

Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

Location: **Blantyre, MALAWI**

Mission: **Theological education**

Dec 24/Jan 25



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.

Knowing God, Knowing Jesus Translation

Last week, I discussed with the TEEM Director how best to translate the two biblical literacy courses, Knowing God and Knowing Jesus, into Chichewa. The conversation between us has been ongoing for some time, as better training's material is needed for the grassroots and some of the prison ministry TEEM is involved in. The translation should start with Knowing God (the Old Testament course) and Knowing Jesus (the Gospel course), as Knowing God went through a final revision recently and Knowing is in the process of revision (which is parallel) to me running the courses here in Blantyre.

What looks like a straightforward process is a bit more complicated. The courses use workbooks that contain questions, reflections, and backgrounds, as well as space for students to do their exercises, keep study notes, and underline key terms in biblical stories. The course is designed to have the biblical text on the same page as our course material. However, the courses have also been donated to TEE-net, which will shortly be available for free global use. The issue we are running into concerns the licencing right of the Chichewa Bible translation. The last time we spoke to the Bible Society, they wanted us to pay a royalty for every copy sold (even though we only sell the books for production cost as they are otherwise not affordable). A few years ago, we even changed the Bible version we had in the original courses to a good Bible translation that was in the public domain, or in other words, one without copyright. But there is currently no Chichewa translation without international copyright and licensing fees.

Now, we are in the process of looking at several options for what we can do. Ultimately, the question is not just about the Chichewa translation but a French translation that the All Africa TEE Association requested.

Prayer Points

- Pray for everyone involved in the discussions so that a good long-term solution can be made about the translation of the courses. Please pray also for the translation project.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.