



PAN·AFRICA  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

*James 1:2-4*

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# Africa Update

## Bill & Judy Kirsch

Fall 2021  
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During our last PATHS session, we were privileged to welcome a wonderful group of new students into the program. It is always a delight to get to know these new students and hear their stories. In our chapel services we always take a missions offering. The students run the chapel. Each service they select a student to share what God is doing in missions. This time students asked Robert Akolbugri to share. Here is his story:

*I took a class from [AG missionary] Rev. Jerry Falley. During his class he challenged us to take church planting very seriously. His challenge touched me. All students pledged to start a number of churches within a particular period. I promised to plant 50 churches in two years.*

*Rev. Falley was interested in my ambition and therefore prayed with me and encouraged me as well. So, I started the initiative immediately after we vacated from the session in May 2015. The starting of the first church was challenging but was successful. I then wrote Rev. Falley and reported to him that I had started the first church. He wrote back to me and told me to start the second church, and the second church was also started in June 2015.*

*At this point, I was encouraged, and I said to myself, "I can do it." So, it was now like a hobby where I would start one or two churches in a month. By the end of 2015, I established nine churches.*

*Then came a challenge of caretakers. So, in January 2016, I mobilized interested young people and gave them two weeks of theological training. After the training, I started assigning them to the already-established churches. The zeal grew, and it was exciting to me. By May 2017, I started the 51<sup>st</sup> church.*



Planted 51 churches in 2 years!

Rev. Akolbugri is now the regional presbyter over several districts in the northern part of Ghana. This is a highly Islamic area, and he has faced many trials and much opposition. A mosque is often the most prominent building in the towns and villages in this region. Additionally, the government has kicked his churches out of the school classrooms they were using. So, Robert is now working to provide buildings for all 51 of these churches. As of June 2021, through the help of others, he has built 15 buildings for these churches, with 4 more under construction. His vision is to provide all 51 churches with buildings by December 2022.

This is why I believe in training. It is often the catalyst that encourages faithful men and women to launch out into unreached areas, doing what seems impossible in the natural. But... we serve a supernatural God! He is faithful to do more than we can ask or imagine. Thank you for standing with us in discipling people like Robert Akolbugri.

Sincerely,  
Bill & Judy Kirsch

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