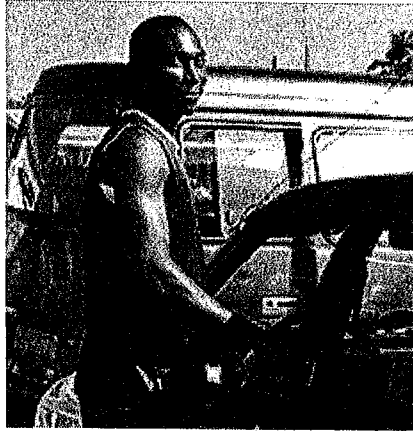


November 2012

Ghana's Schools - Stephen Darko

Dear Friends,

Here is another Akrampa Mission School success story! Stephen Darko (yes, another Stephen) is a 29 year old taxi driver. When Stephen Darko graduated from the Akrampa school he went on to junior high, but did not go to high school. He passed his final exam to be admitted to high school, but his parents could not afford to send him. High school is very expensive for the average family in Akrampa.



Stephen is the third child in a family of nine. He has four sisters and four brothers. Ghana's "basic" educational system takes each child to the junior high level. That is intended to be sure each child can read, write and have basic tools to earn a living for themselves. As recently as 15 years ago anyone in Ghana could obtain a drivers license, or become a professional driver, without being able to read and write! Now it has become mandatory that one cannot drive our roads if you are illiterate. Thanks to the Akrampa Mission School and junior high, Stephen had the basic requisite to qualify to obtain a drivers license.

As a typical Akrampa child, Stephen always knew how to farm and cultivate food. Wanting more for himself was what led him to apply for a three month apprenticeship with a local taxi driver. After the three months he applied to the License Agency, who obtained the license from the government on his behalf. Soon after, he got a job working for a local man who owns many taxis. Stephen walks two miles to work (and back) from Akrampa to Bereku, the main town, six days a week. He works twelve hour shifts, usually starting at 7am. Sunday he goes to church and takes the rest of the day off. Stephen loves his work, and dreams of someday being able to own his own taxi! (See new photos on bulletin board.)

Blessings, Pastor Ben