

## Back to Basics - Agriculture &amp; School Graduation - Part 3

Dear Friends,

In the last two issues (May & June 2018), my articles were meant to help give meaning to the purpose of building raised gardens in Akrampa. It is my hope that the articles have helped bring more understanding to the scope of the mission: to reach the people with the Gospel of Christ and to re-orient their lives to identifying problems and finding solutions to them. This article will focus on another important part of the School, in fact, the most important regarding the objective of setting up the school. The school was set up, as we keep reiterating, to prepare the children of Akrampa for life by bringing education that will provide them with tools and skills to help them live productive and successful lives, now and in the future.

Akrampa School, until the 2012/2013 Academic year, ended at the 6th Grade. Beginning in the 2013/2014 Academic year, a building provided by the Government was added on the same compound as the primary school and began receiving students to do a three-year program, 7th, 8th & 9th Grade. At the end of 9th grade the students are given an examination through a nationwide system. This exam is to determine those who qualify to be admitted into the secondary school for the next level of another three-year program.

Thus, in the 2016/2017 Academic year, Akrampa presented its **first ever** group of students to take the national examinations, becoming the first graduates of the Akrampa Junior High School. Before this building, students had to walk several miles into the town to do the Junior High School Program. This situation was fraught with several challenges, especially the risk of being knocked down by speeding cars since the only way into town is to walk along the main highway. This highway connects the southern part of the country eastwards to our neighbor country of Togo and to Nigeria, and westwards towards the Ivory Coast and to Liberia. Indeed, we lost two children through accidents and some have also been injured. This is the argument we pushed to get the Government to see the need to build this additional facility.

The first graduates to undertake the 2016/2017 National Examination known as Basic Education Certificate Examination (B.E.C.E) was made up of **seven** students, three boys and four girls. The oldest student of this group was a boy who was 21 years old, while the youngest was a girl, 16 years of age.

The B.E.C.E examines the students in the following subjects: English Language, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education, I.C.T. (Computer Studies), Basic Design Technology, and Ghanaian Language. To our great joy and beyond our wildest hopes and expectations, these students scored 100% in their results! Their scores are raising the image and positive reputation of the school to a higher level of appreciation and recognition in the community.

Each of the students got scores that qualified them to enter Senior High Schools: Grades 10 through 12, known as secondary schools. Four of them were able to get help to avail themselves of the opportunity to continue higher education, with the prospects of going to college, to tertiary institutions of higher learning. Already, Akrampa School has become very well known for running a breakfast program that is still active, while that of all the schools around which benefited from a similar program from the Government, have failed.

This year the school has presented its **second class** of 9th grade students for the examination. This group consists of **seventeen** students, fourteen of whom are boys and three girls. The oldest among this class incidentally is also a 21 year boy, while the youngest is a 14 year old boy.

The Kindergarten Class of 2018 has a total of 28 students, an increase from the 19 Kindergarten students of the 2017 class. We have **seventeen** boys and **eleven** girls graduating this year. The oldest is a boy who is 9 years of age. The youngest, aged 6, happen to be twins, a boy and a girl, interestingly named Prince and Princess.

Akrampa School's **graduation day** is on July 11, 2018. It is our fervent hope that just as the first class scored a hundred percent in the national examination, the class of 2018 will also honor the school by scoring highly. If you missed our first graduation, or some of the other wonderful things that the Akrampa School is doing to bring the Gospel of Christ to the students, please refer back in the Ghana Archive (online) to August and September of 2017. It is my hope that these stories of success in the lives of the children at our mission school fill you with joy! Mission work is God's Work - Our Hands.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8. In this verse Jesus gave all of us, not just the apostles, the "mission" to go into the world near and far, and to the ends of the Earth to spread the Gospel. We are "on mission" because Jesus always was, and still is "on mission", teaching the entire world about the saving love, forgiveness and Grace of the Father.

The congregation of FLC and friends of our Ghana mission have made Acts 1:8 a reality in Akrampa, Ghana. Since 1994, I have been blessed to be part of the hands and feet of Jesus, in partnership with FLC to lead our mission. Please continue to pray for our Ghana mission. And please pray about your giving for the mission. It is only with your faithful, loving and generous gifts that we keep the Ghana mission running and serving our Lord and Savior. May God bless you this summer.

Shalom, Pastor Ben