



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin for April 2012; volume 4, number 4.**

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

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**Conferences Report** The VM conferences in Texas in the USA and in Derbyshire in the UK both went well and are now over. I hope to have a fuller report plus information on how to get to see videos of some presentations and papers in the next Bulletin (May 2012). Please send me your input regarding ‘where to go now’, as we are considering future activities in the light of the success of recent conferences. (Write to [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org) )



Some of the attendees at the UK conference



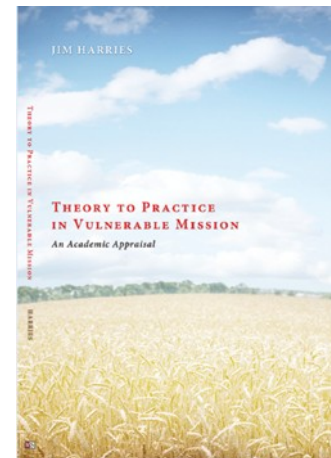
Speakers at the US conference

A number of people at the conferences expressed interest in contributing further to AVM activities. Please get in touch with me if you would like to assist us in promotion and administration, or if you have other thoughts as to how you would like to contribute to the work of the AVM: [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

- **The life of a mother, wife and good neighbour** is the topic of Ute Paul's short account. Frank and Ute spent many years amongst the Indians of the Argentinian Chaco. This straightforward and revealing report of day to day life amongst poor Argentinian people, is remarkably interesting. Wife to Frank Paul (AVM board member) Ute's own love for the Lord and her dedication to the ladies in the Chaco is amazing. [See here.](#)

- ***Theory to Practice in Vulnerable Mission*** is the title of the third of the books that Jim has recently had come to press. In many ways, this should have been the first book; it is an introduction to vulnerable mission, aimed at an academic audience. The foreword is written by Stan Nussbaum. Price \$13.60. [For details see here.](#) (Also available over Amazon. A promotional pdf is attached to this Bulletin. Please do send the pdf round to your networks.)

- for a second detailed review of this book by Tim Reeves AVM advisory board member read at the UK conference, go to: [Second review of 'Theory to Practice' by Tim Reeves.](#)



- I am very glad to be able to report that **TWR** sponsored both our UK and our American conferences. Barbara Shantz, who presented at the US conference, explained how TWR has a strong interest in working so as to reduce dependency and encourage reliance on local resources. "TWR is one of the first major international ministries" to go down this route [according to their web information here.](#)
- See an article [here.](#) entitled 'The End of Modern Mission? **A Plea for a Vulnerable Missiology**' by Jergen Skov Sørensen. Sørensen's work has a significant overlap with VM concerns.
- Langford, who has had missions experience in Uganda, emphasizes the importance of faithfulness over effectiveness in this article. Langford proposes that **vulnerability is a better foundation to mission than are strategies rooted in natural theology.** See his article, entitled 'The Art of the Weak' in *Missio Dei* here: [Missio Dei journal](#)
- Jim Harries is to give a **public lecture at the OCMS (Oxford Centre for Mission Studies)** on 10<sup>th</sup> April. See here for details: [Lectures at OCMS](#) The title of the lecture, based on an article he has recently had published in *transformation*, January 2012, is: "The Great Delusion: post-colonial language policy for mission and development in Africa reviewed".
- I am sad to have to report the **resignation of Stephen Skuce from the advisory board** of the AVM. Stephen has been very helpful to us in

coordinating the use of facilities at Cliff college for both the 2009 and 2012 UK conferences. Stephen has stepped down due to changes in his personal availability of time and priorities. We are grateful for his contributions to date and wish him well in his service of the Lord and in all his future endeavours.

- I recently informed you that Cathy Randle and Kathleen Weyers have volunteered to assist the **AVM in administration** until the end of May this year. Finding her workload too high in her regular job has resulted in Cathy's resigning at this point. Kathleen continues up to the end of May. Thanks to Cathy especially for her key role in coordinating a lot of the activity for the UK conference in March this year.
- See here for an article by Daniel Rickett. This article looks at the relationship between healthy and unhealthy dependency, and proposes ways of avoiding the latter: [See here for article.](#)