

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.

The Story of God and His World (new course)

A few months ago, I (Volker) spoke to a SIM missionary who was working in theological training here in Blantyre, Malawi. She has trained pastors in the vernacular for over two decades. While talking, we were both struck by the church's need to understand better how the Bible connects into **one story**. And how this story helps to explain how the different elements of the various Bible books fit together. We both know that theological training with learners with limited schooling is a real challenge. This requires that the learning material is carefully tailored to the learners. First, we looked around to see if courses existed that we could use, but there were no courses suitable for our audience, so we decided to write our own. However, the new course will be written under TEEnet's open-access learning material policy, which means that afterwards, the course will be freely available for others to use via TEEnet.org.

Within three months, we were able to design and write the course despite both of us having other full-time commitments. At this moment, we are running the first pilots of the new course to see if the course fits together in the way we hope it does. We have one group of 12 at the church that Volker attends. Then, we have a group of 5 from a local ministry that works with youth. If they like the course, it will be used to train over 120 youth leaders in secondary schools. We are also setting up a complete online training course with them for some of their leaders who are not in Blantyre. If we can successfully do the training online, then comprehensive new opportunities for training are suddenly possible.

Next week, we will start another group with ten learners from another local church but one that usually worships in the vernacular. We will test if the course is pitched at the right level. Additionally, the course is already at the final translation stage into Chichewa.

The Story of God and His World

Understanding the Bible's Great Story

Nkhani ya Mulungu ndi Dziko Lake

Kumvetsetsa nkhani yankulu ya BaBulo



Prayer Points

- Give thanks to God for the amazing collaboration that helped to design and write the new course in record time.
- Pray for us as we pilot the new course with numerous groups to see if the course works.
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the whole family.