

June 2013

## Akrampa's School Breakfast Program

Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings from my own family and the families of the children of Akrampa! I'd like to tell you about the Breakfast Program at the Akrampa mission school. It began in the summer of 2008 when Pastor Woody came to Ghana on a mission trip with eight friends from First Lutheran. They all came to work and help in Akrampa. Before they were to return home, they observed a need in the village. In that group of eight friends, some were parents, and a couple were nurses. They saw without being told the look of hunger on the children's faces when they arrived at school in the mornings. Most of those children had left home without breakfast.



We all agreed that breakfast is the most important meal of the day for any growing child, especially one attending school. Having a program in school that feeds the children breakfast is not a new idea in Ghana. The government has a similar program running in some selected public schools. However, our breakfast program in Akrampa is special and unique because it is solely financed and supported by donations from members of the congregation of First Lutheran.

We began the breakfast program by feeding the children twice a week when they arrived at school. The school does not have a traditional kitchen, so the meal is cooked under a tree on the school grounds. It is a porridge made of either corn or rice, and it is served with a biscuit. The children line up outside and are served by the teachers. They take their breakfast inside and eat in their classrooms. Currently there are just over 130 students at the Akrampa school.

This program is so important for the children! Since it began, the attendance of the youngest children has improved, overall truancy has decreased considerably, the children are more alert and focused during class, and the health of all of the children is better! The Breakfast Program is also a significant contribution to the efforts made by the parents to feed their children and maintain them in school.

Due to more recent increases in food prices, we have struggled lately to maintain two meals a week for the children. Currently we can only afford one meal a week for all of the children. The Breakfast Program has brought so many positive changes to the school. We would like to ask for your help in keeping it running at the level of two meals a week for all of the kids. Please pray for our students, and if you are able to donate to help feed the students, you would be such a blessing! Please mark your envelopes and/or checks "Ghana Breakfast Program."

Thank you!  
*Pastor Ben*