

APOLLOS INITIATIVE

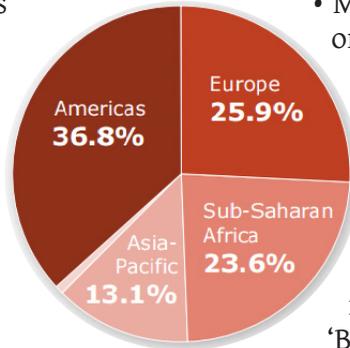
*Daniel & Bethany Robbins investing
long-term in the African Church
through theological education*

apollosinitiative.org

Serge

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

- Sub-Saharan Africa makes up roughly 25% of all Christianity. By 2050, the African church is expected to make up 50% of the global church.



~2010 Global Church~

- Most African pastors will never go to seminary.

- Many African pastors, with little or no formal education to support them, will lead congregations of over 1000 people.

- Only 20% of Africans who receive training in the West will return to minister in Africa. This 'Brain Drain,' costs a country its investment in its brightest leaders.

OUR PLAN

Daniel & Bethany Robbins, along with their children, plan to give their lives to the equipping and maturing of the Malawian Church, in partnership with Serge Missions. Through theological training for pastors and serving leaders within the church, they will invest in gospel-health on the ground for generations to come.

OUR STORY

Daniel & Bethany lived in Malawi from 2007-2009, teaching at a secondary school. Halfway through a seminary degree, their growing family served in a summer long internship at the Theological College of Zimbabwe in 2011. Since then, Bethany became a certified Doula and has been receiving advanced training under Dan Allender as a lay counselor. Daniel graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary (M.Div) in 2013, and has served as Associate Pastor with the wonderful people of Christ Church Bellingham. He also serves his Presbytery by examining and encouraging future ministry candidates through seminary. It's been exciting to see the Lord weave our calling from these threads.

WHO IS APOLLOS?

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ... For we are God's fellow workers.

You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation ... Let each one take care how he builds upon it ... if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest.

1 Corinthians 3

PHASE 1 | CURRENTLY RECRUITING PARTNERS

Our whole family took a vision trip to Malawi & Uganda January 2017 to get to know local churches and needs on the ground. This trip confirmed the need and our calling to invest in the training of pastors, and walk alongside local leaders in mercy ministry. As missionaries with Serge, we are recruiting a support team of churches and individuals to partner with us.

PHASE 2 | PH.D

Instead of the standard 2 years of missionary language training, Daniel has been accepted to the Theology Ph.D program at the University of Aberdeen! We will commence this 3 year program September 2018. We will be devoted to full-time study, and regular involvement with Aberdeen's partnership with Zomba Theological College, in Malawi. Getting a Ph.D allows us to train future trainers, along with current pastors.

“You can teach with a Master’s degree, but you will be under pressure to get a Ph.D from the moment you arrive.”

— Victor Nakah | MTW Int’l Director for Sub-Saharan Africa; Former President, Theological College of Zimbabwe



PHASE 3 | THE LONG HAUL

Upon finishing doctoral studies, we will relocate and join the faculty of a seminary in Malawi. We will focus on settling our family, learning the culture, language, needs, and goals of the seminary and local church. Daniel will do this in the seminary, while Bethany will be coming alongside and learning the challenges faced by local ministries to the sick, fatherless, and vulnerable.

PHASE 4 | MUTUAL UPBUILDING

We are looking for ways to build long-term partnerships between churches and seminaries in the US and Africa. We have yet to see the full benefits of being one body with the global church.

“The need for theological education is crying out because of the prosperity gospel ravaging the African church.”

- Old Testament Lecturer, Department Head,
Africa International University

INVEST IN US, AS WE INVEST IN THE CHURCH

- Like many missionaries invest in 2 years of language training (Wycliffe), we are investing in training which will equip us for a lifetime of ministry.
- Groups like MedSend pay off medical missionary school debts, allowing them to serve freely. There is not yet any organization for theological educators.
- **Independently supported missionaries reduce the costs of educating pastors, and help the Church begin to invest in the hope of its future.**

Laying down our lives together for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by establishing churches and transforming communities.

Serge
Grace at the Fray

STEPS TO PARTNER

1. Learn more on our website:
apollosinitiative.org

2. Pray!

3. Meet with us to get to know each other, and share questions.

4. Click “Give & Join” on our website and follow links to give through Serge. Our giving ID: 51801

Connect with us!

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pray for monthly supporters for living & ministry expenses

15 Churches
@ \$300/month

+

8 Families
@ \$300/month

+

30 Individuals
@ \$50/month