



2nd

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Theme:
**BRIDGING FAITH AND COMMUNITY:
THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN
CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CONFERENCE PARTNERS:



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY ABUJA, NIGERIA, 2025

Date: October 11-12, 2025

Location: National Merit House, 22 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria

DAY 1: FOUNDATION AND REFLECTIONS

- 08:00 – 09:00 | Registration & Welcome Coffee
- 09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Ceremony
 - Welcome Address
 - Keynote Speech: "The Church's Role in Societal Transformation"
 - Rev. Dave Ogbole
 - Bishop Prof. Rudolph Kwanue, Sr
 - Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon
 - Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba
- 09:30 – 10:30 | Session 1: Theological Foundations for Social Engagement
 - Speakers: Theologians and Church Leaders
 - Prof. Dr. Bank-Ola Steve
- 10:30 – 10:45 | Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 | Session 2: Strategies for Community Development
 - Rev. Associate Prof. Joseph Samson Maren
- 12:00 – 13:00 | Networking Lunch
- 13:00 – 14:30 | Panel Session: Ethical Leadership in Society
 - Focus on integrity, justice, and moral responsibility
- 14:30 – 15:00 | Coffee Break
- 15:00 – 16:30 | Breakout Sessions
 - Topics: Poverty Alleviation; Education; Human Rights
- 16:30 – 17:00 | Day 1 Wrap-up & Reflection

DAY 2: ACTIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- 08:30 – 09:00 | Morning Coffee & Registration
- 09:00 – 09:15 | Recap of Day 1 & Day 2 Opening
- 09:15 – 10:45 | Session 3: Faith-Based Advocacy & Policy Engagement
 - Exploring best practices in influencing social policy
 - Samson Oladosu Ebe
 - Rev. Maxwell Ogaga
- 10:45 – 11:00 | Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 | Roundtable Discussions
 - Topics: Peacebuilding, Social Justice, Sustainable Development
 - Rev. Nsandah Premous Forzong
 - Prof. Paul Alieu Kamara
 - Nicodemus Samson Beska
- 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:00 | Action Planning Workshop: Developing Local and Global Initiatives
- 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 16:30* | Closing Plenary: Commitments and Future Collaborations
- 16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks & Farewell

PAPER PRESENTER

NICODEMUS SAMSON BESKA

PAPER: The Church and the Promotion of Social Justice towards the Reintegration of Returning Citizens: A Qualitative Exploration



Nicodemus Samson Beska is a distinguished Nigerian Police officer and the Executive Director of Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative, an organization dedicated to training and empowering law enforcement personnel and community stakeholders. His career is marked by a strong commitment to enhancing policing strategies, promoting peace, and fostering societal development. Through his leadership at Mulapnen, Beska has implemented various capacity-building programs aimed at improving law enforcement effectiveness and community relations across Nigeria.

Apart from his practical contributions to policing, Beska is an active academic and researcher. He has presented numerous papers at national and international conferences, sharing insights on crime prevention, law enforcement, and peacebuilding. His scholarly work includes five research papers published in reputable journals, which delve into topics such as conflict resolution, community safety, and the role of police in fostering societal stability.

Currently pursuing a PhD at Nasarawa State University Keffi, Beska's academic pursuits complement his professional endeavors. He holds a Master's degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, equipping him with theoretical and practical knowledge on managing conflicts and promoting peace within diverse communities. His undergraduate degree in Economics provides a solid foundation for understanding the socioeconomic factors influencing crime, poverty, and development.

Beska's interests are broad yet interconnected, spanning peacebuilding, correctional services, law enforcement, crime prevention, livelihood development, and poverty reduction. His work consistently aims at discovering effective mechanisms to strengthen societal stability and foster sustainable development. Whether through policy advocacy, community engagement, or scholarly research, he remains dedicated to addressing the complex challenges faced by Nigeria and similar contexts.

Nicodemus Samson Beska is a highly committed police officer and scholar whose work bridges practical law enforcement with academic research and policy development. His multifaceted approach seeks to create safer, more peaceful, and prosperous societies by integrating capacity building, research, and community participation. His ongoing academic pursuits and leadership roles underscore his dedication to advancing Nigeria's security and development landscape.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The relationship between the Church and society has evolved significantly in the modern era. As global challenges such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and social injustice intensify, the role of religious institutions, particularly churches, becomes increasingly critical. The 1st International Conference on Church and Society—held at the Osu-Eben-Ezer Conference Hall, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, from January 25-26, 2024, successfully brought together theologians, sociologists, religious leaders, and community activists to explore how faith communities can engage with pressing societal issues. Building on this momentum, the 2nd International Conference, with the theme **“Bridging Faith and Community: The Role of the Church in Contemporary Society”**, aims to delve deeper into these themes and foster actionable dialogue.

The 2nd International Conference on Church and Society aims to bring together scholars, religious leaders, policymakers, and practitioners from around the world to engage in thoughtful discussions on the intersection of church teachings and societal issues. This conference provides a platform for exploring how the church can play a positive role in addressing contemporary challenges and promoting social justice.

The primary objectives of the 2nd International Conference on Church and Society are to deepen understanding of the church's vital role in societal transformation, promote ethical and moral leadership, and foster collaboration among faith-based organizations, governments, and civil society. It aims to equip church leaders with practical strategies for social advocacy, community development, and justice initiatives. Additionally, the conference seeks to strengthen networks for ongoing partnership, encourage innovative solutions to social challenges, and inspire active church engagement in peacebuilding, social cohesion, and sustainable development—ultimately empowering the church to be a positive force for societal change.

The intended outcomes include enhancing understanding of the church's role in social transformation, promoting ethical leadership, and encouraging active engagement in community development. The conference seeks to equip church leaders and participants with practical tools and strategies to influence policy, advocate for justice, and implement sustainable development initiatives. Another key outcome is the strengthening of networks among churches, faith-based organizations, and societal stakeholders, facilitating ongoing partnerships for social change. The conference also aims to inspire innovative approaches to tackling challenges such as poverty, inequality, corruption, and human rights abuses, grounded in biblical principles and moral integrity. Furthermore, it envisions fostering a deeper awareness of the church's potential as a catalyst for peacebuilding and social cohesion, especially in conflict-prone regions. Ultimately, the conference aspires to mobilize church leaders and members to actively participate in shaping a just, equitable, and compassionate society aligned with Christian values. These outcomes are geared towards creating a more engaged and socially responsible church that contributes meaningfully to societal progress.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER



REV. DAVE OGBOLE: Clergyman | Development Strategist | Leadership Coach | Communication Expert

David Ogbole is a distinguished development strategist, leadership coach, and presiding minister at True Life Impact Ministry in Abuja. With a rich background that combines spiritual leadership, policy expertise, and development practice, he has become a vital voice in nation-building, interfaith dialogue, and community development.

A graduate of the School of Politics, Policy and Governance (SPPG), David's academic foundation is rooted in understanding governance, policy formulation, and public administration. He further earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Benue State University, equipping him with a comprehensive understanding of public sector management, policy analysis, and administrative leadership. His educational background reflects a commitment to blending practical governance with spiritual and community-centered approaches.

In his professional journey, David has demonstrated a rare capacity to integrate spiritual insights with strategic development initiatives. As the Special Adviser to the Governor of Benue State on Strategic Investment and Knowledge Economy, he played a pivotal role in advancing policies that transformed the state into a burgeoning hub for agribusiness and infrastructure development. His leadership in this capacity helped position Benue as a key player in Nigeria's economic landscape, emphasizing sustainable growth and investment-driven development.

Beyond his governmental role, David has been actively involved in international and grassroots peace initiatives. His engagements with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union highlight his commitment to conflict resolution, refugee support, and fostering peace in crisis-prone regions. His work in interfaith dialogue focuses on bridging divides among diverse religious communities, promoting mutual understanding, tolerance, and social cohesion. Through effective communication strategies, he has contributed to reducing tensions and fostering peaceful coexistence in fragile environments.

As a Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants (Nigeria) and the Chartered Institute of Leadership, Education and Development (USA), David is recognized for his expertise in narrative engineering—crafting compelling stories that inspire change—and in mobilizing communities for development. His skills in community mobilization have helped foster social cohesion among diverse faiths and ethnic groups, making him an influential figure in promoting unity and shared progress.

In addition to his leadership roles, David is a passionate coach and mentor, inspiring individuals and organizations to pursue sustainable development and ethical leadership. His approach emphasizes the importance of integrating faith, policy insight, and practical development strategies to create lasting impact. His work continues to influence policymakers, community leaders, and faith-based organizations committed to fostering peace and development across Nigeria and beyond.

David Ogbole's unique blend of spiritual guidance, policy expertise, and grassroots engagement makes him a vital contributor to Nigeria's development landscape. His leadership in interfaith dialogue, community mobilization, and nation-building exemplifies his dedication to creating a harmonious and prosperous society. Through his strategic insights and compassionate leadership, David continues to inspire positive change and foster social cohesion in Nigeria and the wider region.

PAPER PRESENTER

PROFESSOR PAUL ALLIEU KAMARA

PAPER: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY



Professor Paul Allieu Kamara is the Registrar and Pro Vice Chancellor of AUU International, statutorily appointed by the AUU International Charter. In addition, Professor Paul Allieu Kamara holds the position of Dean of Faculty of Business Administration by virtue of the University's International Charter. Professor Kamara is an Expert in Combating Financial Crime through Effective leadership. His Fields of studies include Philosophy; Journalism; Leadership Development; Business Administration; Christian Leadership and Curriculum Designing and Research Education Leadership and Organization Development. His Years of experience is 18 years in Administration, Media, Teaching, and Ministering, of the word of God (Offices, Media, Classrooms Preaching).

Rev. Prof. Paul Allieu Kamara, G.C.E.O LEVELS, Ansaural Islamic Secondary School Makeni 1998 B.A (Philosophy Upper Division Two), Madonna University Okija Onitsha, Anambra, Nigeria 2002 DHRCJ, (Diploma in Human Rights and Civic Journalism Institute of Political Science University of Bordeaux and Campaign for Good Governance Mobile Campus Sierra Leone 2005. MBAs (Coaching, Mentoring and Leadership) Grace International Bible University Liberia-Maryland USA 2018 and in (Customer Relations Management Systems) Roehampton University England, United Kingdom) 2015.

Doctorate in Christian Leadership Development Grace International Bible Rudolph Kwanue University Liberia-Maryland USA 2020 PhD (Leadership Development and Administration) Rudolph Kwanue University Liberia-Maryland USA and International University of Management in the Republic of Benin and PhD, (Leadership and Organization Development) Global Interfaith University approved by the California University Delaware, California USA 2022 his currently a Professor of Leadership and Organization Development (Strategic Change Management) at the Global Interfaith University, Approved by California University, Grace International Bible University and Rudolph Kwanue University College, Liberia-Maryland, USA. A Professor of Leadership and Administration in Lawrence Bible University Sierra Leone on the 19th February 2022 Leadership Diploma Certificate Course, (LDC) Leadership Certificate Course (LCC) and Basic Certificate (BCC) conducted from the Word of Faith Bible Institute of Winners Chapel International Sierra Leone issued on 2013, 2014, and 2015. He is married to Deaconess Mrs. Alima Divine Kamara with three Children to God is all the glory.

He is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department in the College of Philosophy and Leadership Rudolph Kwanue University College and GIBU College of Theology in Liberia-Maryland USA. In addition to his academic qualifications, he also holds various professional certifications in Human Rights, Leadership, Consultancy, Media coaching and Leadership from the Independent World Council of Pentecostal Communion in Nigeria 2022, Coaching and Pastoral Care from the Word of Faith Bible Institute in 2010 and International Kingdom University 2022. UNAMSIL Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report 2005, International Human Rights Law Group and National Forum for Human Rights on Human Rights Monitoring and Documentations 12-14 June 2002, Human Rights and Development Centre Care-Sierra Leone on Training of Trainers on Human Rights Monitoring 2-4th August 2005, International Rescue Committee on Communication Skills in Working with survivors 20-22 July 2004, Building Resources in Democracy Training of Trainers 8-12th September 2008, etc.

PAPER PRESENTER

REV. MAXWELL OGAGA

PAPER: "Theology and Ethics in Public Life"



Rev. Maxwell E. Ogaga is a dedicated pastor, teacher, and church leader committed to advancing the kingdom of God through teaching, mentorship, and leadership development. As the Pastoral Overseer of God's Kingdom Advancement Ministries, he oversees a network of churches located in Rivers and Delta States, Nigeria. His leadership is characterized by a passion for empowering believers, strengthening local churches, and fostering spiritual growth within his communities.

Ogaga's academic journey reflects his deep commitment to theological and educational excellence. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Delta State University, Abraka, which provides him with a solid foundation in teaching and learning. Recognizing the importance of spiritual training, he earned a second Bachelor's degree in Theology from South African Theological Seminary in South Africa. Additionally, he is a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Centre's Port Harcourt Campus, where he gained practical ministry skills and biblical insights. His thirst for continuous learning led him to obtain a Post Graduate Diploma from the Church Growth Institute in Lagos, Nigeria. Currently, he is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the South Asian Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in Bangalore, India, further deepening his theological understanding and leadership capabilities.

Beyond formal education, Ogaga founded Word Connect International, an itinerant teaching ministry that leverages satellite TV and the Internet to broadcast messages of faith and spiritual empowerment. The primary mission of Word Connect International is to equip believers and strengthen local churches worldwide. Through this platform, Ogaga reaches a broad audience, providing spiritual guidance, biblical teachings, and inspirational messages designed to foster growth and maturity in the Christian faith. His passion for leadership development and church growth inspired him to launch the Timothy Conference and Dear Timothy Camps in 2017. These gatherings aim to train and equip ministry leaders and church workers across Africa, the United States, and Europe. The conferences focus on practical ministry skills, biblical principles, leadership excellence, and spiritual revival, helping participants to effectively serve their congregations and communities. Many pastors and ministry leaders have benefitted from these initiatives, experiencing renewed vision and empowerment in their respective contexts.

Rev. Ogaga's life and ministry are marked by a deep desire to see believers grow in faith and leaders rise to their full potential. His approach combines biblical teaching, strategic leadership, and practical training, making him a respected voice in the Pentecostal and Charismatic circles. He resides in Bonny Island with his family, where he continues to serve as a shepherd, mentor, and visionary leader.

Rev. Maxwell E. Ogaga is a committed servant of Christ whose influence extends across local communities and international borders. Through his educational pursuits, pioneering ministry initiatives, and dedication to equipping others, he actively contributes to the growth and strengthening of the body of Christ, impacting lives and shaping future leaders for the kingdom of God.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

BISHOP PROF. RUDOLF KWANUE, SR.



Bishop Prof. Rudolph Q. Kwanue, Sr. is a distinguished figure whose multifaceted contributions have left an indelible mark on the realms of faith, education, and entrepreneurship. Renowned as a clergyman, scholar, educator, and visionary leader, he embodies a commitment to spiritual growth and intellectual excellence that transcends borders. His pioneering efforts have fostered the development of critical thinkers, inspiring countless individuals to pursue purposeful lives rooted in faith and knowledge.

As the founder of Rudolph Theology, Bishop Kwanue has established an innovative platform that emphasizes biblical literacy and theological depth. His scholarly pursuits are characterized by rigorous research and a passion for biblical truth, making him a respected biblical scholar on the global stage. His teachings are marked by clarity and depth, often challenging believers to deepen their understanding of Yahweh's Word. His influence extends beyond the pulpit; as a motivational speaker and mentor, he empowers individuals to harness their potential and live impactful lives.

Bishop Kwanue's impact is further amplified through his academic leadership. He is the Founder and Chancellor of Grace International Bible University (GIBU), an institution dedicated to nurturing spiritual and academic excellence. Additionally, as the Founder and President of Rudolph Kwanue University College (RKUC), he continues to shape the future of theological and secular education. His unwavering dedication to education's transformative power underscores his belief that knowledge combined with faith can revolutionize communities and nations.

A visionary behind the Christ Believers Movement, Bishop Kwanue seeks to unify believers and promote Christ-centered living. His leadership emphasizes the importance of integrity, spiritual discipline, and critical thinking, encouraging believers to engage with their faith intelligently and authentically. His global travels as a teacher, researcher, and preacher have broadened his influence, allowing him to share the undiluted Word of Yahweh with diverse audiences worldwide.

Throughout his journey, Bishop Kwanue has been favoured by Yahweh, experiencing divine favour and guidance that propel his mission forward. His teachings are characterized by a passion for truth and a desire to see lives transformed through the Gospel. His work as an educator and entrepreneur demonstrates his belief that spiritual and academic development are mutually reinforcing, fostering holistic growth in individuals and communities.

Bishop Prof. Rudolph Q. Kwanue, Sr. is a beacon of faith, intellect, and leadership. His life's work continues to inspire a new generation of believers and thinkers, advocating for a world where spiritual wisdom and academic excellence coexist. His enduring legacy as a founder, scholar, and movement leader exemplifies a relentless pursuit of truth and a heartfelt commitment to empowering others to live purposefully under Yahweh's guidance.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER



BISHOP DR. INNOCENT SOLOMON

Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon is a distinguished and influential figure serving as the Director General of the Taraba State Peace Bureau. With a background rooted in both spiritual leadership and community service, Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon has become a prominent advocate for peace, unity, and social development within Taraba State and beyond.

Born and raised in Nigeria, Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon's early life was marked by a strong commitment to faith and community engagement. He pursued both secular and theological education at different Institutions both within and outside Nigeria which included: All Nations Bible Institute which is now Benson Idahosa University, Benin; Tantur Institute For Theological Studies, Jerusalem; Galilee International Management Institute, Nahalal, Israel; Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA and obtained different certificates and degrees and was ordained as a pastor, eventually rising through the ranks of church leadership to become a Bishop due to his dedication, integrity, and compassionate approach to ministry. His spiritual journey has been characterized by a desire to foster reconciliation among diverse ethnic groups and religious communities, which is a vital aspect of Nigeria's complex social fabric.

As the Director General of the Taraba State Peace Bureau, Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon plays a pivotal role in coordinating peace initiatives across the state. His leadership emphasizes dialogue, conflict resolution, and community involvement, aiming to address the root causes of violence and discord. Under his guidance, the Bureau has implemented various programs focused on mediating disputes, promoting interfaith cooperation, and enhancing community resilience against conflict.

Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon's approach combines spiritual counsel with pragmatic strategies. He leverages his influence and respect within religious circles to mobilize leaders and grassroots organizations towards peacebuilding efforts. His efforts have led to notable reductions in communal clashes, ethnic tensions, and political violence in Taraba State. Beyond conflict resolution, he advocates for social justice, economic development, and educational empowerment as means to foster long-term stability.

As one who had the opportunity to serve in different organizations and hierarchies, his leadership style is characterized by humility, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility. He is known for his empathetic listening skills and his ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to find common ground. As a spiritual leader, he encourages forgiveness, reconciliation, and understanding among conflicting parties, emphasizing the importance of faith-based approaches to peace.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon is a respected speaker and mentor. He actively participates in national and regional conferences on peace and security, sharing insights and best practices. His contributions extend to policy advocacy, where he works with government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to strengthen peace initiatives in Nigeria.

Bishop Dr. Innocent Solomon's dedication has earned him numerous awards and recognitions. An author of several books including the "Nigeria Peace Project Books" that earned him a written commendation from different organizations, the Nigeria Interreligious Council (NIREC) and many international figures. His work exemplifies the vital role of faith, community engagement, and leadership in overcoming conflict and building a harmonious society. As the DG of the Taraba State Peace Bureau, he continues to inspire hope and resilience among the people of Taraba, embodying the transformative power of dedicated service and unwavering faith in peace.

PAPER PRESENTER

REV. NSANDAH PREMIOUS FORZONG

PAPER: "The Impact of Globalization in Response to Climate Change on the Indigenous People of Africa".



Rev. Nsandah Premious Forzong is a trained agronomist from the Kenya Institute of Organic Farming - KIOF, where he studied soil and water conservation, intercropping, agroforestry, crop production, and pest/disease control. He has a post graduate certificate in Climate change from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), California, as well as a M.Div. from International Theological Seminary (ITS). He is a "Blessed Tomorrow Climate Change Ambassador" and a member of Eco-America Network, a group that advocates for environmental issues in America and around the world. He is currently a PhD student at Global Interfaith University (GIU) studying Intercultural Studies (ICS).

This paper explores the profound effects of globalization and climate change on the indigenous peoples of Africa, emphasizing the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental challenges they face. As globalization accelerates, it brings both opportunities and vulnerabilities, often exacerbating inequalities and threatening the livelihoods, traditions, and territories of indigenous communities. Climate change has intensified these vulnerabilities through unpredictable weather patterns, droughts, floods, and resource depletion, disproportionately impacting indigenous populations who rely heavily on land and natural resources for their sustenance and cultural identity.

The study critically analyzes how global economic policies, driven by multinational corporations and international financial institutions, have often marginalized indigenous peoples, undermining their traditional ways of life and sovereignty. It highlights the role of international climate response mechanisms and development initiatives, examining their effectiveness and the extent to which they incorporate indigenous perspectives and rights. The paper underscores the importance of culturally sensitive and inclusive approaches in addressing climate adaptation and mitigation, advocating for the recognition of indigenous knowledge systems as vital to sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, the paper discusses the moral and spiritual responsibilities of faith communities and the church in responding to these challenges. It argues that religious organizations have a pivotal role in advocating for justice, amplifying indigenous voices, and fostering solidarity across global networks. By integrating principles of environmental stewardship, dignity, and equity, the church can contribute to empowering indigenous communities and promoting policies that respect their rights and cultural heritage.

This paper aims to inspire faith-based engagement in addressing the intertwined issues of globalization, climate change, and indigenous rights. It calls for a collective moral response rooted in justice and compassion, emphasizing the church's role as a catalyst for social change and environmental preservation in Africa's vulnerable indigenous communities.

PAPER PRESENTER

SAMSON OLADOSU EBE

PAPER: “Community Development and Cultural Cohesion in The Levites Choir Ibadan's Joyful Harvest Hymn Concert”

Samson Oladosu Ebe is a distinguished Lecturer in the Department of Performing Arts, Music, and Film Studies at Lead City University in Ibadan, Nigeria. With a deep passion for music, culture, and community engagement, he has established himself as a dedicated scholar, performer, and leader in the Nigerian arts scene.



Samson earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Performing Arts (Music) from the University of Ilorin, where he developed a solid foundation in music theory, performance, and cultural studies. Building on this academic background, he is currently pursuing a PhD in Performing Arts (Music) at Lead City University, with a research focus on African choral music, hymnology, and the intricate relationships between music, culture, and community development. His scholarly interests reflect his commitment to exploring indigenous musical traditions and their roles in fostering social cohesion and cultural identity within Nigerian and broader African contexts.

As an educator, Samson is renowned for his engaging teaching style and mentorship of students in performing arts. He emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical, cultural, and spiritual dimensions of music, encouraging students to appreciate and preserve their rich musical heritage. His courses often incorporate practical performance, critical analysis, and community outreach projects, aiming to produce well-rounded graduates who can contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's vibrant arts sector.

Beyond academia, Samson is an active music director and performer, renowned for his leadership in directing major productions, festivals, and choral ensembles. His work often highlights traditional African music and hymns, blending them seamlessly with contemporary styles to appeal to diverse audiences. His dedication to excellence in musical performance has earned him multiple awards, recognizing his contributions to the arts and his service to promoting musical culture in Nigeria.

Samson's influence extends beyond the stage and classroom. He has collaborated with various cultural organizations and community groups to organize events that celebrate Nigerian musical heritage, foster intergenerational dialogue, and promote community development through music. His efforts have helped elevate the profile of indigenous music forms and demonstrate their relevance in contemporary society.

In addition to his professional achievements, Samson is committed to advocacy for arts education and cultural preservation. He believes that music is a powerful tool for unity, healing, and social change, and actively seeks opportunities to incorporate music into community development initiatives. His passion for nurturing young talents and promoting cultural heritage underscores his role as a vital contributor to Nigeria's artistic landscape.

Samson Oladosu Ebe is a dedicated academic, talented performer, and passionate advocate for Nigerian musical traditions. His scholarly pursuits, leadership in music direction, and community engagement exemplify his commitment to advancing African music, enhancing cultural understanding, and fostering community development through the arts. His work continues to inspire students, colleagues, and communities to appreciate and celebrate Nigeria's rich musical heritage.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

DR. EMMANUEL ANDE IVORGBA Africa Regional Director, Christian University of Leadership Education and Development Studies

Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba is a distinguished and dynamic leader whose multifaceted expertise spans over two decades of impactful work in the nonprofit sector, peacebuilding, education, and conflict resolution. As a success-driven visionary, he dedicates his life to empowering young people, equipping them with tools for self-healing, fostering bridges across cultural and religious divides, and cultivating environments where peace and justice can thrive. His approach combines grassroots activism with strategic solutions, making him a formidable force in promoting social cohesion and sustainable development.



Dr. Ivorgba holds advanced academic qualifications, including dual PhDs in Comparative Religions and Management, underscoring his depth of knowledge across religious, social, and organizational domains. He also earned a Graduate Certificate in School Management and Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), a Masters in General Management from Guglielmo Marconi University in Rome, Italy, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from HIPDET University. These credentials reflect his commitment to academic excellence and his ongoing pursuit of knowledge to better serve communities.

His professional affiliations are numerous and prestigious. Emmanuel is a Paul Harris Fellow and a member of several esteemed international associations such as the American Academy of Religion (AAR), the Institute for Biblical Scholarship in Africa, and the Chartered Institute of Leadership, Education and Development (CILED) in the USA. He is also a Fellow of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the School of Education at Adamas University in Kolkata, India. These memberships highlight his recognition as a leader in religious scholarship, leadership, and peace advocacy.

As a social innovator, Emmanuel founded Creative Minds International Academy, a K-12 school in Nigeria dedicated to nurturing critical thinking, interconnectedness, and sustainable relationships among students. His life's work revolves around inspiring youth worldwide to embrace a culture of peace and justice. His efforts have earned him international recognition, including the 2014 Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award in San Francisco, acknowledging his leadership and dedicated service to humanity.

Currently, Emmanuel serves as the President, Global Interfaith University, West Africa Regional Coordinator for the United Religions Initiative (URI) and presides over The Emmanuel Ivorgba Center. His previous roles include Global Study Circle Coordinator for the Dalai Lama Foundation, USA, and Council Ambassador to the Parliament of the World's Religions, USA. He also led the Ethics Education Fellowship at Arigatou International in Geneva. His involvement with Museum Africa in Chicago facilitated research on African cultures and the preservation of African history.

Emmanuel is the convener and director of the Annual International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Dialogue in Nigeria, attracting over 350 participants from more than ten countries annually. His extensive travel and presentation record—spanning conferences at Stanford University's CCARE and other global venues—reflect his influence and commitment to fostering intercultural understanding, compassion, and peace. Emmanuel Ivorgba's life exemplifies a relentless pursuit of transformative change, inspiring generations to build a more just, peaceful, and interconnected world.

PAPER PRESENTER

PROF. DR. BANK-OLA STEVE

PAPER: “Apostolic Christianity and Africa Re-awakening:
A Panacea to Social Insecurity and Development”



Professor Bank-Ola Steve DSc.TS, PhDTh, PhD (MIS), PhD.Div, PhD(CMA), PhD.B.L, PhD(C.ED), PhD. (Sp & Psy), PhD. (B.Ethics & HD), EDD.B L MAOCI, MTTP, MACTN, MICCP, FFCTS, F.Ced is a distinguished scholar, a global figure in theology, human development, and dispute resolution. His extensive academic and professional credentials reflect a lifelong commitment to knowledge, leadership, and service across multiple disciplines.

Holding multiple doctoral degrees—including PhDs in Management Information Systems, Divinity, Christian Ministry and Administration, Business Law, Education, Spiritual & Psychological Studies, and Ethics & Human Development—Professor Bank-Ola epitomizes academic versatility. His doctorate in Education (EDD) and his numerous professional certifications such as Fellow of the Chartered Christian Theological Society (F.Ced), and memberships in various professional bodies like the Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators, underscore his expertise and dedication to continuous learning and excellence.

As an International Chartered Arbitrator, Professor Bank-Ola has established himself as a leading authority in dispute resolution, mediating complex conflicts with integrity and fairness on a global scale. His role as a Fellow and subject development expert at the Christian University for Leadership Education and Development in Delaware, USA, highlights his influence in shaping future Christian leaders and practitioners worldwide. His involvement in curriculum development and academic mentorship ensures that his impact extends beyond the classroom to broader societal development.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Professor Bank-Ola is a renowned professor of Theology and Human Development. His teaching encompasses biblical principles, spiritual growth, and holistic human development, emphasizing the integration of faith and practical life skills. His lectures are characterized by depth, clarity, and a passion for nurturing ethical and morally upright leaders. His consultancy work and visiting professorships at various Christian universities and theological seminaries in Nigeria and abroad testify to his reputation as a trusted thought leader and mentor in Christian education.

Throughout his career, Professor Bank-Ola has combined scholarly excellence with practical application, contributing significantly to the fields of theology, ethics, and human development. His interdisciplinary approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of human nature, leadership, and spirituality, making him a sought-after speaker, advisor, and author.

Professor Bank-Ola Steve DSc.TS is a highly accomplished academic, an esteemed international arbitrator, and a dedicated educator whose work influences both religious and secular spheres. His multifaceted expertise, leadership roles, and global engagements position him as a pivotal figure in advancing Christian education, ethical leadership, and dispute resolution worldwide. His contributions continue to inspire many across continents, fostering a more ethical, spiritually grounded, and development-oriented global community.

PAPER PRESENTER

REV. ASSOCIATE PROF. JOSEPH SAMSON MAREN

PAPER: “The Role of the Church in Nigeria’s Electoral Process”



Rev. Associate Professor Joseph Maren Sampson is a distinguished peacebuilder, academic, and founder whose work has significantly impacted conflict resolution and community development in Nigeria. As the founder of Josephmaren Peace Foundation, formerly known as Reconciliation Trainers Africa (RETA), he has established a formidable platform dedicated to fostering peace, reconciliation, and economic empowerment across Central Nigeria. His leadership has cultivated a network of peace advocates, community leaders, youth, women, and political figures committed to promoting harmony and sustainable development in volatile regions.

Joseph Maren is also the visionary founder and Rector of the College of Peace and Reconciliation Studies in Jos. Under his guidance, the institution trains individuals and groups in peacebuilding, conflict management, and reconciliation strategies, equipping them with the skills necessary to address and resolve conflicts within their communities. His holistic approach emphasizes not only peace advocacy but also economic empowerment, recognizing the intertwined nature of social stability and economic well-being. Throughout his career, Joseph Maren has spearheaded numerous leadership development initiatives targeting community leaders, political figures, youth, and women groups across Nigeria. These training programs aim to build capacity for effective leadership, conflict prevention, and reconciliation. His proactive conflict assessment initiatives have provided valuable insights to security agencies and government officials, helping formulate strategies to prevent violence and manage crises more effectively. His work in conflict analysis and peace advocacy has earned him recognition as a vital voice in Nigeria's peacebuilding efforts.

In addition to his foundational work, Joseph Maren holds several academic and leadership roles. He is currently the Dean of Academics at Lampstand Christian University in Jos, where he influences the curriculum and academic standards. He also serves as a visiting lecturer at the Theological Seminary of Northern Nigeria in Saminaka, Erudite University Jos, and Christian Faith Institute in Jos, contributing to theological education and leadership training.

Prior to his current roles, Maren served as a Lecturer and Head of Department at ECWA Theological Seminary in Kagoro, Kaduna State, and was an Adjunct Lecturer at Gindiri Theological Seminary in Plateau State. His extensive academic background is complemented by a rich educational journey that includes studies at Plateau State Polytechnic, Barikin Ladi; ECWA Theological Seminary (JETS); International Leadership University in Kenya; Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, USA; and University College London in the UK. These diverse educational experiences underpin his global perspective on peace and leadership.

Joseph Maren is also an accomplished author, having written several books and articles on peace, reconciliation, and community development. He is a professional member of the Counseling Association of Nigeria (CASSON), Leadership International Development Centre (LIDC UK), African Peacebuilding Network (AP USA), and the Christian Peace and Advocacy Network (CPAN Nigeria). He is married and a proud father of three adult children.