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Location: **Blantyre, MALAWI**

Mission: **Theological education**



AEA-CTEA Consultation and Dialogue with Non-Formal Curricula Providers and Theological Educators

At the beginning of October, I was in Nairobi, Kenya for a week, attending a meeting organised by the AEA (Association of Evangelicals in Africa) and ACTEA (Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa). The meeting brought together formal and non-formal theological institutions and organisations that provide non-formal theological curricula to train leaders.

This meeting is a response to the gap between the global need to train church leaders and the actual capacity of institutions. A new and exciting development is the coming together of the formal theological institutions (offering degree programmes) and the non-formal who offer non-accredited training. Non-formal training responds primarily to the needs of those who are called to the ministry but do not have the capacity or qualification to attend formal training. I attended on behalf of TEEC, which offers both formal and non-formal theological education in South Africa. But I was also interested, as I work on a biblical curriculum that a colleague and I want to use for training pastors who have no formal education.



A good part of the consultation was given to non-formal theological education providers to showcase their programmes and approaches. One striking feature was that most decentralised providers used workbooks, local tutoring and on-the-job training. These elements are also crucial in training through TEE. It was fascinating and was a good reminder of the methodological overlap between providers. We had some very fruitful discussions to see how we can collaborate and learn from others.

The afternoon of Wednesday and Thursday were spent in discussions with a friend who runs a TEE programme in Northern Uganda among South Sudanese refugees and Ugandans. We were discussing how to increase collaboration between ourselves as we both share the vision to do something and increase collaboration among TEE practitioners. We finalised a vision/mission statement and had long discussions about how we should move forward to promote TEE and also the sharing of learning materials.



Prayer Points:

- Praise the Lord for his guidance and God's preparation for the meetings in Nairobi. Please also pray for the meeting that the outcomes are pleasing to God.
- Please pray for Malawi, as the last few months have brought many challenges. It is very hot, and it seems that we get early rains this year, which will be vital for a good maize harvest.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.