

Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

Location: **Blantyre, MALAWI**

Mission: **Theological education**



Blantyre, Malawi - The Place to Be

The Glissmanns are living in Malawi. Jinhyeog is involved in a local primary school as a music teacher, and Volker works off-campus as a programme developer for TEEC, the Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Revising an HIV/AIDS course during a pandemic

The first task that Volker was given at TEEC was to revise and update the HIV and AIDS course for the College.

The course was 15 years old and was written just before antiretroviral medicine that suppresses the HIV virus really started to change lives. Nowadays, with medication HIV positive individuals can live long and healthy lives. In South Africa, everyone HIV positive will receive treatment which saved so many lives.

Initially, the church had great difficulty in finding a non-judgemental response to HIV, but since then it has risen to the challenge of reaching out, informing and caring for those suffering. The church did examine its own attitudes, repented and grew by thinking deeply about what Christ's incarnation means in a fallen world for its outreach.

The other day I was attending a theological talk, and the speaker could only think about Covid as the judgement of God. It was unfortunate that this was the first image that he could think about: God judging. It reminded me how important it is to think deeply about how God works in this age and what the calling of the church is.

Covid 19 in Malawi – update

Scientists had predicted and warned that Covid-19 will be devastating for Africa.

Last month we had only around 5,897 Covid cases (as of writing the previous bulletin) with only around 183 deaths. Now, we have 6,000 confirmed cases, but only 185 deaths. In the last two weeks, there were 52 confirmed cases.

There is a general feeling that the statistic is generally reliable as there are not many unexplained deaths reported in the country. Most patients here are asymptomatic.

God has been good to Malawi.

Prayer points

- Praise the Lord for the low death rate and infection rate of Covid-19 in Malawi.
- Pray for Volker while he revises the HIV and AIDS course for the College, strengthening the theological reflection within the course.
- Remember the Glissmann family. Pray for JinHyeog as she teaches, the children as they study at school and for good health and safety for the family at all times.