

Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

MARCH 2021

Location: **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Mission: **Theological education**



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

Throughout December and January, Covid cases skyrocketed here in Malawi (compared to what we had before). Now it seems that the recent lockdown has slowed and lowered the cases significantly. I just spoke to a friend who is a doctor, and he said that a week ago, the Covid ward was full, while today, only 25% of the beds are occupied. Schools just opened for contact teaching in the last week of February.

Grassroots Training during a lockdown

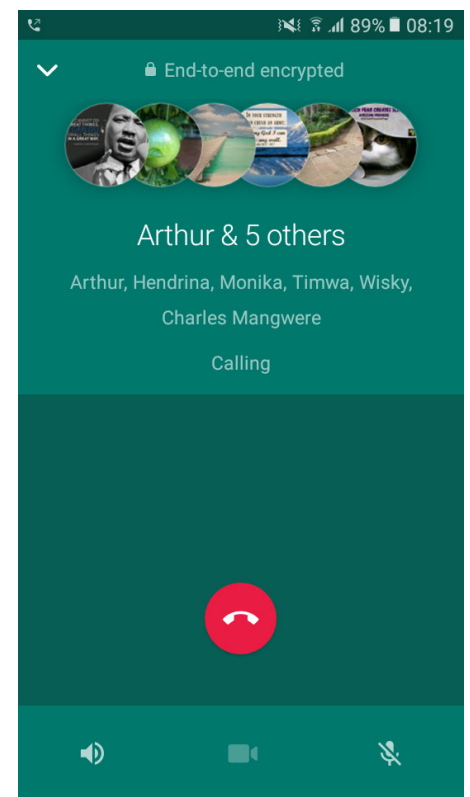
In December, when the Covid numbers were low, I had announced that I would run a grassroots training course called 'Knowing Jesus' in Zomba. Usually, I would drive to Zomba on a Thursday afternoon and then return when it is dark.

After the first meeting, the government lockdown and curfew meant that we were not able to continue. We didn't want to stop, so we decided that the best way forward would be to meet online. But we had to find a technology that would work for all of us. Zoom and video calls would not be a viable option for a group call. In the end, we settled for WhatsApp Group calls as everyone had WhatsApp.

We have now done that for four weeks, and it works. It would be nice to see faces, but at least we can continue to meet. It works okay. Sometimes the network drops, and

we temporarily lose one or two, but they always re-join. Only last week it didn't work – we had heavy rain both here in Blantyre and Zomba. Interestingly, the network was stable, but the rain hitting the tin roofs made it impossible to hear!

Overall, it is just amazing that technology today allows for the continuation of such work, even in Malawi.



Prayer points

- Pray for the Covid situation, for wisdom for the leaders and strength for the health professionals.
- Praise the Lord that we could continue through technology to meet and offer the 'Knowing Jesus' training course online.
- Pray for health and safety for the whole Glissmann family, including their eldest daughter who is at university in England.