

Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin June 2012,

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- We are very excited by the fact that Jonathan Winter is starting a **vulnerable mission group in the Philippines**. Jonathan has written the following:

"The Philippines is a country which has been on the receiving end of Western missions for over 100 years and is becoming a missions sending country in her own right. The Filipino church has grown and matured and now taking ownership and responsibility through national leadership and initiatives. Western mission engagement in the Philippines has done a lot of good, but also has created dependency as well. Why start a VM Group in the Philippines? The idea first came to me while attending the VM Conference last March at Cliff College. The question that came to my mind during the conference was, how and what would a missions engagement look like in the Filipino context which would embrace indigenous methodology and contextualisation of the gospel, church planting, being and doing church. These are real questions and challenges which face the Filipino church today. Most Filipino congregations are very influenced by western methodology and theological practice, this is also reflected on how many Filipino Churches engage in missions in the local and overseas context.

The purpose of starting a VM here is to help encourage dialogue and reflection among my Filipino colleagues regarding the issues and challenges that face the Filipino church." Contact [Jonathan](#).

- We welcome **Chloe Houghton** to the position of **temporary administrative assistant** to the AVM. Chloe will be assisting us in administration, as a part-time volunteer, through June, July and August 2012. Contact [Chloe](#). She describes herself as follows:

"I work as a Montessori teacher (3-5year olds) with a full time position starting in September. I enjoy meeting people from different cultures and have worked in Newcastle, London, India with children, youth, homeless and refugees. I have a degree in Youth and Community Studies (2005) with experience in policy writing,

event organising and general administration. I have been attending St Andrews North Oxford for 3 ½ years, there I have been involved with Sunday school and Alpha leading. I also enjoyed the modules with Moore course and Perspectives last year. In my spare time I like to read, paint and walk /cook with friends. I always loved God's word and His church as long as I remember but came to true faith in Christ 2003. God willing in the future I look to combine discipleship, teaching and supporting families / children in a cross-cultural urban context in creative ways in the UK and/or abroad."

- **Conferences** Please inform me of any conferences or gatherings that you are aware of that may be of interest or importance to people concerned for vulnerable mission, so that we can include information in this Bulletin. Information to jim@vulnerablemission.org
- Following the conference call on 14th May, a small group of us are making plans towards the holding of one or more **European conference(s)** on vulnerable mission in 2013. The conference(s) may be in the UK or Germany. Please write to [Frank Paul](#) if you would like to join the group doing this planning for Germany, contact [Chloe](#) for the UK.
- **"The gospel therefore cannot be expressed in a single propositional proposal** that is applicable to all nations, tribes and tongues, for then the glorious song of the redeemed in Heaven would be expressed mono-linguistically" says Paul Clough (member of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) in an intriguing article that looks at the necessity for the multi-linguistic and multi-cultural presentation of the Gospel [posted here](#).
- **"Westerners Involvement in Projects in Africa: hindrance, help or necessity"** is the title of an article by Jim Harries recently published by Redcliffe College in its *Encounters Mission Journal* 40 (April 2012): [Westerners Involvement in Projects in Africa - Hindrance Help or Necessity](#)
- **"Bridges for Eternity: the place of language learning in cross-cultural missions"** is the title for this [anonymous article](#) posted by Youth with a Mission . The article concludes that: "The most important language in the world is the one of the people to whom you are seeking to bring the Gospel. Are you willing to immerse yourself in that language, to surrender your subconscious sense of superiority you feel towards your own language, and make every earthly effort to be clothed in the target language and build the bridge so that the unreached can hear in their language the only Name by which they can be saved? What would Jesus do? Jesus would do this. Jesus did do it. For God's glory are you willing to do it too?"

- Bulk orders of 10 or more copies of *Theory to Practice in Vulnerable Mission* by Jim Harries are available at a **discount**. (See [here](#) for details of the book.) We can offer a price of as little as \$11 per book INCLUDING DELIVERY anywhere in the world.

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For details contact [Jim Harries](#).

- A report by Marcus Grohmann, AVM member, on a recent conference on **inter-cultural partnership** held in Germany in April 2012 can be [found here](#). "Many people [are] struggling to find solutions of how to deal wisely with Western wealth in today's globalised (Christian) world" reports Marcus. Both Marcus and Frank Paul attended this conference. Frank Paul was one of the presenters.

- See [here](#) for a review by Jim Harries of Prah, Kwesi Kwaa, (ed.) 2009. *The Role of Missionaries in the Development of African Languages*. Cape Town: CASAS. This contains fascinating accounts of missionaries' singular and mostly very positive historical and contemporary contributions to literacy in indigenous languages on the African continent. The review will be removed from the web after a few weeks for copyright reasons.