

January 2014

A Day in the Life - Reporting from Texas - Part 2

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As you read this, it is the beginning of 2014, and I am writing to you from New Braunfels, Texas. As I mentioned in my December article, I am in Texas for my health issues to be taken care of by Dr. David Templin, husband of Amy (Johnson) Templin. Again I'd like to thank the congregation of FLC for your continued prayers, love, and financial support that has made this medical trip possible for me. I'd like to use this article to update you on my health issues and talk to you about my goals for Akrampa in 2014.

To date, after X-Rays, laboratory tests, and physical examinations, Dr. Templin has decided to start my treatment slowly. It seems that there are problems in both my hip and spine. Dr. Templin has prescribed physical therapy and acupuncture as the first course of treatment while he investigates other options, before considering hip surgery. He is of the view that the pain emanating from my back and spine have to be dealt with first. In that effort, he has referred me to a Pain Specialist, Dr. Eric Miller, who has given me steroid injections and pain medication to help deal with the pinched nerves in my back. From my personal point of view, the acupuncture is doing a lot of good for the pains in my back. All of the doctors ask me "How is the pain level today?". I would say that when I first arrived here, the pain was always an 8, 9, or 10 on the pain scale. Now my pain level will sometimes go down to a 5. That is a significant change. Although each day I still have pain, I pray that the Lord will touch all of my doctors here, and all of these procedures to help me return to my work and family in Ghana by the end of February. My travel visa from Ghana expires in March of 2014.

When I return to Ghana, I'd like to begin with 3 areas of focus for 2014. First, the Child Sponsorship program. Over the years, many brilliant but horribly poor children in Akrampa have been 'delivered' because they were adopted by you. Your monthly support has given them chances for advanced schooling and careers that they never would have had otherwise. Jesus said "Suffer the little children to come to me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). This is a topic I will tell you more about in future articles. Second, I'd love to expand the Breakfast Program. We currently give the students 2 meals a week. And just that has made a significant, positive impact on them. I'd love to increase the number of meals per week. Then, it is my intention to begin to get the students vaccinated against some of the diseases that plague the community. I am going to collaborate with local health agencies in this effort. I believe that with you, the Kingdom of God will continue to be among the people of Akrampa, and in their lives, until Jesus returns.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben