

Christmas Greetings/Update on Akrampa Kitchen

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 has only a few days left, then it will be history. As a matter of fact, we are only seven days away from Christmas, and already, despite the gloom of COVID-19, that is hanging over our lives (here in Ghana, and all over the world), people are making plans to travel home to meet with family and have reunions.

It is comparable to the great American Thanksgiving season, during which many didn't allow the fear of COVID-19 to prevent them from travelling to meet with family. We saw a lady on the news who was interviewed at the airport (New York, USA, about to embark her plane) and she trusted in her faith and safety measures - because for her, she needed to be with her 95-year-old Grandma.

For most Ghanaians it's the same feeling and attitude. Culturally and in many places in Ghana, this is the time for organizing and contracting marriages. We have more marriages done during this time than burials. The feeling is that this is a time of festivity and celebrations and not for weeping. No matter who it is that is dead, it would have to wait! Those who are living must continue to enjoy life!!

A Christmas Greeting from Ghana:

***"MERRY CHRISTMAS, TO YOU ALL. PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL. AND, THE BLESSINGS OF GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT BE UPON YOU ALL."***

**With Love from:**

- Our entire family: Ben & Julie (and our children) William, Isabella, Ida, Benjamin
- All of the people of Akrampa
- The Akrampa School Children, our 'Little Lambs'

Akrampa's new Kitchen Building update:

Just in the past couple of weeks the last transfer of funds to complete the Akrampa Kitchen Building were sent. I give thanks again for all who gave, especially our precious benefactor who gave the vast majority of the funds for this project. She will forever be remembered as the one who made this project possible! I would also like to extend great thanks to Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church for their most recent donation which was sent in part to finish the kitchen, and the rest will be sent over time to help with the cost of the breakfast program.

I commissioned plaques to hang on the outside of the building to thank the wonderful individuals and churches that helped to make this project a reality. You cannot know what this means to both the people of Akrampa and also the students of the entire district.

If you have missed any of the updates and information on our new Akrampa Kitchen Building, please go to the FLC website and then: Outreach > Ghana > Ghana Archive - and read my October and November articles.

Preparations for the **Dedication and Commissioning of the Akrampa Kitchen** have been underway, and there is feeling of joy in the air. During this time I have been working with the teachers to be sure that I am able to purchase everything they will need for the kitchen. This will include all new appliances, a new stove, all kitchen items, and new furniture will be made. The excitement for not just the actual new Kitchen Building, but also the celebration to dedicate it, is spreading throughout the village.

The Dedication of the new building is now set for the date that will coincide with the return of all the children to school. Soon the breakfast meals for the students will be cooked under very hygienic conditions in our new Kitchen Building, instead of outside under the trees as it has been since 2008 when our breakfast program started. What a blessing! We thank you for the years of faithful giving that has allowed us to feed the children for so many years. And now a brand new building which will improve the health conditions so much more. 2020 ... what a perfect year to improve hygienic conditions surrounding the village and the children!! God's timing really is perfect!

Another huge benefit of the new Kitchen (beside the breakfast meal) is that the students who are taking the Home Arts courses will also have their actual classroom and a fully functioning kitchen ready for use, all in the same building. Currently, the Government's plan is that all the students will be returning to school in January. The Government is also helping to provide the school with adequate resources for the strict adherence of COVID-19 protocols as I detailed in my November article. It's important to get the students back into actual school, as none of our Akrampa children have any access to 'virtual learning'.

Ghanaians (as a nation) have gone to the polls, December 7, and the Electoral Commission has declared the incumbent, Nana Akufo Addo, as president-elect to be sworn in on January 7, 2021. The parliament will also be sworn in on the same day. There are protests from the main opposition party that the elections were rigged in favor of the incumbent, but all the other parties that contested the elections have accepted the results and their leadership have called to congratulate the president-elect.

We pray that the Lord will be with us so we go through the yuletide with the greatest expectation of a prosperous New Year.

God bless you all!  
Pastor Ben