



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

www.vulnerablemission.org

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

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

Speakers: Viv Grigg, Jean Johnson, Jim Harries, Stan Nussbaum.

There are still some free spaces for this conference. Even if you cannot make it, then please join us in prayer for an effective impact. The conference is to be held at the US Center for World Missions in Pasadena, Los Angeles.

<http://www.wciu.edu/index.php/News/vulnerability-in-ministry>

14th to 16th November are the dates for the UK conference on vulnerable mission. This promises to be a very lively and stimulating event. We already have 12 plus high quality speakers committed to attending this event.

Details of both the above events are available at: vulnerablemission.org

I have sent out this Bulletin a few days early so as to reach people before the US conference to act as a reminder encouraging people to come along!

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 and associated events over the next 3 months look here: <http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/2013-trip-schedule-1.pdf>

Between now and the end of October Jim is to visit in the USA:

Pasadena, California;
Trinity School of Ministry, Pittsburgh;
The Global Institute for Applied Linguistics (GIAL), Dallas;
SIM Headquarters, Charlotte;
TWR conference, North Carolina;
Bible Translation conference, Dallas;
Anderson University, Indiana;
Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven;
Eastern University, Philadelphia.

Please join Jim where you can.

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

- I was privileged a few days ago to spend a week at the **Worldview Center in Portland, Oregon, USA**. Originally founded by Don K. Smith a few decades ago, this center specialises in providing intercultural communication training for prospective and in-service missionaries. I was fascinated and challenged by the parallels that I found there between the Worldview Center curriculum and many of the issues that we are raising in the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission). See <http://www.iiceworldview.org/> for more about the centre, and http://www.amazon.com/Make-Haste-SLOWLY-intercultural-ebook/dp/B00F6YWFUI/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&sr=1-1&qid=1379845895 for one of Don Smith's books.
- Christianity Today gives us a journalist's report on the activities of **missionaries who go to live in urban slums**. The journalist is impressed by the activities of new friars and other missionary's sacrifices for the sake of the poor. The article is entitled: *Chaos and Grace in the Slums of the Earth*. For more details see here: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/september/chaos-and-grace-in-slums-of-earth.html>
- For an article entitled "Don't give that child a dollar", referring to street children in Cambodia, see: http://rendezvous.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/10/dont-give-that-child-a-dollar/?_r=1 The author discusses the pros and cons of giving **handouts to street children**.
- '**Encounters with the Indigenous**' is the theme for the Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue of Fuller Theological Seminary, Spring 2013. Numerous articles

here are of interest to AVMerS. I have given details on a few below. See here for yet more articles:

http://cms.fuller.edu/EIFD/issues/Spring_2013/Spring_2013.aspx

In this article entitled **Latin American Christianity: Encounters with the Indigenous**, Matthew Krabill (Fuller Theological Seminary) considers Andrew Walls' comment that "the continuity in African religion, pre-Christian and Christian, is due in large measure to the usability of African worldviews and the application of the material of the Christian tradition to already existing maps of the universe." Matthew confirms that this applies to numerous contexts around the world.
http://cms.fuller.edu/EIFD/issues/Spring_2013/Introduction.aspx

This article:

http://cms.fuller.edu/EIFD/issues/Spring_2013/Being_a_Guest.aspx by Willie Horst, one time colleague of Frank Paul (AVM advisory board member) is entitled: 'Being a Guest'. "In fact, we began to see that believers in Jesus who are part of an ethnic people radically different from the Jewish people-hood ought to be encouraged to **understand and express the gospel in metaphors from their own culture**" says Willie.

Is this an example of vulnerable mission in practice? See here for an account written by Phyllis and Galen Groff, who have walked the Christian walk with the K'ekchi people in Guatemala for 20 years:
http://cms.fuller.edu/EIFD/issues/Spring_2013/Walking_with_the_Kekchi_in_Guatemala.aspx

See a review of Frank Paul's book (also now in English) here:

http://cms.fuller.edu/EIFD/issues/Spring_2013/Book_Review.aspx



- See here for the 'Pact of the Catacombs', drawn up by Catholic priests in 1962, which wonderfully "spells out in some concrete detail how the bishops intended to live ... as bishops" in relation to ordinary people and to the poor:
<http://concernedcatholicsmt.org/the-pact-of-the-catacombs/>
- Earlier this month I was privileged to visit Tomas Dozier, advisory board member of the AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission), in his home country of Costa Rica. It was my first time in Latin America. I was very impressed and much challenged by Tomas' approach to **promoting development without dependency** on other wealthier countries. For more details see this website. (It seems that the website needs updating. The website at times seems to contradict the efforts at avoiding the setting up of dependency currently being made by glocalade.) <http://english.glocalade.org/home>
- Some thoughts here on: '**is the missionary dead**', or are Western missionaries still needed? <http://missionsuntold.com/the-western-missionary-dead-or-alive/>
- Vulnerable Mission enthusiast Barbara Shantz of TWR is looking for more enrolments for the conference she is organising to be held in North Carolina, 8th to 10th October. Details: <http://www.twr.org/symposium2013>