

Education Changes Everything for Akrampa: Part 2

Dear Friends,

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God continues with us, also in the New Year. Most of us have been spared the worst of the calamities that have happened elsewhere in the world, particularly in Turkey and neighboring regions as far as Lebanon. Deaths in the region of 50,000 people and more have been reported, and many wounded, while we have been spared. For me, this is a poignant reminder that because of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, those of us who are spared of any such things are supposed to take lessons of the brevity and uncertainty of life and accept Christ as Savior (2 Peter 2:9), and escape the wrath of God (Hebrews 10:31).

Over the course of the past few months, my once-a-month letters have fallen behind for a myriad of reasons. Now, I am using this letter to get caught up, by calling this my February and March letter combined! Thanks for understanding.

In my January letter, I spoke about the **impact** that the school in Akrampa is creating, and the subsequent education the children are receiving to prepare them for their respective futures. I felt that you needed to hear about how your **support**, towards bringing education to the doorsteps of the people is affecting individual lives and the entire community. Mention was made of the attraction of the school in the neighborhood thus encouraging even non-indigenes to build their home and settle among the people, causing the population to grow. We looked at the availability of utilities such as **water** (provided by FLC), and **electricity** from the national grid, that primarily promotes the growth and development of a community.

Health Care

Our arrival in Akrampa, approaching almost 30 years ago now, has been phenomenal because of the Word of God. We preached the Word right from the beginning and taught the people that God's love covers all aspects of our lives; economically, socially, domestically, and above all, spiritually. On the social aspect, we are happy to see that not only has the government added to the infrastructure of the school - building the junior high school block of classrooms - but has also

introduced a **mobile health care** unit operated by the district health team from the district office in the main town of Awutu Bereku.

This Health Team is formed from the type of nurse we know as Community Health Nurses. Their primary responsibility is to bring **first aid** and to diagnose diseases and refer the people to the main Clinic in the town, where doctors and other medical practitioners and specialists may be found. Among their other functions is that of providing **prenatal and postnatal** care to pregnant women and women with new babies. They administer the first vaccines that the babies need right there at the doorsteps of their homes. This is particularly helpful since it is difficult for many of them to carry their newborn babies to the Clinic.

Before we arrived, the people suffered from several treatable diseases. In one special case, many years ago, I had to **forcibly intervene** when one of the women had tuberculosis. At that time, the people of Akrampa didn't know that tuberculosis was curable. Due to their (previous) lack of knowledge, they used to consult the native doctors who would use crude means, at outrageous costs, like sacrificing sheep and goats to appease the gods, and take away curses on the one afflicted. Their belief was that tuberculosis was from the devil and only incantations could cure it, or that the sins of the person so affected had to be appeased with bloody sacrifices. Needless to say, many of them died. When they agreed, and I took over, I carried the woman in my car to the hospital, where she was admitted for a week. To complete the course of her treatment, I would travel from Saltpond (41 miles away) to Akrampa, take her to hospital (in Winneba, 15 miles away) for the injections, and back to Akrampa, before finally going home to Saltpond where my family was living at that time. I did this, daily, for three months. God Bless FLC for purchasing the first car for me, that made this possible. After the full treatments, she was completely healed. This was the most significant thing that made the people of Akrampa deny the power of the local god and begin to acknowledge the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord has indeed been good, to me and to the mission, among the people of Akrampa. Praise be to His glorious Name.

Pastor Ben Wilson