

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.

Successful and less successful meetings while in Nairobi last month

At the beginning of October, I was in Nairobi, Kenya, for a week, attending a meeting scaling up non-formal theological training. In Nairobi last month, I also used the opportunity to talk to the copyright holders of TEE materials. The issue is that the copyright of the material is not just with one person/organisation but with three different entities (the course writer, a church and a publishing house). The authors offered me the right to republish the book, which is a tutor guide and would still be helpful to make available again. To cut a long story short, the publishing house was not willing, at this stage, to grant me the republishing rights as they still had nearly 500 copies of the original print run of 1000 copies in stock. The news came before I had my meetings with representatives from the church. This is unfortunate.

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Yet, at the same time, it reaffirms the discussions I had with my friend who runs a TEE programme in Northern Uganda, that we need to find better ways of sharing material rather than keeping it behind copyright rules. The same applies to the tutor guide, which we had hoped to republish. But the decline of permission only means that we will now sit down and produce an updated version of a tutor guide (and not just republishing a good one but one that would have benefited from the update). This discussion was fruitful in a unique way—more soon on what we are planning.

Unfortunate, news about the Malawi Kwacha

At the beginning of November, our currency, the Malawi Kwacha, was devalued by 44% compared to the US dollar. Malawi is an import economy that does not produce many essentials, so the devaluation means an immediate massive price increase. The devaluation was in the air as prices were rising dramatically. So far, the rains have also not materialised yet, and we are depending on a good maize harvest.

Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for his guidance and for broadly reaffirming the vision of sharing TEE learning material. Please pray for us as we set up a network to address some of these issues.
- Please pray for Malawi, as the last few months have brought many challenges. It is very hot, and the rains are needed and vital for a good maize harvest.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.