Derbyshire:



- AVM Advisory board member and member of Norwich conference planning committee **Tim Reeves** has written an article giving more information on the upcoming conference posted on the Network Norwich and Norfolk churches site. See here to find out more on how the “**Norwich conference challenges mission ideas**”  
[http://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/365007/Network\\_Norwich\\_and\\_Norfolk/Resources/Events/Norwich\\_conference\\_challenges\\_mission\\_ideas.aspx](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/365007/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/Resources/Events/Norwich_conference_challenges_mission_ideas.aspx)
- Here is a carefully written and thought out **article advising on intercultural use of funds**. It has been written by Keith Johns on behalf of the Grace Baptist Mission in the UK.  
<http://www.gbm.org.uk/pdf/Mission%20and%20Money%20-%20web%20version.pdf>
- *Christianity magazine* (August 2013) produced a two-page article by way of report of a **missionary to East Africa who left the field in the face of death threats**. We are grateful to the Grace Baptist Mission for raising the flag on this event, that relates closely to vulnerable mission concerns. See: Van der Hart, Lucinda, 2013. ‘I Received Death Threats as a Missionary.’ 20-21 in *Christianity Magazine*, August 2013.
- Student pastor of Andover Baptist Church in Hampshire, UK, **Ross Maynard** wrote this brief report following his visit to Jim Harries in Kenya in June/July 2013: <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/no-longer-romantic/>
- Methodist professor in Ghana **John Ekem takes theological engagement with mother tongues seriously**: <http://newtimes.com.gh/story/prof-ekem-occupies-dickson-ansre-professorial-chair> Professor Ekem has said that “a mother-tongue well articulated especially in the field of Theology contributed to the grooming of young men and women into becoming responsible and excellent academicians.” See more here: <http://accra.academia.edu/JohnEkem>

- See details below on the TWR symposium to be held 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in North Carolina:



Symposium: a formal meeting at which several specialists deliver short addresses on a topic or on related topics. (Merriam-Webster)

October 8-10, 2013  
On-line or in person at TWR, Cary, NC  
Participate in discussions with specialists  
from three perspectives:  
BUSINESS | CHURCH | MISSIONS

48 hours to discuss: "How can the Church better utilize the participation of businesspeople in Great Commission strategy?"

Equal speaker/discussion time!

\$180. | \$135. Students | \$30. Web Participation  
10% off early-bird pricing before August 31

Schedule and Registration at:  
[www.twr.org/symposium2013](http://www.twr.org/symposium2013)



Sponsors: Acton Institute, TWR and ECFA

- **Verletzliche Mission.** Christine Guehne, who attended the 2012 VM conference in UK, has written a fascinating personal account about vulnerable mission in the German language. This account can be found here: <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/rundbrief/verletzliche-mission.pdf>
- Just a quick note to let you know that the kindle edition of Jim Harries' *Communication in Mission and Development* is available from Amazon in the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Spain, Brazil, India, Japan, and Italy. Here is the link to it at Amazon's U.S. site: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00DJ6WZJQ>.
- "Can you imagine coming to the realization that **you have been the hindrance to your own goals**? As a missionary in Cambodia, I came to the realization that the means that I often used to achieve intended goals became the actual stumbling blocks to those goals. In this webinar, we will discover how the unintended consequences of unhealthy dependency become the self-imposed enemies of our Great Commission effort and principles of how to avoid these consequences." Join this **webinar<sup>1</sup>** by **Jean Johnson** on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013: <http://www.missionexus.org/counterproductive/>
- **Julia Pring**, who attended the 2009 VM conference in Andover, UK, lived for many years in Kenya. Julia shares some **reflections on her then experience**

<sup>1</sup> A 'webinair' is a web-based seminar that can be attended in real-time by delegates from around the world who have sufficiently broad and reliable web access.

in this vivid personal account: <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/discussion/reflections-by-julia-pring.pdf>

- An event to be held 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November in Bangkok will look at **language issues in mission and development in Asia**. Issues to be discussed in relation to language include: “Partnerships: What does it mean to be in a partnership? How we can we be better partners? Relationships and money: What are the challenges and the benefits around finances when working in relationship with others?” For details see: <http://leadcop.wordpress.com/event-content/>
- This lecture on ‘vulnerability’ may be of interest: [http://www.ted.com/talks/brene\\_brown\\_on\\_vulnerability.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability.html)
- A foundational article to vulnerable mission thinking by Jim Harries has recently been published: Harries, Jim, 2013. '**Vulnerable Mission as an Alternative to Failing Aid Paradigms.**' *Globalmissiology*, 4(10), July 2013. See here: <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/viewFile/1221/2815>
- **David Bosch** gave a lecture on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1991 entitled “**The Vulnerability of Mission**”. Bosch concludes that: “Only if we turn our backs on false power and false security can there be authentic Christian mission.” He adds: “Of course this will lead to opposition, perhaps even suffering, persecution and martyrdom.” Bosch’s discussion resonates closely with a number of VM concerns: [http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/bq/34-8\\_351.pdf](http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/bq/34-8_351.pdf)
- The title to this article by **Steve Saint** entitled ‘**Projecting Poverty where it doesn’t exist**’ really speaks very much for itself: Find the article here: <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/projecting-poverty-where-it-doesnt-exist>
- See here for an **Africa missionary’s discussion of vulnerable mission** principles, by Arthur Davis: <http://meetjesusatuni.com/2013/07/30/vulnerable-mission-2-working-in-english/>
- To hear an African explain that **English is not an African language**, go here to hear a BBC interview of Ngugi wa Thiong’o from Kenya: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-23367692>

The following are items that may be of interest to VM members even though they may not fall strictly within a VM approach.

Anthropology and linguists have, according to Jim Harries in this article, been involved in a cover up of important truths relating to life in Africa and elsewhere in the majority world. “This article considers how ... ‘gaps’ in anthropology and linguistic studies have contributed to a dummification of academia that has in turn handicapped Africa. It considers a new engagement with ‘religion’, especially Christianity, as the way forward.” See: Harries, Jim, 2013, ‘**The Glaring Gap: Linguistics, Anthropology, Religion, and Christianity in African Development.**’ 232-251 In: *Exchange, Journal of Missiological and Ecumenical Research*, 42(3). <http://www.jim-mission.org.uk/articles/yawa.pdf>