

**February 2013**

## Pastor Ben's Call to Ministry - Part 2

Dear Friends,

In last month's Lectern, I told you about the first of the three personal stages, that I went through in my call to ministry. The second stage of my call to ministry came three years later when I graduated from Teacher Training College and the "Ghana Education Service" placed me in a teaching job in a rural area. I was appointed a confirmed Local Preacher for the Methodist Church in my area. In the Methodist Church of Ghana, a Local Preacher was a Lay Person who was allowed to preach from the pulpit. A Local Preacher for the Methodist Church is a prominent figure in the church's evangelistic efforts both within the church and the surrounding community. Some of the roles that I played in this capacity were: Bible Study Group Leader, Devotional Leader, and member of the Outreach Group. I participated in all of this - and more - for a period of three years. And I must say that those three years helped me to gain a lot of experience which would later become the tools that I used both in Liberia and now in Akrampa. I was very blessed to have the Methodist Church of Ghana choose me as a sponsored candidate to go to Seminary School. Three years of Seminary School led me into the third stage of my calling.

Stage three of my calling to be a Worker in God's Vineyard began upon graduation from Seminary. After graduation I started my ministerial work as a Deacon (Probationer, as it was then called) for three more years. Then in August of 1988, I finally became an Ordained Minister. Shortly after that I joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia as a missionary teacher. I worked with them until civil war broke out in Liberia in 1990. The rest of the story is now, as you say, "history". If you don't know my story past this time, you can read it on First Lutheran's website. Look for the Lectern articles from July and August of 2010.

Blessings, Pastor Ben