

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 2

Ghana's Schools

Dear Friends,

As all of our children return to school this fall, both in the USA and in Ghana, I'd like to tell you a bit more about the schools here. I want to focus on the benefits of education among the children. In 2008 the Akrampa Mission School celebrated 10 years in existence. We were blessed to have Pastor Woody and a group of eight congregation members here that year for a mission trip. This year, 2012, marks the 14th year of the Akrampa Mission School, and to date, the school has produced 6 graduating classes! In the October and November Lecterns I am going to tell you about a few of the Akrampa graduates' success stories.

Although our mission school in Akrampa was founded by First Lutheran, it functions here as a public school, not a private one. It is set up with the same curriculum and policies of the other public schools. But it does differ a bit from other public schools. In Ghana children go to two years of Kindergarten, from ages 3-5; this is called Basic Stage. Then the children move on to Primary School which is first through sixth Grade. The Akrampa School stops here, at 6th grade. Most other public schools also have the Junior High School on the same grounds. When the Akrampa students are ready for Junior High, they walk about three miles to the main town each day, to attend 7th, 8th, & 9th grade at another public school.

At this point, any student who wants to advance to Senior High School has to take, and pass, a final examination to receive a "Basic Examination Certificate." If the student passes this test, he or she can go away to Senior High School for another 4 years. If the student does well in the 4 years of Senior High School, they have the chance of going to University (if money allows). Or senior high graduates can also go on to Teacher Training Colleges, Polytechnics, Nursing Colleges, etc. Students who only finish 9th grade and do NOT pass the final examination may decide to enter into an apprentice program to learn a trade and in that way become a professional.

Blessings, Pastor Ben