

Volker & JinHyeog GLISSMANN

MALAWI

Location: Zomba

Mission: Theological Education & Music Ministry

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

Over the last months or so I shared about TEEM's new Old Testament Survey course. We are trying to cover the whole story of the Old Testament in one course, which should lead to another course on Jesus Christ.

We present our material as stories – or better as Biblical stories, in the context of the overall Biblical story. Stories usually work much better than summaries of abstract statements.

One of the things we found quite remarkable in the course was the prominence of stories from the Old Testament on forgiveness. In the stories that we looked at forgiveness is given by God, but punishment is still maintained by God (for example, in Nathan's speech after the Bathsheba incident, or God after the twelve spies return).

A story of that nature has come up in most units so far, and it really strikes a deep cord with our learners. Complete restorative forgiveness is very often assumed to be the Christian norm.

For example, one of our watchmen stole from us and then he got fired. He came and asked for forgiveness, which we gave him on a personal level, but we did not



restore his job. And he could not understand how we can forgive, but not restore him.

A story like that is very, very common here. And so it is interesting to see how a very relevant theme emerges for the local church out of the stories of the text – especially because it was not planned.



Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the new course, and also for what we are learning about how to write courses.
- Praise the Lord that God uses the stories to highlight relevant themes.