

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin – November 2010.

see also: www.vulnerablemission.com

Welcome to the new members on the mailing list for this Bulletin. The main role of this bulletin is to provide an ongoing collated state-of-the-art reading list on concerns closely related to vulnerable mission, by drawing mostly on materials that are on the web. Enjoy your read. (Suggested contributions to the Bulletin to jim@vulnerablemission.com .)

Being vulnerable is being able to “communicate outward adjustment to a community, while being immovable in terms of being a vessel of the unchanging Message” (Laurie Ann, 11th October 2010).

- One aim of the AVM Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) is to see more Westerners go to Africa (and elsewhere in the poor world) to work alongside indigenous people. This could break the monopoly of the teaching that mission is done through money. Once church leaders acknowledge that Christian mission ought to be done from within the local context, cultural barriers can be broken, and troublesome issues that have been ignored for decades could be addressed. Addressing those issues will not be easy. It will try people's faith. Such trials can build faith. This kind of activity could even help to awaken Europe from its sleep in secularism. Then those who are hopeless, lonely, and failing to satisfy their human needs through worldly material things and sexual and other excesses could be re-awakened to a knowledge of God's provision and God's love ...
- The AVM now has bank details that enable us to receive donations for our operations. If you would like to make a donation to the Alliance, or know someone else who would like to, please go to this link for more information: <http://www.vulnerablemission.com/donations/> Please contact Jim Harries if you are willing, or know someone who is willing and able, to assist the Alliance in administration.
- Anne Treeby interviewed Jim Harries about his ministry in Kenya at Oakhill Theological College in north London in September 2010. Click here to listen to 48 fascinating minutes of discussion about ‘vulnerable’ ways of carrying out Christian mission. <http://www.askvic.com/over-seas-mission.html>
- The Global Connections UK evangelical mission’s body is to host a conference on dependency on 18th November 2010 in London. See here for details: <http://www.globalconnections.co.uk/events/networkevents/currentevents/randd2010> Any AVM folks who are able please try to attend this conference and inform people there about ‘vulnerable mission’.
- The World Mission Associates headed by Glenn Schwartz assists missionaries and mission leaders to avoid creating dependency. For more information see <http://www.wmausa.org/> .
- ‘The Sound of Worlds Colliding is the name of a book produced by Servants Asia. This organisation seeks to minister in slums in Asian cities. Available for just \$10 from Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/Sounds-Worlds-Colliding-Dave->

[Andrews/dp/9996352005](#)) this book contains testimony after testimony of how God's servants have been able to minister from positions of vulnerability amongst the world's slums.

- For back-copies of the AVM Bulletin, see <http://www.vulnerablemission.com/bulletins-back-copies/>
- “Put differently, God doesn't need our help; he needs our hearts” writes Laniak on the ‘sailing friends’ blogsite of Alex Araujo (AVM executive board member). Laniak draws that conclusion from a study of the book of Jonah. God needs our hearts more than our money. How can we share our hearts if not through indigenous languages? (<http://sailingfriends.wordpress.com/category/christian-world-missions/>).

‘The Amazing Tree: A parable of the Church’ is the title to a piece written by Alex for the Lausanne conversation. The fruit without the tree (Christ) doesn't work ...

http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/11121#article_page_1

- Jim Harries is to present a paper at the WCIU Symposium in Pasadena, California on 24th November. Those in the vicinity are welcome to join us. For details of the symposium and Jim's paper see: <http://www.vulnerablemission.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/wciu-symposium.pdf> For details of Jim's travels this month to Anderson (Indiana), Chicago, Abilene (Texas), and Mid Atlantic Christian University NC see <http://www.vulnerablemission.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/trip-2010.pdf>
- [http://www.bucer.org/138.html?&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=1455&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=45&cHash=da3bedeaa00c37837200ca7cb3f968a6](http://www.bucer.org/138.html?&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1455&tx_ttnews[backPid]=45&cHash=da3bedeaa00c37837200ca7cb3f968a6) is the site for a proposed confession to be adopted by all Christian missionaries, currently being worked on by WEA (World Evangelical Alliance), WCC (World Council of Churches) and the Catholic Church. “The coming code of ethics ... will condemn all immoral forms, such as ... material incentives for people who want to change their religion ...” says Bucer. This is of major significance for the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission). The AVM proposes that some missionaries carry out their tasks without subsidy using outside resources. It is rare for Western missionaries in the Third World to operate in this way. The above code of conduct asks that all ‘missionaries’ (how defined?) work without offering resources as an incentive for conversion (however interpreted).
- Jim Harries land-line number until the end of December is: +1 215 989 4931 (The number will work wherever Jim is when he has his computer and skype turned on. You can also leave voice mails through this number if he is not on his computer.)

Authentic missionaries tend to give rise to something new. However modest and lowly it may be, the missionaries know that if it really is inspired by the Holy Spirit it is the seed that will grow into a new tree. Their activity takes on universal dimension, going above and beyond a given society in order to change it. On the one hand they feel lost, without prestige or function or honour or official recognition from society. On the other hand they feel confident that their lowly and obscure activity is the most universal activity possible, that in the long run it will have the greatest effect and influence on the destiny of humanity. Its seeming

lowliness in the present is the precondition for its future fruitfulness. (From pp. 49-51, Comblin, J., *The Meaning of Mission*, 1984, Orbis Books, New York.)

Jim Harries
AVM Chairman.