

# CURRICULUM VITAE OF DR. GODWIN. I. AKPER



## A: PERSONAL DETAILS

1. NAME: Godwin Iornenge Akper
2. SEX: Male
3. DATE OF BIRTH: 19<sup>th</sup> July 1969
4. PLACE OF BIRTH: Mbagen, Buruku Local Govt. Area
5. MARITAL STATUS: Married
6. NAME OF WIFE AND NEXT OF KIN: Eunice Mbapasen Akper
7. NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2
8. STATE OF ORIGIN: Benue State
9. LGA: Buruku
10. NATIONALITY: Nigerian
11. DATE OF LAST PROMOTION: Not applicable (N/A)
12. PRESENT STATUS: Programme Leader II
13. E-MAIL ADDRESS: [gakper2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gakper2000@yahoo.co.uk)
14. CELL PHONE: +234 (0)703 509 8054
15. PERMENENT HE ADDRESS: #4 Antiev Close (by Seminary fence)  
off Yandev-Mkar Road, Ahwa  
Gboko, Benue State, Nigeria
16. POSTAL ADDRESS: School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
National Open University of Nigeria,  
14-16 Ahmadu Bello Way, P.M.B.

80067, Victoria Island

Lagos. Nigeria.

**B. INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED WITH DATES**

1. N.K.S.T. Primary School, Agbonor-Mbagen	1976 – 1982
2. St. Murumba's College, Jos	1984 - 1985
3. King's Comprehensive College, Mkar	1985 – 1989
4. Reformed Theological College of Nigeria, Mkar (Now Reformed Theological Seminary)	1991 – 1995
5. Westminster Theological Seminary	1997-1999
6. University of Stellenbosch, South Africa	2000 – 2004

**C. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS WITH DATES**

1. G. C. E. O' Level	1989
2. Dip. Theol.	1995
3. M. A	1999
4. M. Th	2002
5. D.Th	2004

**D. SCHOLARSHIP AND DISTINCTIONS**

Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, Stellenbosch	2004-2005
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**E. MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED BODIES**

1. Member: Theological Society of South Africa, since	2004 -
2. Member: New Testament Society of South Africa	2004 -
3. Member: Society of Christian Ethics, USA, since	2004 -
4. Member: International Reformed Theological Institute, The Netherlands	2005 -
5. Member: Readers Association of Nigeria (RAN)	2006 -
6. Member: Global Network of Public Theologians	2007 -

**F. RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. Treasurer: NKST Mission Services, Mkar	1995 - 1997
2. Lecturer: Systematic Theology and Apologetics, Reformed Theological Seminary, Mkar Benue State	1999 - 2005
3. Research Assistant, Bayer's Naudé Center for Public Theology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa	2004
4. Post-doctoral Research Fellow: U. of Stellenbosch, South Africa	2004 - 2005
5. Founding Director, Institute for Public Theology and Development Studies, Mkar	2005-2008
7. Lecturer I: University of Mkar, Mkar-Benue State	2005 -
8. External Examiner-University of Stellenbosch, South Africa	2005 -

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 9.  | Dean, Students Affairs-University of Mkar, Mkar  | 2006 -      |
| 10. | External Examiner, Dept. of Systematic Theology & Ecclesiology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa                   | 2006 & 2007 |
| 11. | External Examiner in Religion and Society, Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands                                   | 2007        |
| 12. | Senior Lecturer/Program Leader II School of Arts and Social Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria, Lagos, Nigeria. | 2008-       |
| 13. | Visiting Scholar, VU University, Amsterdam, Netherlands  | 2010        |
| 14. | Acting Dean, Sch. of Arts & Soc. Scs. Open University of Nig.  | July 2010   |
| 15. | Visiting Senior Lecturer, Reformed Theological Seminary, Mkar  | Jan. 2011 - |

#### **G. COMPLETED RESEARCH WORK**

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 1. | Critical Study of African Christologies                     | 2004 |
| 2. | Prosperity Gospel   | 2007 |
| 3. | Religion and the Nation-State in Search for the Common Good | 2009 |
| 4. | Affirming and Dealing with Differences                      | 2010 |

#### **H. DETAILS OF TEACHING AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

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|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Lecturer in Philosophy and Logic; Christian Ethics<br>University of Mkar, Mkar Benue State | 2005-2008 |
| 2. | National Open University of Nigeria  | 2008-     |

#### **I. SUPERVISION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS**

#### **J. CONTRIBUTION TO UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 1.  | Acting Dean, Student Affairs, University of Mkar, Mkar                                       | 2006-2008 |
| 2.  | Acting Dean (when Dean was away) School of Arts, NOUN  | July 2010 |
| 3.  | Director, Institute for Public Theology and Development Studies<br>University of Mkar, Mkar  | 2005-2008 |
| 5.  | Member, Senate Committee on Linkages and Partnerships<br>University of Mkar, Mkar            | 2006-2008 |
| 6.  | Member, Student Disciplinary Committee, Uni. of Mkar   | 2006-2008 |
| 7.  | Member, Student Welfare Committee, Uni. of Mkar  | 2006-2008 |
| 8.  | Member, Ad hoc Committee on accreditation of Programmes                                      | 2006-2008 |
| 9.  | Member, Senate Committee on Convocation, Uni. of Mkar  | 2006-2008 |
| 10. | Member, Library Committee, Uni. of Mkar  | 2006-2008 |
| 11. | Programme Leader, Christian Theology Unit, NOUN  | 2010-     |
| 12. | Chairman, School of Arts and Soc. Sciences Committee<br>on Course Material Development, NOUN | 2009-     |
| 13. | Chairman, School Committee (SASS) on Public Lectures,<br>Seminars and Workshops              | 2009-     |
| 14. | Member, Academic Planning Committee, SASS (NOUN)   | 2009-     |
| 15. | Member, University Senate, NOUN  | 2008-     |

#### **K. COMMUNITY SERVICE**

1. Chaplain, 6<sup>th</sup> District of Girls Brigade, Gboko-Benue State
2. Facilitator of Fund Raising for the building and upgrading of NKST Secondary School Angir, Mbagen Buruku L.G.A. Benue State
3. Visiting Lecturer on humanitarian basis, Reformed Theological Seminary, Mkar-Benue State
4. Officer of the Boys Scout of Nigeria
5. Officer of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria

## **L. PUBLICATIONS**

### **(a) DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

Akper, G.I. "Contemporary African Perspectives on Jesus' Cross and Human Suffering: A Critical Comparison of African Christologies". Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, February 2004.

### **(b) CHAPTERS IN BOOKS**

1. Akper, G.I. Oom Bey for the Future: Beyond Resistance and Hope. In *The Legacy of Beyers Naude: Beyers Naude Series on Public Theology*, Stellenbosch, Sun Press, 2006.
2. Akper, G.I. 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.

### **(c) PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES IN CIRCULATION**

1. Akper G.I. 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 (April 2005), pp. 1-13.
2. Akper, G.I. and Koopman, N.N. 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) (March & June 2005), pp. 7-21.
3. Akper, G.I. and Smit, D.J. The Bible and African Experience: Contending Authorities in Black and African Theologies? *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* 46(1&2) (March & June 2005), pp. 22-38.
4. Akper, G.I. and Smit, D.J. Jesus' Cross and Human Suffering in African Christologies *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* 46(1&2) (March & June 2005), pp. 39-54.

5. Akper, G.I. 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 (2005) pp. 420-481.
6. Akper, G.I. Towards a Hermeneutic for African Theologies: A Reformed Perspective *Ned Geref Teologiese Tydskrif (Dutch Reformed Theological Journal)* 46/ 3&4 (Sept. & Dec. 2005) pp. 293-313.
7. Akper, G.I. 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 (2006) pp. 1-11.
8. Akper, G.I. The Person of Jesus Christ in Contemporary African Christological Discourse *Journal of Religion and Theology*, 14 (2007), pp. 224-243.
9. Akper, G.I. Prosperity Gospel: A Case Study of Benue State in North-Central Nigeria *Journal of Reformed Theology* 1 (2007) pp. 41-49.
10. Akper, G.I. Charles Nyamiti's Christology in its African Context *Theologia Viatorum Journal of Theology and Religion in Africa* vol. 31/1 (2007), pp. 23-42.
11. Akper, G.I. Christianity or African Christianity? On Christian Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa, in: *Christian Identity* edited by Eddy Van der Borgh (2008), pp. 405-420.
12. Akper G.I. & Gire, T.T. "Gender as a Challenge to Educational Development in Nigeria: Ubuntu as an Ethic for taking up the Challenge" Forthcoming in *Journal of National Association for Women Academics NAWACS* (2007), pp.316-324.
13. Akper, G.I. "Christianity or African Christianity? On Christian Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa" in: Eddy Van der Borgh, *Christian Identity*, Leiden. Boston. Brill, 2007
14. Akper, G.I. "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 (2009) pp.108-120.
15. Akper, G.I. "Belhar Beyond Southern Africa: A Nigerian Reformed Perspective" *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* 135 (2009), pp. 1-21
16. Akper, G.I. "Participating in God's Mission of Reconciliation, Nigerian Churches' Response to Ethnic Conflicts" Forthcoming in *Dutch Reformed Theological Journal* March and April 2011.
17. Akper, G.I. "Different but One? A Regional Application of an Ecumenical Debate" Forthcoming in *Journal of Reformed Theology* Netherlands

## M. CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. Akper, G.I. “Christianity as Poisonous Onion, Icon and Witchcraft: The Reception of Christianity in Oral and Residual-Oral Sub-Saharan Africa”. Unpublished Public Lecture delivered at the University of Stellenbosch, 11 April 2005.
2. Akper, G.I. “A Call for Uniting Reformed Church in Africa? A Perspective north of River Limpopo.” A paper read during consultation on Reformed Church Unity in Africa (currently being reviewed for publication among other essays to be published by International Reformed Theological Institute, Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands).
3. Akper, G.I. “Christianity or African Christianity? On Christian Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa” Paper read during International Reformed Theological Institute Conference on *Christian Identity* Seoul Presbyterian Church, 210 Daichi-Dong, KangNam-Gu, Seoul, South Korea 5-10 July 2005 (to be published in Studies in Reformed Theology series, IRTI, Netherlands).
4. Akper, G.I. “Our Calling to Witness in and from Africa – Nigeria” Paper read at a Conference on the theme: Our Calling to Witness in and from Africa organized by Committee for Witness in Africa of DRC/URCSA, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004. Part published in *Kerkbode* vol. 172, No. 9, June 11, 2004.
5. Akper, G.I. “Divine election and reprobation and the challenge of Contemporary Nigerian Evangelism”. A four-hour lecture delivered during NKST Pastors’ Refresher Course, NKST Church, Mkar, April 2006.
6. Akper, G.I. “The Relevance of the Formulations in Articles 2, 3 & 4 of the Belhar Confession beyond Southern Africa: a Nigerian Reformed Perspective”. Paper reading during Annual Conference of the Theological Society of South Africa at University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus, 21-23 June 2006
7. Akper, G.I. and Gire T.T. “Family and National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy: The Family as Agent of National Economic Development”. Paper read during HERAN 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 6-9<sup>th</sup> September 2006. UNN-Nigeria.
8. Akper G.I. & Gire, T.T. “Ubuntu as an Ethic for Home and National Economic Empowerment and Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria. Paper read during 7<sup>th</sup> Annual HERAN Conference, 6-9<sup>th</sup> September 2006, at UNN.
9. Akper, G.I. “Religions and the Nation-State in Search for a Common Good in Pluralistic Northern Nigeria” Power point presentation during International Consultation on *Religions and the Nation-State in Search for Common Good* jointly organized by Universities of Mkar, Amsterdam (Free University) and

Stellenbosch, August 27-28 2007 at the University of Mkar, Mkar, Benue State-Nigeria.

10. Akper, GI. "63M Nigerians poor: on Poverty and the role of the Reformed Churches in Nigeria". Power point presentation during international consultation on *the Role of Religions and State in the Eradication of Poverty in Nigeria, The Netherlands and South Africa*, 19-21 May 2008 at University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.
11. Akper, G.I. "The place of Africa in contemporary African biblical and theological hermeneutics" power point presentation during Theological Society of South Africa Conference, 18-20 June 2008 at the College of the Transfiguration, Grahamstown, South Africa.
12. Akper, GI. "African Public Theology Engage African Traditional Religion in the Discourse on Human Dignity", paper read during Humboldt Foundation sponsored research seminar on Human Dignity, Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies, Stellenbosch, 23-26 November 2008.

**N:**

**REFEREES:**

1. **Prof. Dirkie Smit**  
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Stellenbosch, 7600  
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