

Children Return to School

Dear Friends,

The year 2021 has come and we are thankful to God for His constant faithfulness and mercies. We, like all mankind, continue to pray that the message of the angels to the world on the night when they announced the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, to the shepherds watching over their flocks, would be realized: The angel said:

"Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people ... - ... on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests" (Luke 2:10, 14).

We continue to pray that the gloom caused by COVID-19 will be lifted and joy will begin to fill our hearts and minds and the peace of God will rest upon us. In anticipation of peace and joy we pray that God will touch the world again and help us, so our lives can return to normal.

In working toward the goal of "normal", the government of Ghana has decided to send all students back to school. Starting Monday January 18, 2021, all levels, from pre-school (creche) through Kindergarten, basic and tertiary (1st to 9th Grade) institutions are going back to school. Our school system from the secondary school to some tertiary (10th - 12th Grade, and some Junior High) are considered boarding schools, where students live on the campus until the end of the term/semester.

The government contracted a company with the requisite tools to fumigate and disinfect all boarding institutions throughout the nation. The government has also promised to provide the necessary PPE (washing stations, supplementary nose masks, hand sanitizers) to all students. However, when any students is reporting at the school, he or she will have to go with a face mask.

Our Akrampa school, (Kindergarten through 9th Grade), is not a boarding institution. To ensure that our children are safe and the school has adequate PPE (Personal Protection Equipment), I intend to liaise with the School Administration to help fill in wherever is needed should the government's supply become inadequate.

Prior to the Covid-19 shutdowns, the schools' curriculum had run on a term of about three months per term and a total of three terms in the school year. Now it is going to be changed. Starting now, the schools will run on a semester basis of about four and a half months, with two semesters per year. That is going to affect the Breakfast Meal schedule and other related aspects of the mission's work, but we are preparing now to be ready for it.

In next month's letter I will have more exciting news to share about the new Kitchen Building in Akrampa and the Home Arts course that will be taught in the building. For now, please keep all of the children and teachers in Ghana in your prayers. Please pray for their safety, health, and success at beginning the school year after the shutdowns.

Blessings, Pastor Ben