



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.

Course writing and course writing again

Last Sunday, I met a friend at church, and he asked me directly, "what course are you writing now?" I looked at him, slightly surprised. Does he think that I am always writing TEE grassroots courses? He didn't ask what I was doing? Or what (exciting) project I was working on? He just asked what course are you writing now? But it seems that he knows me too well. Perhaps he is correct. It always seems that I am writing TEE courses at the moment (and yes, I do many other things, too).

Yes, I am writing another TEE course. One of the benefits of us still being in Malawi (and never receiving the visa for South Africa) is that it usually takes a few runs of a new course for the course to settle. There are often important questions that were not addressed the first time but are needed later in the course to support an idea that is included in the later text. Some themes become apparent when we look back at the Bible.

For example, Genesis 1-11 is about all humanity, then Israel, but after Pentecost, it is again about all humanity. But even during the time of Israel, the Bible repeatedly mentions individuals who are not from Israel but who align themselves with Israel (like Rahab or Ruth and many others). Because we know the end of the story, we need to go back to highlighting non-Israelite stories in the earlier books. Otherwise, we don't see that God always intended to invite all humanity to Himself.

Over the years of running course after course and discussing with our learners from church, it became increasingly clear that the overarching story was unclear to many. The lack of the story arch makes the interpretation of the Bible difficult sometimes. Interestingly, only after years and years of thinking, writing, and running Bible courses from Genesis to Revelation did it become more apparent how the whole story can be told comprehensively and which themes belong to it. But the new course is also different, because the new course is developed by a team from Malawi and Uganda to increase the relevance of the new course in this specific cultural context.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks to God for bringing a team together for the project. Please pray for the course writing.
- Pray for us as we overcome technical challenges to make this project work.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.