

## Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

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**

At the end of March, the public vaccine campaign started here in Malawi. The availability of vaccine for the whole population of Malawi is uncertain as the COVAX programme has thus far only allocated 1.2 million doses for Malawi.

There were in total around 160 new Covid-19 cases in the whole country in the last two weeks.

### **TEEC Johannesburg**

At the moment, Volker is assisting the college with course revision for the distance learning programme. He and his colleagues in Johannesburg are working through the Christian Ethics workbooks at present.

### **Grassroots training**

Recently, one of the students, Madalitso, shared the following story with me.

He was at a church session when one of the elders commented that women are not contributing to church ministry and need a man to guide them. Just in the week before, in our Jesus course, we looked at Luke's emphasis on the participation of the marginalised. Among other passages, we looked at Luke 8:1-3, which tells of the support of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and many others. Luke 8:3, 'These women were helping to support

them out of their own means.' Madalitso challenged the elder and said that everyone is called and equipped to participate in the kingdom's work, including women. Then, he opened the Bible, pointed at Luke 8:1-3 and asked him how he understood the passage. The elder looked at the passage and agreed with Madalitso that indeed every one contributes to the ministry.

It was interesting for two things: that Luke's theme of those on the margin fully participating in the ministry of Jesus spoke to Madalitso from the course; and that he didn't argue but he let the Word of God do the conviction, which is what we also do in the course.

### **Prayer points**

- Pray for the Covid-19 situation, for wisdom for the leaders and strength for the health professionals.
- Praise the Lord that the vaccine has arrived here and that the distribution has started.
- Pray for the continuous growth of those enrolled in the grassroots courses.
- Continue to pray for health and safety for the whole family.