

Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

JULY / AUGUST 2022

Location: **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Mission: **Theological education**



We are looking forward to spending most of July and August in N Ireland. Volker will be staying on into September and is available to take bookings to speak at church groups (Sunday morning services are already fully booked). To make a booking, contact Beverley in the Mission Department by emailing: mission@presbyterianireland.org.

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 grass-roots theological training in Malawi.

Graduation of Knowing the Jesus and technology

At the beginning of June, we graduated 38 learners from the 'Knowing Jesus' course from the three groups Volker is running in one church here in Blantyre.

'Knowing Jesus' is the second course in the trilogy. Two of the graduates from the first course insisted that they wanted to continue studying even though they had moved abroad. One went to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to start working, and the other moved to Cyprus to study. We discussed and decided to try. In the end, we offered this course partially virtual this time. The students had the option of joining through a video conferencing app. Due to bandwidth issues in Malawi and Tanzania, we only used the video sound option, not the video picture option (which would have created other technical problems). We only needed a multi-directional microphone and smartphone and were able to include learners from two continents in our small group here in Blantyre!

It is incredible what is possible with reasonably inexpensive technology. If these two had not insisted that they wanted to continue, we might not have thought about the option. Ultimately, we used the video conference option in all three groups as sometimes, some members were outside of Blantyre for work, but could still join us. The virtual option was well-received as many could join us when they could not attend the physical group meeting.

Prayer points

- Praise God for the graduation of the 38 students from the 'Knowing Jesus' course. Pray for the graduates that they continue to seek God. Praise God for new exciting technologies that help deliver training.
- Pray for the course writers of 'Knowing the Spirit' as we now finalise the course in light of the pilot to improve the course flow, following our evaluation.
- Continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.
- Pray too for us as we spend the summer having a break and reconnecting with family and friends.