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A Day in the Life...

October, 2015

Dear Friends,

As promised in last month's article, I have exciting news to share from Akrampal. In this October article, we'll be taking a break from the series on culture and education, to talk about the project on hand: building a new Kindergarten classroom at the Akrampa mission school.

My heart is filled with joy as this project begins, just like it was at the beginning, in 1997/1998, when FLC and I began building the Akrampa school. Prior to that, there was no school at all in Akrampal.

As I am writing this to you, the children of Akrampa have resumed classes from the long vacation, to begin the 2015/2016 academic year. The children are excited to return to school and see the addition to the classrooms on the compound. This new Kindergarten class is made possible by the generous grant from the FLC 2015 Endowment Fund. Before I continue, may I take you back and remind you about how previous Endowment grants have benefited the Akrampa school. The grants have renovated the current school building - floor repairs, plastering, painting and re-roofing of the entire school building. And last year the Endowment grant provided computers for the whole school, and new uniforms for a lot of the students. Thank you so much!

Currently the construction on the Kindergarten classroom is 70% complete. The foundation is laid, the walls are up, the building has been roofed, and the mason has started plastering the inside of the walls. Installing doors, painting, getting the wall for the blackboard ready, and other finishing touches are yet to be completed at the time of this writing. Already the head teacher is very eager for the time when the children can use the new room!

It's a blessing to realize that the Akrampa school is now in its 17th year of operation. Pastor Woody led a group of 8 people here to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the school in 2008. In those 17 years, the Akrampa school has only had classrooms for Grades one through six, and no Kindergarten.

Since the inception of the breakfast program, the school population has increased significantly. Gradually the parents of Akrampa have embraced the need and reason for education for their future development. The success of the Akrampa Mission School has caught the attention of the government, causing them at the District level to intervene and build a Junior High School in Akrampal.

In 2013/2014 the need for a place for the little children became very strong. Thanks to a generous donation from the congregation at FLC we began feeding the children breakfast 5 days a week. This created more congestion in the classrooms. Because of their vulnerability, at their tender ages, the little children used the classroom allocated for the Grade three students. This allowed the little ones to be in a room, under a roof, kind of protecting them from the harsh environment. The Grade three students, consequently, had their classes under a tree.

Building the new Kindergarten classroom is very satisfying, in that even the government building of the Junior High is lagging behind our efforts. Our Kindergarten classroom will certainly finish before the Junior High is finished. My estimation is that our new classroom will be ready for students by the end of October! I thank the church for all of the support!
Blessings, Pastor Ben

Kindergarten
Classroom - 2015
Part I