

# Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin July 2013

## Volume 5, Number 7.

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

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<i>Jim Harries</i>	<i>Alex Araujo</i>	<i>Stan Chu Ilo</i>	<i>Timothy Reeves</i>
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<i>Chris Flanders</i>	<i>Tomas Dozier</i>	<i>Jean Johnson</i>	

### VULNERABLE MISSION CONFERENCES 2013

Go to [vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org) for all the following information:

1. Flier on the US vulnerable mission workshop, Norwich, Sep. 24<sup>th</sup> 2013.
2. Program of US vulnerable mission workshop.
3. Copy of *brochure* for UK VM conference; 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
4. Copy of Flier for the UK VM conference.
5. Copy of provisional programme for the UK VM conference.
6. Information for speakers to the UK VM conference.
7. List of confirmed speakers for the conference.

Download your copy of the above *brochure* for details on how to register for the UK conference.

We have four excellent quality speakers for the US workshop.  
We have up to fourteen excellent quality speakers for the UK conference.

Solomon Aryeetey's article sub-titled '**A Word to the West from the Rest**' in the April 2013 EMQ (Evangelical Missions' Quarterly) states: "If we were to try to identify the one main thing that stands in our way when it comes to the missionary enterprise ... it would be this: the overwhelming attitude and complex of superiority with which the vast majority of the Western Church is afflicted, and its twin evil, namely, the complex of inferiority that is so deeply rooted in the Church found in the so-called 'Majority World.'" Stan Nussbaum, AVM board member has commented that; "This is one of the most VM-ish statements I have seen coming from a person from the Majority World." (EMQ, 49(2), 166-174. See here: <http://www.emisdirect.com/emq/issue-323/2777>)

Jim Harries' blog looks at critical aspects of the **transition between orality and literacy**: <http://www.wciujournal.org/blog/post/the-transition-between-orality-and-literacy>

**Jean Johnson was recently interviewed by *Mission Nexus*.** This organisation is widely respected for its role in bringing together evangelical missionary initiatives from around the USA. To hear what Jean had to say, go here: <http://wmausa.org/files/Jean%20Johnson%20Downloads/February%202013%20Jean%20Johnson.mp3>

John Tuggy's article entitled '**Mission, Partnership and Power: Perspectives from the Past, Features of the Future, and the Challenge of Covenant Communion**' is found here: <http://www.missionalmusings.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/John-Tuggy-Mission-Partnership-and-Power-v2.0.pdf> John makes a fascinating study on recent changes in global mission praxis. He has already won an award for this essay. John writes: "This requires mission societies and local churches alike to recognize and think differently about power. The narrative of Scripture offers us the covenantal model to help us recognize, confront, and transform the power inequalities inherent to missional partnerships, rather than attempting to ignore them before inevitably succumbing to them."

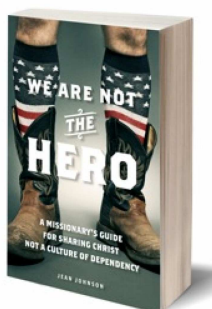
See here for a review of Jim's book *Theory to Practice in Vulnerable Mission*, in *LST Insight*, 2(2). See here: [http://issuu.com/lstheology/docs/insight\\_magazine\\_issue2\\_/38](http://issuu.com/lstheology/docs/insight_magazine_issue2_/38) "Harries answers this to some extent, recognising that communication of the gospel is a whole person matter conveyed in more than words. Often, this will involve sacrificial living based on the incarnation itself. It is the heart of the gospel pure and simple, rather than tainted with the political and economic accountments of weteren culture that Harries pleads for; calling fo a concentration on the salt of the gospel rather than the hegemonising cultural diet it often comes with" states the reviewer.

## European Missiological Conference, April 2014

### Mission and Money – Mission in the Context of Global Inequalities

Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, chairperson to the conference, has written to me (Jim) personally, hoping that someone from the AVM will attend this conference.

Details here: [http://missionstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/iams-matters-8-2013\\_apr-aug.pdf](http://missionstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/iams-matters-8-2013_apr-aug.pdf)



Do get your copy of Jean Johnson's book *We are Not the Hero*. This is packed full of practical advice on how to go about doing mission in a way that truly glorifies Christ, and not the 'West': [www.wearenotthehero.com](http://www.wearenotthehero.com) A commentator stated: "We are thinking missional in our own backyard, while making Western cultural Christianity the way to God around the world. If you plan to do any ministry, at any level, in other parts of the world, this book is for you."

To get your pdf copy of this flier for UK conference go here:

<http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ConfFlyer5-UK-VM-conf-Nov.-2013.pdf>

# Conference on Vulnerable Mission

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
Norwich Central Baptist Church

Servants of Christ  
powerful or vulnerable?  
Cross-cultural partnerships  
without creating dependency?  
Understanding very different cultures?

## Which language for what?

If these question make you think, come to the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission conference at Norwich Central Baptist Church from 14-16 November 2013. Listen to, debate with and be challenged by experienced missionaries on these relevant and important issues. For more details and application forms email Tim Reeves at [tveeves@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tveeves@yahoo.co.uk) or go to <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/>



This flyer for Jim's new book *Communication in Mission and Development* can be downloaded on line here: <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/communication-flier.pdf>

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# COMMUNICATION IN MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Relating to the Church in Africa

Jim Harries

*Communication in Mission and Development* identifies, unpacks, and articulates fundamental problems in communication in mission and development as it is being carried out in Africa and the majority world today. New technology, unique in the history of mankind, is throwing up vexing issues, to date barely recognized, in communication practice. This book reconsiders:

- Previous work by mission scholars on communication.
- Questions regarding materialism in Africa.
- Widespread understandings on the nature of human equality.
- The impact on communication of the holding of monistic vs. dualistic worldviews.
- African and Western approaches to hermeneutics.
- The use of European languages for communication in Africa.
- Issues related to globalization and development.
- And more . . .

Underlying differences in philosophical foundations amongst Western as against majority world people influences their respective communication to such an extent that the expectation that both sides simply understand one another because they happen to use the same international language is found to be unrealistic. *Communication in Mission and Development* concludes that the practice of mission and development will better cope with current realities when the use of local languages is once again given its proper decisive place.

ISBN 13: 978-1-62032-878-1 / \$19 / 162 pp. / paper

"Living with the local people and like the local people in a rural village in Kenya has given Jim insight that cannot be bought or taught. I am willing to sit up and listen to what Jim has to say about communication in mission and development. His book will make you dig deep, think hard, and then think again."

—Jean Johnson, Co-Director of World Mission Associates

"Few can fail to notice the massive disconnect between Africa and every attempt to 'help' it from the outside. Harries pins a lot of the blame for this disconnect in an unexpected place—superficial Western assumptions about communication, racism, and dualism. How long will Africa suffer because outsiders are not seeing what Harries is pointing out?"

—Stan Nussbaum, author of *American Cultural Baggage*

"*Communication in Mission and Development* is a significant addition to your must-read book pile. For anyone who cares about unhealthy dependency between the African church and the Western world, Jim Harries boldly advocates the need to rethink the cultural context and problems of communication. This book will challenge you to broaden your perspective of intercultural communication and the use of local language in ministry."

—Valerie J. Arguello, Principal Partner of Symbiotika Leadership

"Jim Harries has written a pioneering and authoritative book on communication, mission, and development that should be read both for its intellectual depth and its illuminating proposals for intercultural communication between Africa and the West. . . . Mission will no longer be the same with the publication of this significant work of scholarship born from twenty-five years of prayers, reflections, and respectful and reciprocal encounters with African peoples."

—Stan Chu Ilo, Director of Field Education, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto



COMMUNICATION  
IN MISSION AND  
DEVELOPMENT

Relating to the Church in Africa

Jim Harries

Jim Harries (PhD, University of Birmingham) has served in Africa since 1988. He is Professor of Religion with Global University and is the author of *From Theory to Practice in Vulnerable Mission* (2012). Jim chairs the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission ([vulnerablemission.org](http://vulnerablemission.org)).

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