

## CURRICULUM VITAE OF GODWIN IORNENGE AKPER



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### PROFILE

Professor Godwin Iornenge Akper, born on July 19, 1969, in Mbagen, Buruku Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria, currently serves as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Technology, Innovation, and Research). A distinguished academic, Professor Akper is married to Eunice Mbapasen Akper, and they have two children.

His educational background spans several esteemed institutions, including N.K.S.T. Primary School, St. Murumba's College, King's Comprehensive College, Reformed Theological College of Nigeria (now Reformed Theological Seminary), Westminster Theological Seminary, and the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. His academic qualifications include G.C.E. O' Level, Dip. Theol., M.A., M.Th., PGDE, and D.Th.

Professor Akper completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at Stellenbosch University (2004-2005) and is a member of numerous prestigious scholarly organizations, such as the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions (NASR); Theological Society of South Africa (TSSA); New Testament Society of Southern Africa (NTSSA); Readers Association of Nigeria, and the Global Network of Public Theologians (institutional). In addition to his academic roles, Professor Akper has held various administrative positions, including Dean of Students Affairs at the University of Mkar, Mkar; Visiting Scholar at VU University, Amsterdam, Netherlands; and at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN); Acting Dean of the then School of Arts & Social Sciences, Pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Director of the Directorate of Examination and Assessments, and Director of Academic Planning. Currently, he serves as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Technology, Innovation, and Research). In this capacity and others mentioned earlier, Professor Akper plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic and research landscape of his university.

## 1. Bio Data

**Name:** AKPER, Godwin Iornenge  
**Date of Birth:** 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1969  
**Place of Birth:** Mbagen, Mbaityough, Buruku LGA, Benue State, Nigeria  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Next of Kin/Spouse:** Eunice Mbapasen Akper  
**Number of Children:** 2  
**State of Origin:** Benue State  
**LGA:** Buruku Local Government Area  
**Nationality:** Nigerian

**Permanent home Address:** Plot number 17, Behind RTS  
Mkar, Gboko, Postal code: 981101, Benue State  
Nigeria

**Department:** Religious Studies  
**Faculty:** Faculty of Arts  
**Phone Number:** +234 (0) 703 509 8054; 912 186 9553;  
**Official e-mail address:** [gakper@noun.edu.ng](mailto:gakper@noun.edu.ng)  
**Website:** godwinakpereduspace.net;  
godwinakpereduspace.com

**Area of Specialization:** Systematic Theology

## 2. Institutions attended and Qualifications obtained with Dates:

- i. DTh (Systematic Theology), Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa
- ii. MTh (Church History and Church Polity), Stellenbosch University (2000-2004)
- iii. MA (Religion), Westminster in California USA. (1997-1999)
- iv. PGD (Distance Education), National Open University of Nigeria (2016-2018)
- v. Dip. Theology RTCN Mkar Benue State. (1991-1995)
- vi. General Certificate in Education (G.C.E.) Ordinary Level, King's Comprehensive College, Mkar Benue State. (1985-1989)
- vii. L.G.E.A Primary School, Agbonor-Mbagen, Benue State (1977-1982)

## 3. Professional Qualifications/ Short Trainings with Dates

- i. Management of Higher Education Course, Galilee International management Institute, Nahalal, Israel (2024).
- ii. Advanced Statistics in Data Processing and Management, Assets Africa, Nairobi, Kenya (2024)
- iii. Resource Mobilization and Management course, Asset Africa, Nairobi Kenya (2023)
- iv. Authentic Assessment for eLearning, Commonwealth of Learning (COL) (2022)
- v. Theory, Practice, and the Future of Academic Planning in University Education, VICBHE-NUC/NOUN (2022)
- vi. Effective Leadership Skills for Academic administration, Public/Client Relations NOUN (2021)

- vii. Assessment in Higher Education in Africa, Strathmore University, Nairobi/Association of African Universities (2019)
- viii. Integrated Examination Security Management and Delivery Premier Knowledge, South Africa (2018)
- ix. Quality Assurance in Open and Distance Learning. African Council for Distance Education/NOUN (ACDE) (2015)
- x. Facilitative Leadership Course, Stellenbosch University (2005)

#### 4. **Academic Appointment**

- i. Date of First Academic Appointment: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008
- ii. Date of Confirmation of Appointment: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010
- iii. Present Rank: Professor of Systematic Theology
- iv. Date of Last Promotion: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015
- v. Present Position: Deputy Vice Chancellor  
(Technology, Innovation and Research)

#### 5. **Scholarships/ Distinctions Fellowship and Prizes**

Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, Stellenbosch University South Africa (2004 - 2005)

#### 6. **Membership of Learned /Professional Bodies**

- i. Theological Society of South Africa: Since 2005
- ii. New Testament of South Africa: Since 2005
- iii. Global Network of Public Theologians (institutional): Since 2007
- iv. Readers Association of Nigeria: Since 2006
- v. Nigerian Academy of Letters: 2024
- vi. Nigerian Academy for the Study of Religions: 2024

#### 7. **Details of Teaching/work experience/University administration**

- i. **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Technology Innovation and Research** (September 5, 2023 to date)  
**Responsibilities:** Coordination of the deployment of technology infrastructure for teaching and learning; also, research activities in the University; and provision of regular advice to the Vice-Chancellor on technical and management matters for smooth academic and general research administration of the University. Any other duty that may be assigned by the Vice-Chancellor, Senate, or Council of the University from time to time.
- ii. **Director, Academic Planning**, National Open University of Nigeria (September 2021 to Dec. 2023).  
**Responsibilities:** Planning of academic activities for the University, ensuring standards are met in the delivery of university education through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) to all desiring persons, both in Nigeria, and outside Nigeria. The Directorate serves as a link between the University and regulatory bodies like the National Universities Commission (NUC), and National Council on Education. Drafting of Academic Briefs and Strategic Planning for the University. Advising the University Senate on the formulation and contents of academic policies. Programme Planning and management of accreditation processes; advising Management on resource needs/allocation and control, etc.
- iii. **Director, Examination and Assessments**, National Open University of Nigeria (2017 to 2021).

**Responsibilities:** planning, managing and administration of examination and assessments nationwide. During this period, quality of the examination and assessments processes was greatly enhanced. Examination results were released within fourteen days after the last paper examined for the semester. Artificial Intelligence proctored virtual examinations were conducted during the COVID-19 lockdown—the only such examination conducted in Africa at that time, going by reports submitted during AAU meeting on quality assurance in 2020. Over 80, 000 students graduated in three convocations (8, 9 & 10) during this period (i.e., more than three times the number that graduated during 2<sup>nd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> convocations).

- iv. **Pioneer Dean, Faculty of Arts**, National Open University of Nigeria (2016 to 2017).  
**Responsibilities:** Setting up the faculty that at the foundation stage comprised three departments. During this period, five faculty members were promoted to the rank of Professor, five senior lecturers were promoted to the rank of Reader. Both academic and non-teaching staff worked under a conducive and friendly working environment.
- v. **Director, Makurdi Study Centre**, National Open University of Nigeria (2013-2016).  
**Responsibilities:** ensured the smooth running of the study centre, academic programmes were delivered to the students of the centre seamlessly. The student population grew from 1300 in 2014 to 3,600 in 2016 when he left the centre to become the pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Arts.
- vi. **Acting Dean, then School of Arts and Social Sciences**, National Open University of Nigeria (2011 to 2013).  
**Responsibilities:** ensured the smooth running of activities in the school; prepared programmes for NUC's first Accreditation Exercise in NOUN. All the six programmes presented received accreditation.
- vii. **Acting Dean, Student Affairs**, University of Mkar, Mkar, Benue State (2005-2008).  
**Responsibilities:** established and managed the Student Affairs' Division of the University. The Division was fully established in January of 2006. Students received prompt responses to their enquiries.
- viii. **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Bayers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch University South Africa (2004 to 2005).  
**Responsibilities:** conducted research in Public Theology and served as Research Associate to the Centre. During this period, he assisted the Director, in building up collections for the Centre, also to open up research collaboration in Public Theology with regional and international bodies/scholars.
- ix. **Visiting Scholar**, Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. **Professor Martien Brinkman as host** (2011)  
**Responsibility:** The Main responsibility here was to conduct research as part of research project funded by the European Union on *Religion and the Nation-State in Search for the common good in pluralistic societies – Netherlands, Nigeria, and South Africa*. The Research was concluded and published in 2012.

## 8. Research

### a. Projects/ Grants

- i. Assessment of Stakeholders Readiness to deploy TPACK 21<sup>st</sup> century Skills for deployment of Authentic Assessments (2023). African Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning/National Universities Commission & World Bank. Amount N9, 800, 000. 00 only.
- ii. NOUN Stakeholders' Readiness for deployment of Authentic Assessment. Senate Research Grant (2023). Research Grant Amount: N2, 500,000.00 only.
- iii. Religion and Public Morality in the Nigerian Context. Senate Research Project (2022) Research Grant Amount: N2, 500,000.00 only

### b. Post Graduate Students Supervised

#### 1. Completed

- i. Oyekanmi Samuel Oluseyi (2019) “*Prophetic Ministry in the Fulfilment of the Public Role of the Church in Nigeria: A Critical Appraisal of Aladura Churches*”. PGD in Christian Theology. Department of Religious Studies, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja. (completed)
- ii. Lawal Babachir (completed), “The Challenges of Evangelizing the Upper-class in Nigerian Cities: A Case Study of Abuja”. MA. Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, National Open. University of Nigeria, Abuja. (completed)

#### 2. In progress

- i. Audu, Philip Sesugh (ongoing), “Tien as Saviour in Tiv Christological Thought”. Doctoral student. Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja.
- ii. Opara, Pedro Chinedu (ongoing), “The Body and Notion of the Human Person: A Critique of John Paul II’s Theology”, Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, National Open University of Nigeria.
- iii. Dike, Amos Francis (ongoing) “Absolutism & Relativism in Religious Discourse”
- iv. Gabriel Emanuel (ongoing course work)
- v. Inanoremhe, Paul Eshiozokhe (ongoing), “The Church as Mystical Communion: implications for Christian Ecumenism in the light of *Unitatis Redintegratio*”.

## 9. Publications

### a. Chapters in Books

- i. **Akper, G.I.** (2006), “Oom Bey for the Future: Beyond Resistance and Hope” in *The Legacy of Beyers Naude: Beyers Naude Series on Public Theology*, Stellenbosch, Sun Press, pp. 69 -79.

- ii. **Akper, G.I.** (2007), "Christianity or African Christianity? On Christian Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa", in: *Christian Identity* edited by Eddy Van der Borgh Leiden: Brill, pp. 405-420.
- iii. **Akper, G.I.** (2008), "Engaging the Three Publics for Development: A Nigerian Reformed Perspective", in: *Education for Development and Nation-building: Perspectives from Theology, Development and Education* edited by G.I. Akper & J.I. Antyo, Makurdi-Nigeria: Maxson Press, 2008, pp. 1-11. A Collection of referred essays read during collaborative research project between Stellenbosch University, University of Mkar and VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2006-2007
- iv. **Akper, G.I.** (2011), "Dialogue and an advocate of Dialogue, Dirkie Smit on Dialogue", in: Len Hansen, Robert Vosloo and Nico Koopman (eds.) *Living Theology, Essays Submitted to Dirk J. Smit on his Presented Birthday* Wellington South Africa: Bible Media, pp.159-169.
- v. **Akper, G.I.** (2012), "A Stranger in my own Country: Alienation and Public Theology in South Africa", in: Joel Carpenter (ed.) *Walking Together: Christian Thinking and Public Life in South Africa*. Abilene, Texas, USA: Abilene Christian University Press, pp. 89-101.
- vi. **Akper, G.I.** (2014), "Academic Theology and the Church: A West African Perspective", in: Isabel A. Phiri & Dietrich Werner, *Handbook of Theological Education in Africa*. Pietermaritzburg South Africa: Cluster Publications, pp. 869-874.
- vii. **Akper, G.I.** (2015) "Of what is a citizen in Nigeria & South Africa, today? Citizenship in the Nigerian and South African Contexts", In: *The Relevance of Critical Citizenship Education in the African Context* Stellenbosch University Media., pp.53 – 57.

b. **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

- i. **Akper G.I.** (2005), "The Role of the Ordinary Reader in Gerald O. West's Hermeneutics", *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa* 88:1, pp. 1-13.
- ii. **Akper, G.I.** & Koopman, N.N. (2005), "Where Do We Go from Here: The Role and Status of the 'Past' in Contemporary African Theological Scholarship", *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* 46 (1&2), pp. 7-21.
- iii. **Akper, G.I.** & Koopman, N.N. (2005), "The Bible and African Experience: Contending Authorities in Black and African Theologies?", *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* 46(1&2), pp. 22-38.
- iv. **Akper, G.I.** & Smit, D.J. (2005), "Jesus' Cross and Human Suffering in African Christologies", *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* 46(1&2), pp. 39-54
- v. **Akper, G.I.** (2005), "A Decade of Democracy in South Africa and the Vocation (Task) of the Nigerian and South African Theologian at the Beginning of a New Millennium", *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa* 89:2, pp. 420-481.

- vi. **Akper, G.I.** (2005), "Towards a Hermeneutic for African Theologies: A Reformed Perspective", *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif (Dutch Reformed Theological Journal)* 46/ 3&4, pp. 293-313.
- vii. **Akper, G.I.** (2006), "From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Locating the Ongoing African Agency Discourse in the Debate", *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in southern Africa*, 91:1, pp. 1-11.
- viii. **Akper, G.I.** (2007), "The Person of Jesus Christ in Contemporary African Christological Discourse", *Journal of Religion and Theology*, 14, pp. 224-243.
- ix. **Akper, G.I.** (2007), "Prosperity Gospel: A Case Study of Benue State in North-Central Nigeria", *Journal of Reformed Theology* 1, pp. 41-49.
- x. **Akper, G.I.** (2007), "Charles Nyamiti's Christology in its African Context" *Theologia Viatorum Journal of Theology and Religion in Africa* vol. 31/1, pp. 23-42.
- xi. **Akper G.I & Gire, T.T.** (2007), "Gender as a Challenge to Educational Development in Nigeria: Ubuntu as an Ethic for taking up the Challenge", *Journal of National Association for Women Academics NAWACS*, pp.316-324.
- xii. **Akper, G.I.** (2009), "We the poor must abandon our wheelchairs and begin to walk unaided: On African Agency Discourse", *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa* 100, pp.108-120.
- xiii. **Aker, G.I.** (2009), "Belhar Beyond Southern Africa: A Nigerian Reformed Perspective" *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 135, pp. 1-21.
- xiv. **Akper, G.I.** (2011), "Different but One? A Regional Application of an Ecumenical Debate" *Journal of Reformed Theology* 5, pp.45-62. VU University, Amsterdam.
- xv. **Akper, G.I.** (2012), "Participating in God's Mission of Reconciliation: Nigerian Churches' Response to Ethnic Conflicts", *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif Supplementum 2 Volume 53*, pp. 89-102.
- xvi. **Akper, G.I., Antyo Joseph, Brinkman, M.E., Van der Borgh, E.A.J & Nierder-Heitman** (2012), "Introduction: Religions and the Search for the Common Good in Pluralistic Societies", *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif Supplementum 2, Volume 53*, pp. 5-15.
- xvii. **Akper, G.I.** (2013) "Christianity Viewed as Poisonous Onion, Icon and Witchcraft: The Reception of Christianity in Oral and Residual-oral Sub-Saharan Africa", *African Journal of Cultural, Religious, Educational and Environmental Sustainability {hereafter AJCREES}* 1(2), Pp. 20-29.
- xviii. **Akper, G.I.** (2013), "The Ideological Use of Religious Laws, Human Dignity and Ubuntu", *AJCREES* 1(2). Pp. 83-88.

- xix. **Akper, G.I.** (2013), “Dialogue and an advocate of Dialogue – Dirkie Smit on Dialogue”, *Ned Geref. Teologiese Tydskrift* 54, (November) 3 & 4, 1-8, Also available as open Educational Resources on <http://ngtt.journals.ac.za>.
- xx. Akper, G.I. (2014), “A Mirage Called African Hospitality”, *African Journal of Local Societies Initiative (LOSI)* Vol. 3(1) pp. 173-178.
- xxi. **Akper, G.I.** (2014) “The Impact of the Heidelberg Catechism on Ecclesiastical and Social Life of Christians in Contemporary Nigeria” *Mkar Journal of Inter-disciplinary Studies* Vol. 5 (1) (2014), pp.1-13.
- xxii. **Akper, G.I.** (2014) “Dialogue as Conversation? An Analysis of Four Views on Dialogue”, *African Journal of Cultural, Religious, Educational and Environmental Sustainability* Vol. 2 (2) (December 2014).
- xxiii. **Akper, G.I.** (2015), “An Ethos of Hospitality: Can it serve as a Veritable Public Morality in the Face of Disorderly Process in Nigeria Today?” *Stellenbosch Journal of Theology* Vol. 1 No. 2; pp. 283-298,
- xxiv. **Akper, G.I.** (2018) “Is God in Nigeria? Of Land Dislocation and the Challenge of Confessing Belhar in Nigeria Today”, *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* Vol. 4 n.I. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.17570/skj.2018.v4n1.a03>)
- xxv. **Akper, G.I.** (2018), “Globalisation in the Service of Resistant Discourses: Towards ‘Reading’ with Volker Küster. *Scriptura* 117 (1). pp. 1-13.

10. **Conferences and Workshops attended**

11. **Online Visibility: Google Scholar**

Citations: 73

12. **Referees**

**Professor Iyabode Nwabueze**

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**Professor Olufemi A. Peters**  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Godwin I. Akper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Godwin I. Akper**