

March 2013

Akrampa's History—Introduction

Dear Friends,

I am blessed to be able to introduce you to Mr. George Kofi Aboagye. At age 95, George is one of the oldest living members of our mission village of Akrampa. I spent some time with him recently listening to him tell stories about his own life, and also the dark and interesting history of Akrampa. George was born March 3, 1918. He's the 5th of 9 children, to his mother, Maame Ama Agyirba, and his father, Papa Kojo Aboagye, now both deceased. George's parents were natives of the main town of Awutu Bereku which is about four and a half miles from Akrampa. The town of Awutu Bereku was also home to a man named Nai (Chief) Kwao Ak-rampa. He became the founder and first Chief of the village of Akrampa, that is why it bears his name.

Growing up in Akrampa, most of George's older siblings did not attend school because the family was so poor. But Nai (the Chief) strongly urged George's father to send him to school. Nai was beginning to see the beauty of education in contrast to a lot of what was happening in the village. George was small as a child, and an age dispute, along with the family's poverty, further delayed him starting school. George attended 10 years of school over the course of 15 years, from 1928 to 1943, due to his parents' difficulty in paying school fees.

From 1943 to 1946 George lived and worked with his uncle on the then Gold Coast. He was a storekeeper for a chain of stores owned by a local French company. From 1946 till 1962, George lived with another Uncle in the capital city, Abidjan, of the Ivory Coast. There he worked in another store where an English-speaking attendant was needed. In 1962, when the riots started in the Ivory Coast, George returned home to Ghana. After a few years of working for a food production company, George decided to resettle in his home village of Akrampa, Ghana and farm the land. In recent years, George has accepted Jesus Christ, and now attends The Church of Christ in the town of Awutu Bereku. Next month George is going to tell us about the history of Akrampa, and its first Chief.

Blessings, Pastor Ben