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Dear Friends,

December 2015

This December article, the last of 2015, has two main subjects. One is the happy conclusion of the classroom built for the Kindergarten students at Akrampa, and the other is my family.

This year Akrampa sends "many thanks" back to Ohio and First Lutheran. The Endowment Grant provided the money to build an entire new classroom for the Kindergarten students. That new classroom has now been finished and officially handed over to the school. The ceremony to give the new classroom to the school was a simple one, just as I intended it to be. The local Education Office was represented there by the Circuit Schools Supervisor. The Executive Council of the School's Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), the Chief of the town, and his elders were also present. It was simple and nice. And everyone is grateful to have a new classroom for the small children.

It's been a long time since I wrote about my family and I was thinking that having read about Akrampa, its people, and events among the people, you would agree that some news about my family would be interesting reading. This could also be considered appropriate since the birth of Christ, occurring in December, reminds us about family.

I am happy to say that my family is doing well. Our general health has been good, particularly mine. The last medical trip to the USA has been worthwhile.

My wife Julie is still having migraine headaches. It is difficult for her and sometimes keeps her up at night. Julie has also had to contend with relocation. At the end of 2013, her employer, the Ghana Education Service, effected compulsory transferred of hundreds of its employees who have stayed at one place, or post, for close to 20 years. Julie happens to be one such person. Since our return from Liberia in 1993, she has been at Saltpond, working at the Senior High School as a secretary. She has now been transferred to the city of Accra. Julie is being housed in a place offered to her by the Methodist Congregation where she attends, and she can be with our children Ida and Benjamin who now work in Accra. On the weekends, I join Julie and the children in Accra so that we can spend time together.

Here is the update on our children. Ida successfully completed her National Service and has been working with a local bank, in Accra, on a contract basis. We are hopeful that the several applications she has placed around will result in being employed by one of them. She has been working hard and seems to have endeared herself to people who may be able to help her get a job. The economy is in very bad shape and hiring is at a standstill. Her college degree is in Banking and Finance. She will be 25 years old on December 14th.

Benjamin is 23 years old and completed his college education, this year, with a degree in Economics. He also has found a National Service placement at a bank in Accra. This National Service is for a year, after which he will also have to look for employment elsewhere. He wants to remain with the banking industry.

Isabella (who was attacked by burglars some two years ago) has recovered from the trauma but still lives in the town where the robbery took place. She is unable to relocate because, just as her mother, Julie, she is employed by the Ghana Education Service as a teacher. Therefore, they are responsible for her placement and transfer. Isabella cannot move on until she has spent five years in one place. We are waiting (in prayer) for her to meet the young man of her 'dreams' to marry her. She is now 29 years old.

Bill is 32 years old. He does work in the IT industry and is currently working with a company that handles networking and data issues. I'm pleased to announce a couple of additions to our family! On May 3, 2014 after I returned from the USA, Bill married a nice woman named Joyce, in a full customary ceremony. This year on May 9, 2015 we welcomed our first granddaughter! Bill and his wife Joyce had a daughter and named her Effie.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of my readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS! May the season bring new hopes for the New Year! Blessings, Pastor Ben

Christmas  
Correspondence  
2015