

May 2013

## Akrampa's History—Part 2

Dear Friends,

This article will conclude the story of the history of Akrampa (our mission village) and the story of its founder & first Chief, **Nai Kwao Ak-rampa**. If you missed the beginning of the story, please read the March & April articles. In the early to mid 1930's, Nai Kwao was still living and working in the village of Awutu Bereku. As Chief Priest of the traditional area, he was the leader of one of the “warrior” groups called Asafo. In the early days, these groups served as the army for the village and township. Nai Kwao was also the leader of the court executioners. He, among others, was assigned the unfortunate responsibility of putting to death the enemies of the paramount Chief, people who had been found guilty of breaking traditions of the land, and prisoners of war.

In sharp contrast to that job, Nai Kwao was also known as an Herbal Priest, medicine man, healer. So many people flocked to his residence in Awutu Bereku for his healing herbal remedies, that by the late 1930's his practice had grown too large for him to stay at home. Nai Kwao Ak-rampa began to look for a new place to practice medicine. He went out into the forest where he found most of his herbs and built a few huts. Nai Kwao turned the place into a camp or refuge for those seeking his help with physical or spiritual needs. As people in society began to accept the benefits of modern development, like hospitals and schools, some began to find his practices offensive. But so many others who had been sick, and healed by him, moved out into the forest with their families to be near him. They built their own huts, began farming, and made the village their home. They would say what is literally translated as “let's seek ('akra') for life ('mpa')”, or “lets call for life” - Akrampa! As the population grew they felt that the natural choice for Chief should fall on Nai Kwao.

Back then people came from near and far to be healed by Nai Kwao. The ancestors of these people, who currently live in Akrampa, can trace their roots to many different places. Even though he remained the chief executioner of the Awutu King till he died, Nai Kwao's services as a spiritual and physical healer far overwhelmed everything else. After Nai Kwao's death the Awutu King organized the nominations and enthronement of successive chiefs of Akrampa.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Ben*