

Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

Location: **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Mission: **Theological education**

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recall that years ago, in interaction and discussions with key people in ICETE, the argument was that non-formal theological education was not classified as theological education, but rather “only” as Christian education. This is different now. This will help to develop best practices. I am very happy about these developments.

The Glissmanns are living in Malawi in southern Africa. Jinhyeog is involved in a local primary school as a music teacher. Volker works off-campus as a programme developer for the Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Covid-19 in Malawi – update

We only had 35 Covid-19 cases in the last 14 days in the whole of Malawi. But in the previous two years, cases rapidly exploded from mid-December onwards when many Malawians returned home from their workplaces in other southern African countries. A doctor friend indicated that we might see the fourth wave in the December / January.

Online conferences

One of the changes that Covid-19 brought was that theological conferences are conducted via video conference software. This means that at the moment, without travelling, attending international meetings is possible. Over the last two weeks, Volker participated in two conferences, that surprisingly and independently of each other, had a similar theme, but looked at it from a different angle.

One meeting was from a Dutch mission and the other from the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE). Both conferences looked at the relationship between formal and non-formal theological education. The ICETE conference was attended by over 400 theological educators from all parts of the world. The theme of the conference marks a massive shift in thinking. Volker was positively surprised that it is now fully and widely accepted that theological education includes non-formal, church-based, grassroots theological education. I

Prayer points

- Pray for the Covid-19 situation, especially now that the new Omicron variant has been found in a number of southern African countries.
- Pray for wisdom for the leaders and strength for the health professionals.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity for Volker to be part of these international conferences and the shift in global thinking about what theological education is.
- Please continue to pray for health and safety for the whole family.