

December 2010

## Why Akrampa?

Dear Friends,

In this letter I'd like to answer the questions of how and why Akrampa came to be the place of our mission village.

I returned to Ghana in April of 1994 to our town of Saltpond. While waiting to hear from First Lutheran about the missionary job, I was asked by the Lutheran Church in Liberia to assist the Lutheran refugees who had gathered at the refugee camp in Ghana, near the capital of Accra. The refugees were trying to organize themselves into a congregation. So every Sunday I would go there from Saltpond (a distance of 59 miles) by public transportation to preach and have Communion with them. I did this from July of 1994 till December of 1994. By this time I had been given the job of Missionary Pastor to First Lutheran. But, in early December, a young woman who knew about Akrampa suggested that I visit there and assess the chances of doing work there. According to her, Akrampa was a neglected place, that seemed so remote from civilization, even though it was only three kilometers from a town that seemed to be an average, modern town.

I went to see Akrampa and discussed my findings with Dr. Elike Takyi, who had been appointed Administrator of the FLC Mission in Ghana. We told FLC about Akrampa and were blessed to start work there in January of 1995. I went to Akrampa three times a week for most of that year by public transportation, until November when FLC sent money for me to buy a used car! The car was an Opel of GM make, 9 years old, and imported to Ghana from Europe. After only a month, the car was involved in an accident, but it was restored with funds from FLC. I used that car until 2003, when FLC donated the money that bought the then 3-year old Jeep that I currently have! Also during those years my family moved from Saltpond. In 2000 we moved to the town of Kormantse.

Now that Akrampa had become our chosen mission village, and I had transportation to get there, how did I proceed, and what have been the achievements? The answers will come in the next issue of the *Lectern*!

Blessings - Pastor Ben

