

December 2014 #54

A Day in the Life...

Dear Friends,

As the year 2014 ends, we find it necessary to thank God for his mercies and blessings on the Mission here in Ghana! It's been four months since the tragedy of the fire at First Lutheran, Lorain, and we here in Ghana continue to feel the shock, as do all of you. The people in Akrampa, who have been so blessed by your generosity toward the development of their community, have been asking questions that I have no answers to. Questions about why a person(s) would deliberately set fire to our church... We continue to pray for you. And the people here wish that there was something they could do to help with the rebuilding process. We find it appropriate to liken the spirit and attitude of the Family of FLC to that of the Church in Macedonia, who though in much tribulation and poverty, they abounded in joy and gave themselves to the work of God. That you continue to care for and support the poor in your own community and still here in Ghana is a blessing!

Here at the end of 2014, I consider it relevant to mention the blessings that have been received as a result of your support, by the mercies of God. This year, three significant things happened for the benefit of the Akrampa school and its children that make it UNIQUE. First: since 2008 your donations have been feeding the school children two meals a week. But a generous donation by a couple at FLC in 2013 allowed for us to feed the children five meals a week for all of 2014! This gift has not only increased school attendance but erased the hungry looks from all of the children's faces! The government in Ghana has a similar support known as 'School Feeding Program', but it has collapsed. And now in the Akrampa catchment area, ONLY the Akrampa mission school is enjoying food for the children, not from the government, but from you!

The second significant thing to happen to Akrampa in 2014 is the supply of school uniforms to those whose parents had difficulty replacing the torn and old ones. Of the almost 125 children at the school more than a third were attending school in their house attire, not uniforms, and even those clothes were not good. FLC Endowment Funds, and some personal gifts were provided and we were able to get new uniforms for 30 girls and 25 boys! That is another demonstration of awesome love! Now all the children have uniforms and they are beautiful to look upon when they are at school. Again, Akrampa children, in the whole area have become noted for this kind of support from benefactors.

The third significant gift of the year, making Akrampa unique is the provision of computers for the teaching and learning of Intermediate Communication Technology (ICT), which is a compulsory curriculum subject. The government is supposed to supply all schools with the equipment for the ICT class, but less than 3% of the basic schools are lucky to have it. Money from the FLC Endowment Fund was sent for the purchase of five slightly used desktop computers and one, also slightly used laptop computer. Akrampa thus becomes the first Basic Public School in the community to have computers!

These are amazing acts of love, given by First Lutheran, for Akrampa, thus making the town unique. I trust that God in His mercy would also provide for the rebuilding of FLC and amply replace whatever is lost, restoring the congregation to its past glories.

Blessings, Pastor Ben

Review of 2014
Part I