

Dear Friends,

The *Ghana School Roof Project* is going very well. On behalf of all of the students, parents, and teachers of Akrampa, we send our deepest thanks to each and every one of you who have given financially to help this project, and also our sincere thanks to those of you who have been keeping us in your prayers.

In my *January 2025 article*, I sent to you the first set of photos showing the beginning stages of this project. Now, in this *February 2025 article*, I'd like to share the next set of **new photos**; we'll call this 'Phase Two'. Please note: progress on the project is ongoing, and the 'phases' do not denote a stop in the work, in real time, in Ghana. 'Phases' just create a more organized way for me to send the updates to you, in sections, or batches, to help keep each of you informed. ****Progress on the project, in real time, is a few weeks ahead of each of my updates. I will continue to send you updates throughout the entire process, until the project is complete. Thank you again!**

Some of you may be wondering, if this Roof Project is taking numerous months to complete: *Where are the children learning, and having breakfast, during this time of construction?*

Before any of the construction began, the children's desks were moved out into the school yard, (courtyard), around the school buildings. **ONLY** the Kindergarten through 6th Grade students have been moved outside, as theirs are the 3 buildings that are being worked on (see photos in the following pages of this article). Our 7th-9th Graders, in the Junior High, are still having school inside, as their building is not under construction. The Junior High Building is newer, and was built by the Government of Ghana - starting in 2015 & being completed in 2017.

As for the Breakfast Program: Our Breakfast Meal, for all of the students is cooked in our beautiful new **Kitchen Building**, which has been a tremendous blessing since its completion in early 2021. The Kitchen Building is a classroom for the Home Arts subject, with a fully functioning kitchen. And it is also the answer to prayers as a clean, dry, safe place to cook the Breakfast Meal. The students eat at their desks *in their own classrooms*, or in other areas, both now, and normally, as there are way too many total students to fit into the Kitchen Building all at once.

And how many students are there, you may be wondering?

Enrollment in our Akrampa School is always growing, especially with the youngest children, the Kindergarten students. In my October 2024 article, I shared that, at that time we had 550 students officially enrolled. We've now had an increase of 74 students in the last four months! This is a wonderful thing, to know that we are teaching, feeding, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus with more and more students all the time. But, as everyone knows, feeding our families, kids, and even the students of Akrampa grows more expensive every year. Please continue to stand with us, and help us, as we support the young lives of our students in Akrampa.

Here is the current breakdown of Akrampa Student enrollment as of the end of February 2025

*Kindergarten (KG): Total Students = 70

Lower Primary School Grades:

1st Grade: Total Students = 44

2nd Grade: Total Students = 44

3rd Grade: Total Students = 54

Upper Primary School Grades:

4th Grade: Total Students = 65

5th Grade: Total Students = 66

6th Grade: Total Students = 70

Junior High School Grades:

7th Grade: Total Students = 70

8th Grade: Total Students = 80

9th Grade: Total Students = 61

This is a TOTAL of: **624 Students** officially enrolled in our Akrampa School as of February 2025! That breaks down to the totals of: 302 Boys, and 322 Girls enrolled in our school. And as I shared with you in October, there are always very small children, ages 2-4 who are not yet enrolled in school, (sometimes the siblings of our students), who come around on the days that we feed the students and ask to be fed. Sometimes it's up to 50+ small children additional on Breakfast Days. We feed our students first, and if possible, we feed the smallest children also.

NEW Information on the Ghana School Roof Project:

As with any construction project or renovation, new options and possibilities often arise during the project that may have been unforeseen during the planning stages. If you have read or seen the *first set of photos* of the construction, it's visible that when the OLD roofs came down so did some of the cement work at the roof line. Our **plan** was always to re-do the cement (mason) work at the roof line, to raise the height of the NEW Roofs, to build new support pillars, and to make the pitch of the new roof steeper. When the Old roofs were removed, the Electrical Lines had to be removed from the walls where they connected from the outside. This disconnection is to allow for the new cement (mason) work to be done, and also new plaster work.

Now we come to the unforeseen part of the project: In a way, the disconnection of the electrical lines turned out to be a blessing in disguise. We were always going to have to rerun the electrical lines to the buildings once the New cement/mason/plaster work was done. **Given this opportunity, the contractors and I decided that the best plan is to bury the electrical lines in the ground, inside of a tube, that will protect the lines - and then reconnect the lines to the school buildings.** This is a safety issue for numerous reasons, and will benefit the school more long-term. Ghana has two seasons of heavy rainfall and storms & the electric lines previously hung relatively low over the school yard as they fed into the one-story school buildings. There was always the potential of a line coming down into the school yard where the children play.

These concerns make putting the electrical lines into the ground a common-sense decision. Many of you may have underground electrical lines at your own homes, in the US, and so you understand the value of this decision. We are making all of these other excellent updates to the school, now is the time to make this electrical safety update for the Akrampa School.

Progress on the Akrampa School Roof Project:

Initial removal of the old roofs is done. The new mason/block work is done. The new iron & cement block support pillars are done. These items were shown in my January article.

In real time, in Ghana: the NEW Roofs and NEW Gutters have been installed. The old electrical has been disconnected and preparations are being made for the reconnection and interior wiring. Photos of the installation of the New Roofs are included here, in my February article.

And I will send some New Videos of this progress soon, for the E-News.

There are still *many more things to be done* to finish this project, like: trench digging for electrical wires, the cistern and rain catchment system, install of new doors and windows, painting, etc. I will send photos and updates on all of these things in the coming months.

Now - to share with you the 'Phase Two' Photos: of the Installation of the NEW Roofs, the beginning of other parts of the project, and our precious Akrampa Students:

Please keep scrolling / reading to see: 28 New photos of our School Roof project. Thank you!



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Photo 1 - Shows the end side (facing the camera) of the Lower Primary Block of the school (1st - 3rd Grade), and in the background, to the Left side of the photo, you see a bit of the Upper Primary Block (4th -6th Grade) of the School, without a roof. In front of the Lower Primary Block is one of the construction workers with the **New** metal roofing sheets, getting ready to install them onto the new roof framing. Notice also the new mason work at the roof line, and new support pillars.

Photo 2 - Shows the same things as Photo 1, but from a slight distance away. This allows for you to also see a portion of the Kindergarten (KG) Building (blue & white) on the Right side of the photo.



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Installation of the New Roof for the Lower Primary Block of the school happened on a cloudy day.

Photo 3 - Shows the backside of the Lower Primary - with workers on the left side of the roof, installing the NEW roof. The clouds make it a bit difficult to tell, but the New Roof is Dark Blue in color.

Photo 4 - Shows the same, backside of the Lower Primary, from a slightly different angle, with the workers installing the New roof, left side of photo.

A sunny day brings the completion of the New Roof for the Lower Primary Block - Grades 1st -3rd :

Photo 5 - Is taken from a similar camera angle as Photo 2. But in Photo 5, we see that the NEW (blue) Roof has been completed on the Lower Primary Building. To the left of the Lower Primary Building, our students are out in the yard, at their desks, having class. The KG building is on the right side of the photo.

Photo 6 - The building facing the camera, (left side of photo) is the front of the Upper Primary Block - Grades 4th -6th. This was the first full Block that was built by First Lutheran in the late 1990's. Half of this Block has the NEW roof installed, and you can see behind the trees there is still more work to be done. The edge of the Lower Primary Block is seen in the front right of the photo, along with our students.



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Photos 7, 8, & 9 - Show the OLD Doors that were on both of Upper and Lower Primary Blocks of the school. The doors were in horrible shape, and that is why we added their replacement onto this project.

Photo 10 - While it looks like a pile of scrap/junk This pile of wood is actually what is left of the OLD Frames from the school doors. These doors were no longer safe or doing the job of security, or protection from the elements for the children or the buildings.



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Photo 11 - The top sections of this pile of wood, are the NEW Doors for the classrooms! The New doors will be hung on the classrooms at the appropriate time during the construction process. The large pieces of plywood at the bottom of the pile, are for the ceilings of the classrooms. That plywood will be attached to the ceiling joists on the interior of the classrooms, to create the ceilings.

Photo 12 - Shows the (vertical) chiseling of the interior wall of one of the classrooms. This chiseled out groove will hold the electrical cables and sockets, once the electrical is re-run back into the classrooms. This process will be repeated in all of the classrooms. *See written information about this on Page 2 & 3 of this article.*

Photo 13 - Shows the New (Interior) Ceiling Joists in one of the classrooms, and also shows the underside the New Metal Roof. The plywood, shown in Photo 11, will be attached to those joists to create the new ceilings for all of the classrooms.

Photo 14 - Shows the buckets of New Paint that will be used for the Upper and Lower Primary Blocks of the school. The paint is currently being held in our Kitchen Building, till it is needed. The Upper and Lower Primary blocks of the school will be painted Blue & White to match the Kindergarten Building.



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Photo 15 - Notice the Left side of this photo - where two of our (most adorable) young girl students walk happily hand-in-hand with each other, in front of their school building, while the adults look on from behind. The students are so excited about all of the changes to their school! Photo 15 shows: the new Support Pillars, new mason work at the roof line, the new roof line, and the NEW Gutters. Also, in this photo you can see how the doors on the school are missing, and will be replaced with new doors (shown in Photo 11).

Photo 16 & 17 - Show the NEW Gutters, installed, on the school buildings. Most buildings in Ghana do Not use a Gutter system, so by putting gutters on the Akrama School it is a wonderful improvement to the function, and will help to slow the erosion around the school. The people of Akrama, say that this is: "Elevating the status of the school." Photo 16 & 17 show the new mason work at the roof line, and the underside of the New Metal Roof sheeting. Also shown are the downspouts, from the gutters, that will be attached to pipes that will feed into the Rain Catchment System & a Cistern in the ground. That will be installed later in the progress of this project.



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Photo 18 - Shows the construction team installing the New Roof on the Kindergarten (KG) Building.

Photo 19 - Shows a side view of the entire Kindergarten (KG) Building. The Left side of the building was newly built in the spring of 2024. It was an addition, built onto to the older part of the building, to make more space for our growing KG population. The Green Roof was installed new on the building in 2024, when it was constructed. --Now, if you look at the Right side of the building, that is actually the Old section of the KG building, but it has had a lot of work done on it during this project. The Right side of the building has New masonry support pillars to create a matching outdoor walkway, and to extend the roofline. The Right side of the building also has the NEW (blue) Roof, as part of our *2025 Ghana School Roof Project*. (The 'before' photos of this were in my January article.)

Photo 20 - Shows the backside of the (yellow) Lower Primary Block (1st - 3rd Grade), on the Left side of the photo. The NEW Roof is complete on this building!! Also, shown is a front view of the entire Kindergarten (KG) Building, with the blue and white paint. Again, showing the Green Roof as the newly built section, behind the tree. And the New Blue Roof covering the old section of the building. Both parts of the Roof are also complete on this building!



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These photos: 21 - 24 show a few different angles, and parts of the school.

Photo 21 - Shows the backside of the Lower Primary (1st - 3rd Grade), with its New Roof and new support pillars. It also shows some of our students out in the yard, at their desks, during class.

Photo 22 & 23 - Both show the Front of the Upper Primary Block (4th - 6th Grade) with the New Roof and Gutters installed. The New Roofs on this building are complete! Some of the construction materials are still seen, as the project overall is still ongoing. And we see a few students out in the yard, which is now doubling as a classroom for them during construction.

Photo 24 - Shows a new angle of the school that you have not seen yet. The edge of the building shown on the Left side of the photo is the back corner of the Lower Primary Block. The longer length of the building that is shown throughout the middle of the photo is the backside of the Upper Primary Block. Children are seen under the trees, having their classes. There are a few children standing near the steps, this is a walkway that goes between the blocks of the Lower and Upper Primary. This walkway between the Upper and Lower Blocks can also be seen in Photo 22, in the lower Right-hand corner of Photo 22.



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Photo 25 - Shows our students during class outdoors with their teacher. Behind the students: to the Left side of the photo is the front of the Upper Primary Block, facing the camera and to the middle-right of the photo is the front side of the Lower Primary Block. Both have their New Roofs fully installed, and these sides of the buildings have their New Doors installed also.

Photo 26 - Shows some of our younger students in their outdoor classroom with their teacher. If you look behind the students, there is a *large yellow building* - this is our **Kitchen Building!** The Kitchen Building was built in 2020/2021, and its incredible value to our Mission is discussed on *Page 1 of this article*.

Photo 27 - Shows another one of our classes of students and teacher, outside, due to the construction. If you will notice, in Photo 27 and also in Photo 26, there are numerous small wooden huts behind the students. We describe these tiny buildings as the 'Market Place' for the school. This place is set apart for some of the women, who are identified and allowed, to sell other food for the students who have money and can afford to pay for *extra meals* sold on the school grounds. This 'Market Place' and the Breakfast Meal provided through the Mission are the only sources of food on the school grounds. Not all of the children can afford to buy the extra food that is sold. Most of the students still fully depend on the Mission Breakfast Program. And **every child** is fed from our Mission Breakfast Program, regardless of their ability to purchase food from the 'Market Place'.

From Page 10:

Photo 28 - (above, on Page 10) -Shows still another one of our outdoor classes in session with their teacher. Please notice, behind the student's desks, to the back **Left side** of the photo, is a long yellow building. This is the **Junior High Block (7th - 9th Grade)**. This is the only photo of the Junior High Block. The Junior High was built by the Government of Ghana in 2015-2017, when the Government realized how much the village of Akrampa was thriving. This is a testament to Jesus, and to all of the supporters of our Ghana Mission, that our little village is doing so well, that the Government took notice!

The Junior High Block is Not included in our *2025 Ghana School Roof Project*, because it was Not built by our Mission partners (FLC, Bethesda, & our individual Friends of the Mission).

This concludes the photo update for 'Phase Two' of the project. I will be sending VIDEOS to you soon, to go along with the progress of Phase Two. Stay tuned to the E-News for the videos.

At this time, fundraising for the *Ghana School Roof Project* remains open, for anyone who may still want to contribute. We know that every dollar that you earn is precious, to feed and care for your own families. But if you are able, and willing, please know that 100% of every dollar you give to our mission goes directly to Ghana.

IF we have money left over from this fundraising, at the end of the *Ghana School Roof Project*, that money will be directly transferred over into the *Ghana Breakfast Fund*, and will go to feed our students.

Thank You - each of you - for understand how much it means to everyone in Akrampa that you care enough to help our students and our school! Thank you for giving, and thank you for PRAYING for us!

Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson
-with assistance from Kristen Anthony, Ghana Committee Chair