

Update & Goals - 2016
Part 2

Dear Friends,

The New Year is already two months old! This makes the fact of life poignantly clear that time and tide waits for no man, and that what one sets his mind to do, the hands and feet, and indeed the entire being must also move in unison and in rhythm to accomplish the goal. My desire to work through the goals and challenges as set out in my January letter are clear and focused. It is my prayer that God will move in the hearts and minds of all in Ohio who love Akrampa and our mission here, to help me achieve our 2016 plans.

As I write this article the children have been back in the Akrampa School now for almost three weeks after their Christmas vacation. Also at this time of year the community is getting organized to return to the farm. They will be preparing the land to receive the early rains, which start at the beginning of the Lenten Season. Indeed, for many years, the first rainfall occurs on Good Friday, and when it does, it is taken as a signal that God will bless the land with good yields on the farm.

The optimism regarding a good crop yield is strong, in the wake of a very intense harmattan, at the close of 2015 leading into early January. --The 'harmattan' is a seasonal change like one of your four seasons. It is the dry, cold winds that come from the northern hemisphere. The winds are dry because as they come over Europe and across the deserts of North Africa, they lose their cold moisture content to become dry cold winds. -- When the harmattan is experienced as it was this year, there is the belief that there is an eighty percent chance of not only good yields on the farm, but a bumper fishing season.

These weather patterns positively affect the mood and outlook of the people of Ghana and the village of Akrampa. There is a strong expectation that hard work will be rewarded. This would be a great season to begin the raised garden project that I talked about in my January article. I continue to pray that many will donate to help the village in this way. Please ask Pastor Jimmy how you can help.

In my December letter, I was able to tell you about formally handing over the new Kindergarten classroom, financed by the Endowment Fund, to the Akrampa School. Now we can say that First Lutheran has donated a full complement of a Basic School for the people of Akrampa: Kindergarten through Grade Six. The entire school building is in good condition except for a few doors. Three of the doors need to be replaced because they are weak due to constant banging by the children over all the years that the school has been in existence. My intention is to ask the District Education Office in Ghana to intervene and help replace the doors.

The school now has a new head teacher, a woman, who has come to take over from the retiring male head teacher. Six new teachers have also been added to the Akrampa School, as some older teachers were transferred to other schools. Even though FLC built our school, it is considered part of the public school system. And here, public school teachers are hired, placed in schools, and paid by the central government.

Praying always for our friends at FLC and in Ohio.

Blessings, Pastor Ben