

January 2015

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A Day in the Life ...

Dear Friends,

The year of 2014 was full of challenges and successes. We have been blessed so much, in so many ways, and continue to see the mercies of God and His hand upon the mission work. Let me highlight a few of the wonderful things that God has done for us. And then I will tell you about the topics of some articles to come.

Blessings in 2014 began with the increase in the support for the school breakfast program, which has changed the circumstances of the school and subsequently the outlook of the people of Akrampa. I deem it relevant to provide some evidence of the blessings of the increase in support for the breakfast program.

Statistical information provided indicates that in the 2013/14 academic year the total population of students was 130. This was made up of 77 boys and 53 girls. But, with the increase in funding for the breakfast program, the total school population changed to 162 students. The ratio is now 94 boys and 68 girls. This is an increase of 32 pupils, 24% of the total in contrast with the previous year's assessment.

This is phenomenal considering the fact that other schools in the same area are suffering from de-population. The food support and the uniforms provided by FLC have caused these dramatic changes. Even with this, some of the parents are showing concern that more children who could go to school continue to wander around because their parents cannot afford to maintain them in school.

December 12, 2014 was a significant day that showed how appreciative the Chiefs, Elders, and the community of Akrampa are for the gift of the computers for the school. We had a meeting, at their request, during which they asked me to extend their deepest gratitude to First Lutheran Church for this, and all that the church has done for the people, and particularly for the school in 2014.

In our cultural situation, it is at the close of the year that such gestures are made. They have asked me to say to all of you: "YEDA MO ASE PII" (YEDA means we; MO means you; ASE means thank; PII means greatly and from the depths of the heart).

In referring to our local cultural sensitivities, it provides the platform for me to start a new series of articles for you that will help you understand our cultural inclinations. For us as Ghanaians, birth, naming a child (Christening) and funerals are very personal issues which connect us with the ancestors and help us relate to the present philosophically. I will endeavor to make my next articles as meaningful and detailed as possible.

It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to give grace in the efforts put in place to build a new church building. Akrampa says they are praying fervently with you in this.

Blessings, Pastor Ben

Review of 2014  
part 2