

## OLD YIELDS PLACE TO NEW

April  
2016

Dear Friends,

It is exciting to me that this is my 70th letter to you, my friends at FLC and other places in Ohio! Thank you for your continued love and support of our mission in Ghana and of me. This April letter is about change. The change from one head-teacher at the Akrampa school, to our new head-teacher.

Starting in my October 2015 article, until this one, I have been reporting to you that there have been many changes in Akrampa: a new Kindergarten classroom, new teachers, and the government beginning to build a junior high school in Akrampa.

One of the most important changes is that the male head-teacher, whom some I hope would know as Daniel Ahiable, reached his statutory retirement age of sixty years and had begun his retirement process. It was during the final stages of his tenure at the Akrampa school, that the Kindergarten classroom was completed, and he takes pride in adding that to his achievements before leaving.

Mr. Ahiable is the second teacher to head our school, from Kindergarten through Basic (grade) 6., from March 21, 2002 till January 2, 2016, a period of 14 years. This makes him the longest serving head-teacher since the inception of the school. Just before his retirement was due, the District Education authority decided that Akrampa should have a junior high school - Grade 7 to Grade 9 - with him as the head. The government is still in the process of building the junior high school. They are at the roofing stage, but there is still plastering and painting to be done.

To push the government to show commitment to its own decision to build the junior high school, head-teacher Daniel Ahiable caused the commencement of classes for the junior high school age students under the trees on the Akrampa compound. At the time of his retirement the 7th and 8th grade students were having class there.

The school, the teachers and head teachers in the community (of schools under the District Education jurisdiction), the town, the parents and the entire Akrampa School organized a send-off reception in Mr. Ahiable's honor. This took place on February 16, with his wife and family there to witness the ceremony. Presents were given to him, and on behalf of the Mission, I gave him \$45. I wish it could have been more, he has worked very hard for our school!

Daniel plans to live his retirement years in Accra, because this is where he has made his home. He attended the teacher training college here in Accra, married a native woman, that is, one from the ethnic group of Gas (predominant group of people living in Accra) and throughout his itinerary as a teacher has worked within the Greater Accra Region. Daniel himself comes from the eastern part of the country, in an area geographically described as the Volta Region of Ghana.

The OLD Daniel Ahiable, yielded his place to a NEW head-teacher, STELLA COLECRAFT. She was introduced to the Parent Teacher Association of the school by Daniel, together with 6 new teachers. Stella joined the school in September 2015 to understudy Daniel so as to have a smooth change-over, transition. Stella will not stay as long as Daniel did, as head of the school. She is 58 years of age and so only has two years before retirement. I find that a little unfortunate, considering the special circumstance of Akrampa. Next month's letter will be mainly devoted to Stella as the new head-teacher.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben