

## Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

Location: **Blantyre, MALAWI**

Mission: **Theological education**



The Glissmanns are living in Malawi. Jinhyeog is involved in a local Primary School as a music teacher. Volker works off-campus as a programme developer for TEEC, the Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg, South Africa, and does grassroots theological training in Malawi.

### Looking back – looking forward

The end-of-year break is always a good place to reflect on the last year and plan for the year ahead. One of the highlights of 2022 was that we finished writing the third course in our grassroots series that covers the biblical story. We graduated our first Knowing the Spirit (Acts to Jude) group in Zomba in May. Currently, I am running three groups of the same course in a church in Blantyre. The course is discussion based, and rerunning the course, helps to identify gaps of understanding in the course and other questions that Malawian grassroots Christians identify as gaps in their understanding. The students repeatedly ask questions on "the Afterlife", "discipleship and spiritual growth", and the book of Revelation. We shall see what is possible this year. What always amazes me is that the better understanding gained from the Malawian grassroots directly feeds into the "main" job of revising the Bachelor with TEEC in South Africa. On paper, it looks very disconnected, but in God's plan, it is a continuation.



**GLOBAL DISCIPLES**  
*Go Deep Go Wide*

**FEBRUARY 2023**

Interestingly, issues arising in grassroots training in Malawi directly relate to and feed into my work with the Bachelor revision.

Challenges remain, and a Cholera outbreak hit Malawi. The opening of schools in Blantyre was delayed. We got the first Cholera vaccine in January, but then the vaccine ran out. South Africa is hit by a significant shortage of electricity which sometimes makes communication with the office in Johannesburg challenging. The Malawi Kwacha was devalued by 25% overnight last year, and prices steeply rose. It affects the cost of living as many imported goods have become quite expensive, and not everything needed is produced locally. For example, a ream of 500 pages of A4 paper now is double what it was at the beginning of last year. The printing cost for our self-study workbooks tripled in price to beyond affordable (we had to go back to low-quality photocopying). The Ukraine war increased the prices of flour (and bread) and cooking oil. Last November a petrol and diesel shortage meant that we spent significant hours queuing for petrol. But the rains look very good this year, and as a country dependent on rain-fed agriculture, this is very hopeful.

### Prayer Points

- Praise God for continuing grassroots training here in Malawi and for new course ideas that can help strengthen the local church.
- Please pray for Malawi and South Africa, as the last few months have brought many challenges. Please continue to pray for good and gentle rains so that Malawi is food secure this year.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.