



Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann Global mission workers, Southern Africa

At the end of one of the last of our weekly meetings for the new 'Knowing the Spirit' course in Zomba, a friend from the course asked me how I see God's leading in our lives? She reminded me that in 2018 we were ready to leave Malawi to move to South Africa, to take up a new role with Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg. But four years later, we were still in Malawi!

She had just finished the new 16-week Bible literacy course (Acts to Jude) with me. She asked if I agreed with her that God wanted us to be still in Malawi? She joined the first course, 'Knowing God' in 2017, and then she was part of the pilot to test 'Knowing Jesus' in 2018 (then she did the course again with her husband). In 2018 with our planned departure from Malawi, it looked as if the third course in the trilogy would never come out.

Over the last few months, it has become more apparent that we need some short courses on discipleship/spirituality, and also on what we believe as a church written for the grassroots here in Malawi that deals with the issues that affect the church here (but less so in the West). My friend was delighted that the third course came out and that more courses will be written to help the church here to address its issues (all courses are written in collaboration with local Christians).

All of this prompted some reflections again about God's leading. In 2018 when we weren't able to move to South Africa to take up a new role with Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg, we remained in Malawi and it was agreed that I could work remotely for them. I spend 80% of my time working

for the college in South Africa, where we are designing a new Bachelor in Theology programme. That work looks at the big picture of theological education. The other 20% of my time is spent on grassroots training here in Malawi. This work is about theology for the grassroots. But I am also a course writer for the All

Africa TEE Association, so that the courses will be used across Africa.

Initially, it felt strange that the South African visa was not approved as we felt God's leading, but his plan indeed

was more refined. It is very good for us to still be active in Malawi, developing courses for the grassroots, while for South Africa, thinking about the big picture. It is an exciting way God has led us to serve him in this unique fashion.

Yes, God wants us still to be in Malawi!

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. JinHyeog is involved in a local primary school as a music teacher.

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Please pray:

- Praise God for leading us over the last few years in this unique way.
- Pray for the continuation of developing grassroots training in Malawi.