

## 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.

### Cyclone Freddy

Mid-March, cyclone Freddy reached Malawi. Interestingly, the cyclone formed off the coast of Australia in February and travelled all the way to hit Africa. It is the longest-observed cyclone ever. Malawi was the worst affected country, while the death toll in Mozambique and Mauritius was also high. Around 500 (so far) have been found dead, some are still missing, and some areas are still difficult to reach. The government said about 500,000 people are in camps because their homes were destroyed.

Cyclone Freddy brought vast amounts of rain, forming rivers where no rivers were, causing colossal damage and loss of life. The wet soil on the mountain sides (Malawi has mountains everywhere) often turned into ragging mudslides. The ground was saturated with water, and because of that, walls and whole houses just collapsed.



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All of this is responsible for the high death toll. Before the cyclone, Malawi already had a problem with a cholera outbreak which is now made worse as cholera thrives in unsanitary wet conditions.

We, as a family, were only mildly affected, as our current house is in a flat area. We had no significant issues with water or mud. One of our big trees in the garden fell because the ground was too wet, but even that tree fell nicely parallel to the house without damaging anything. As a non-Christian friend said to me, "you were protected!" We are currently without electricity for a week (besides some solar power, which does not work well in cyclones, too!). Hopefully, it will be restored.

### Prayer Points

- Please pray for Malawi, as the last few months have brought many challenges. Please continue praying for the flood victims and for the government to restore services. Please also pray for the emergency responders that they can be helped to deal with the trauma they witnessed.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.