



# ACSF-ACFUSA STORY

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African Christian Students Fellowship, USA and Canada was therefore born in Tulsa Oklahoma at the conference at Lake Tulakogee camp in Wagoner Oklahoma that summer 1978. Keynote speakers included Rev. Benson Idahosa from Nigeria and Dr. Betta Mengistu, now based in Ethiopia. The first national officers of the Fellowship were elected at that meeting. Meshack Ilobi (Tulsa Chapter) -President, Wokoma Wokoma (Madison Chapter), Secretary. The charge from that conference for the next year was to fan out and establish new chapters on college campuses wherever African students existed for the purpose of Christian discipleship and fellowship.

Tulsa chapter with 20-30 regular attending student participants met weekly on Friday evenings. Wesley Foundation graciously provided us space in the basement of their fellowship building. We enjoyed singing African Christian songs, sharing testimonies of praise and needs that solicited intercession and physical help. Periodically we met to break bread and those who could, brought meals and we enjoyed communion and warmth. Tulsa Christian Fellowship (TCF) church in Tulsa provided us vital support and mentorship. Dr. Robert Primrose, one of the church elders who was also a professor of Communication Arts at Oral Roberts University, was nominated by TCF to provide shepherding and oversight for us and he was there for us in times of difficulties and health emergencies. Dr. Primrose would a few years later relocate with his family to Kenya as a missionary for many years.

Many students caught the vision of returning to Africa to work in the gospel outreach whether as professionals in secular jobs provided impactful, strategic support to ministries or they went as missionaries themselves to various parts of Africa. Dr. Seth Anyomi after his graduation left for Ghana where he is still ministering till date. The spirit led passion for evangelism was apparent for example in the Tulsa chapter and elsewhere. Dr. Seth Anyomi from Ghana shared in the Tulsa chapter leadership while pursuing his PhD degree in Education Administration. Seth had a vision on the night before his graduation where a hand reached out and took his certificate from him and replaced it with a Bible. The message was clear to Seth. Seth and his wife Christiana blazed the missionary trail as worthy representative of Africa in the 'Third World Missions Association'. By 1990 'World Link University' was formed and Seth was this first Global President and remains the Chancellor till date ([www.worldlinkuniversity.org](http://www.worldlinkuniversity.org)). He established African Christian Mission that has made significant impact in Ghana. In partnership with Campus Crusade, they established Destiny University in Ghana.



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Dr. Francis Nwobu and his wife Clara would soon be pulled away from his engineering position in the Oil and Gas business in Nigeria to form the African Missionary Foundation targeting the unreached communities of the Niger Delta of Nigeria with the gospel. Bishop, Dr. Darlingston and Chrys Johnson from Liberia shot forth into that country, Sierra Leone and others establishing churches in West African countries. Today Darlingston is Senior Pastor of Bethel World Outreach Ministries with more than 200 churches, schools, and ministries in over 25 nations in Africa, North America, Europe, Australia, and South America. Many more such stories can be told of the various chapters that blossomed with the common theme - 'Africa Shall be Saved'. Late Dr. Joseph Ali and his spouse returned to Nigeria to work over the years as a Christian leader and pastor. Meshack & Justina Ilobi returned to Nigeria after graduate school in 1981 to work in the petroleum industry and support global and local missions. In 2000 they relocated to a South Asian country as academic missionaries for some years before returning to the USA. Eme Tasie, on graduating from Tulsa, moved to Atlanta Georgia for his graduate studies and founded a chapter of ACSF there. That group has metamorphosed to the current ACF Atlanta. Eme returned to Nigeria and along with his wife Ugo, pastor in the Assemblies of God Church there. The thrust from these few examples of the outflow from just one chapter was clearly, "know the Lord Jesus Christ and make Him known everywhere".

Some brethren stayed back in the USA however and fostered/expanded the vision and scope of the ACSF beyond evangelistic outreach towards improvement in the capacity of Africans and African communities in the USA and on the continent.

The second national conference held in 1979 in Dallas Fort Worth and brother Sam Ssali (Ugandan) was elected the next national president. Sam Ssali took over the rein of leadership for the next two years. It was during this time that the organization experienced significant growth. One of the annual conferences held in Ann Arbor Michigan in 1980 and it was also during that conference that a method of fund raising was introduced and the members adopted it. The fund raising gave a boost to the organization and to the leadership, that now had funds to execute missions and, help members who needed help. At the next conference in Chicago in 1981, late Apostle Jeffrey Numbere, from Nigeria, was the keynote speaker. The leadership changed, as planned, with hand over to Dr. Joseph Ali who eventually returned to Nigeria to start and expand church planting church ministries in that country as apostolic overseer until his death in 2021.



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In response to the valid complaints that ACSF no longer represented many members who were no longer students, two successive committees headed by brother Sam Umunna (1987) and Dr. Boma Afiesimama received inputs from various members and eventually led to the migration of ACSF to the new organization ACFUSA as it is known today.

By Meshack Ike Ilobi & Sam Ssali  
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