

Volker & JinHyeog GLISSMANN

MALAWI

Location: Zomba

Mission: Theological Education

Volker is the Executive Director of one of PCI's long-term partners in Malawi: TEEM (Theological Education by Extension in Malawi).

In mid-October, I was privileged to attend a conference for church-based theological education in Asia. The conference was well attended; we had over 150 attendees, mostly from Asia. The interesting thing was that a quarter of the attendees were Russian speaking. They represented numerous countries of the former Soviet Union. Overall, it was very good to see the vibrancy of the training programmes, the ideas generated to deliver better training and the sheer numbers of learners enrolled wanting to know more about their faith.

Over 100,000 learners are enrolled every year in the programmes represented at the conference. Personally, the one thing which stands out for me is the large number of participants from the former Soviet Union. I lived for three years in Russia (1997-2000) and we used to pray for all countries, regions and tribes of the former Soviet Union. At the conference I saw indigenous TEE programmes run by locals addressing the needs in their local context. It is amazing! In some of these countries, there is significant persecution of the church, and yet the gospel moves.

Last weekend we had a graduation of our own church-based training in one congregation in Blantyre. 51 certificates were given to members from that one congregation. Praise the Lord!



Photo: The Increase committee at the conference in Asia



Photo: Graduation ceremony in Blantyre

Prayer Points

- Give thanks that the vampire/blood sucker rumours in Malawi have completely calmed down. Praise the Lord!
- Pray for those in the former Soviet Union (as well as across Asia) who minister under difficult circumstances.
- Pray for the graduates of TEEM's church-based training in the congregation in Blantyre, that they make good use of their learning.