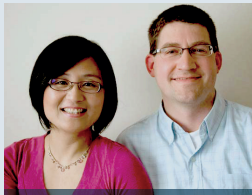
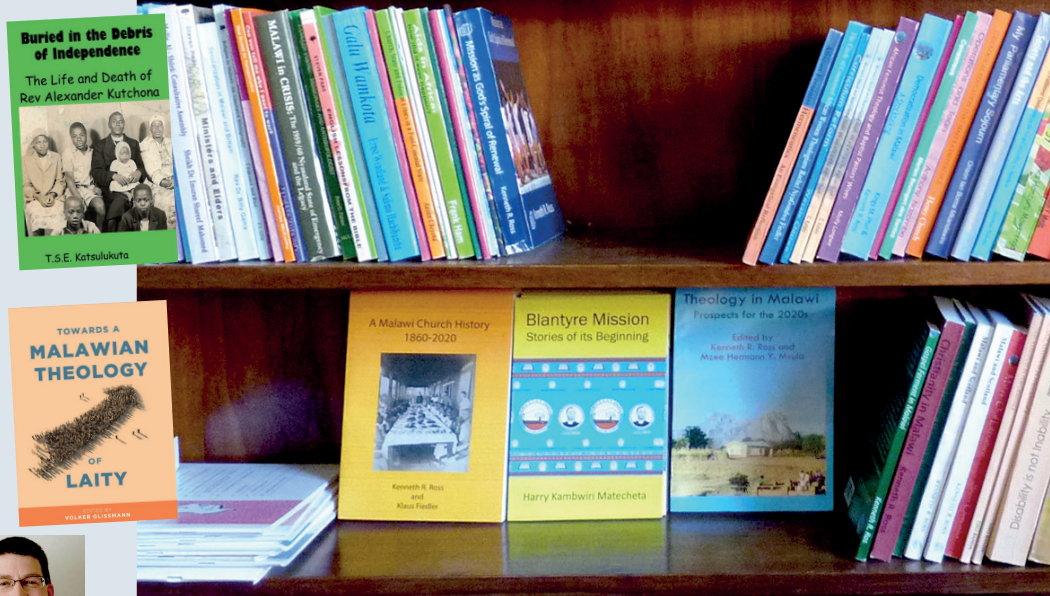


## Theological Books Blantyre



### *Volker and Jinheoyg Glissmann* Global mission workers in southern Africa

An old joke is told about a minister who is in a coma for a very long time. He is not responding to the pleas of his family. His wife begs and asks him to wake up for the sake of the wedding of their only child. But no response. She tearfully pleads with him to wake up to re-mortgage the house that they otherwise might lose. But no response. Finally, she whispers to him, I will give away all your theological books. The pastor immediately awakes from the coma, sits up in bed and says, "Let's not do that!"

The joke is built on the anecdotal close and intimate relationship that ministers have with their theological books. A generous paraphrase of Proverb 27:17 would say, as iron sharpens iron, so one writer sharpens another. Christian and theological books are essential in all forms of Christian ministry.

Last year, I attended the Malawi National Theology Conference which had a stall of theological books published in Malawi. I realised that I was unaware of the quality of some theological books written and published here in Malawi. Malawi is blessed with a truly unique publishing culture at the moment that allows for great insights based on the publication of theological, historical, missiological and anthropological research. These books are often open windows into details of Malawian life that are not easily accessible. These Malawian publications are a significant source for understanding the challenges that theological training needs to address.

A few weeks later, while sitting at my desk and rejoicing about an excellent theological book that provided great insights into ministry in Malawi, I heard God's challenge to me by asking me if I am going to do something practical. So, I decided that I could help with providing one central place to advertise these new books. But once

you advertise a book, people ask where they can buy the books, and because the books are only really available in two cities – Mzuzu and Zomba – this is how the idea of mailing books by post came about.

I started a small 'book shop' which is located on Facebook

and is called 'Theological Books Blantyre'. For those who prefer, a spare shelf in my office which is now my book showroom for those who love browsing books. It is a small thing that I can do besides the many other things that I do, but that is a practical help to get good reflection into the right hands. So far, I have been able to sell a few books and that is all that matters.

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#### Please pray:

- Pray that many church leaders and members throughout Malawi will make good use of the theological books available through Volker's shop.
- Pray for Volker's ongoing work as a programme developer for the Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC) in Johannesburg, South Africa.