

April 2013

Akrampa's History—Part 1

Dear Friends,

Last month I introduced you to George Kofi Aboagye, one of the oldest men living in Akrampa. George was born in 1918 and was alive while the first chief and founder of Akrampa, Nai Kwao Akrampa, was in charge of the village. When George and I sat together last month and talked, he told me many things about our now mission village that I did not previously know. What a blessing the elders of our community are, for their knowledge and experience! This is the story of Akrampa's history—as told to me by George.

Nai Kwao Akrampa was living in the town of Awutu Bereku, which is about 4 miles from what we now know as the village of Akrampa. Nai (which means Chief) was known as the “Chief Priest”, to the paramount Chief of his tribe. Nai was also known as an Herbal Priest for the medicines that he made—what Americans may call a ‘medicine man’ or healer. And he was known as a Fetish Priest, meaning he worshiped many ‘gods’. Nai worshiped the god, Apra, which was the god of the Chief and the people. Also, Adoko the fertility god, that Nai believed helped him to make barren women able to have children. Wianda was a special god that provided protection to farmers and hunters. Nai also had a god that he believed helped the fisherman with a great catch each time they went out. And the god that sat at the entrance to the village was known as Amaga. It was brought from the East, and was a god of protection for the village and its inhabitants.

The ancestors of modern Akrampa are part of a traditional group of people whose origins are traced from the East, in the area now occupied by parts of present day Nigeria. Recent historical conclusion is that they migrated into Ghana via the ocean. And they brought with them their beliefs, traditions, and trades. Most settled along the coastal belt of the country, or not far from the ocean, so that they could work in the fishing industry. Nai's power and popularity among the people is what led him out of Awutu Bereku, and helped him to be the founder of Akrampa. I will tell you more about how this happened next month. Look for part 2 of our story in the *May Lectern*.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben