

Dear Friends,

In this March article, I'd like to share with you my third update on the progress of the *Ghana School Roof Project of 2025*. Let's call this the 'Phase Three' update.

New Paint for the exterior of the school buildings:

As you saw in my photos in last month's article, all of the New Roofs have been installed. We chose a **dark blue color for the metal sheets of the new roofs**, to go along with the **new paint colors**. In the spring of 2024, when the addition was constructed onto the Kindergarten Building, we painted the whole building blue and white. The older school buildings of the Upper and Lower Primary Blocks, have been a dark yellow color for many years, and we planned ahead to change that during this new Roof Project. I'm happy to now report that after the new roofs were installed on the Upper and Lower Primary blocks of the school, both buildings received new paint, in the colors of blue and white, to match the Kindergarten Building, and to coordinate really well with the New dark blue metal roofs. The blue and white paint on the Kindergarten building was also touched up, after the construction of the new support posts and new roof, during this current project.

I'm happy to share with you that while we were painting the Upper and Lower Primary Blocks, and touching up the paint on the Kindergarten Building, we were also able to paint our Kitchen Building. The Kitchen Building was built in the years of 2020/2021, and at that time it was painted dark yellow to match everything else. Now, it has been refreshed, and the Kitchen Building is also blue and white to match the new paint on the other buildings. This was very exciting for the students and staff of Akrampa. I will share photos in this March article of the newly painted buildings.

The New Doors have also been installed onto the classrooms. This is wonderful, and helps with safety, security, and keeping the classrooms clean and dry. I shared some photos of that in my last (February) article. There is one woman, from Connecticut, who donated money to our *2025 Ghana School Roof Project* and when she sent her donation, she specified that she wanted her donation used for the new doors. I'd like to thank her very much for that thoughtful gesture!

Clean Drinking Water: the 3rd source being added to Akrampa:

Since my return home to Ghana, I have been researching and talking with people in the local surrounding communities about a possible 3rd source of fresh, clean drinking water for our Akrampa School and students.

Here is a quick history of the problem, and the current & ongoing solutions for Akrampa:

Everyone agrees that having fresh, clean water at all times is a necessity for all life! At the very beginning of our mission in Akrampa, in the late-1990's - the students and the overall community were getting their drinking water from "the wild", they were collecting water from ponds, and stagnant pools of water around the village.

None of that water was clean, and **in the past**, disease ran rampant, even killing a large number of infants in the village. **In 2009**, First Lutheran Church facilitated a fresh water 'pipe' of water to be brought into the village. This action literally hooked the village of Akrampa up to what Americans would call *city water*, for the very first time. Akrampa's fresh 'city water pipe' comes from the government of Ghana, and is hooked up to the city water from the nearest large town outside of Akrampa. The problem is, that sometimes the pipe does not run. Sometimes there is no water. This is a government problem and beyond the control of myself or anyone in Akrampa.

During the planning stages of our *2025 Ghana Roof Project*, while I was in Ohio, it was decided that we would (for the first time ever) add Gutters to the New Roofs on the School. These gutters will be hooked up to pipes that will capture rainwater, and drain them into a newly created cistern. This rainwater will be able to be filtered for drinking water, thus becoming a **2nd clean source of water**. It could also be used for other purposes in the school and village if needed. As with anything, it was necessary for us to examine the pros and cons. The main thing we discussed as a possible downside to this Rain Catchment/Cistern system is that, if there is not enough rain, then there will be a lesser amount of water, or none. Since only God controls the rain, this water catchment system will be wonderful, but still there are aspects that will be beyond our control.

These things led me to begin researching and talking with local people in the surrounding areas of Akrampa, and a drilling company. I met with the FLC Ghana Committee (via Zoom) for their 3/2/25 meeting and shared with them that I wanted to bring a 3rd source of fresh water to the school. The **Ghana Committee agreed**, and because of the generosity of all of you, in giving for our School Roof Project, we had enough money to add on this *lifesaving gift of more clean water*.

Borehole (well) Water System:

What is a Borehole / Borewell System?

A borehole is a narrow shaft bored into the ground, most often vertically, (and sometimes horizontally). A borehole may be constructed for many different purposes including the extraction of water - sometimes also called a drilled water well or a tube well.

A "borehole/borewell" is considered better than a traditional well, when a reliable and consistent water source is needed. The PIPE is drilled deep into the earth, usually through the rock, to access deep aquifers which provide a steadier supply of water, especially during dry seasons. (A *traditional well* is typically shallower and can dry up faster than a borehole.) Borehole water is also less susceptible to surface contamination, and can sometimes contain higher levels of healthy dissolved minerals due to its deep origins underground.

This will be the **3rd source** of clean drinking water for our Akrampa School & students.

Above ground, the borehole pipe could be attached to a hand pump, if desired. But we will have an electric pump that will pump water into a large storage tank. Our Akrampa Borehole has been drilled in a location behind the Kitchen Building, and electric from the Kitchen Building will power its function. **This will provide clean water full-time to our Kitchen Building, where we cook the Breakfast Meal for the children, three times a week, and also hold classes in Home Arts.**

Photos and Videos:

In **this article**, I'm sharing with you some photos of the newly painted buildings, the children helping to get the classrooms ready again, & the new borehole/borewell, and some adorable kids. These are the newest photos to demonstrate what I have shared with you in the article above.

I will also be sending multiple sets of New VIDEOS over the course of the next few weeks, so please continue to watch your email, for the E-News, from either FLC or Bethesda, that will contain the new videos. The children of Akrampa are so grateful for your support, and so am I. Thank you!

Please continue to scroll down to see:

28 New Photos - of 'Phase Three' of the Ghana School Roof Project!



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Photo 1 - You may remember this photo from last month's article: An adorable candid shot of two of our youngest students walking, holding hands, in front of the school construction. This photo received such a great response, that it was requested that I find these two sweet girls and get a better photo of them.

*The girls were a bit camera shy, as they are *rarely* photographed ...

Photo 2 - Introducing these two adorable students to you: Please meet:

(Left) **Musliyat Akom Nyame**, in the RED flowered dress, she is 5 years old. (in Photo 1, she's in blue)

(Right) **Enyonam Amanu**, in the WHITE flowered dress, she is 4yrs, 4mo. old.

Both girls are in Kindergarten at our Akrampa School. They are not related, but met at school and became best friends. They are always seen together, playing, having fun, and often holding hands.

Also, in Photo 2: (Left), myself (Pastor Ben) - & (Right), this is **Eva**, the Headteacher of Akrampa School.



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Photo 3 - Here is another photo of our students having class outside, while the school was under construction. There wasn't space for it in my last article, but we still wanted to share this photo with you.

Photo 4 - This photo was also taken during the heat of construction, showing the Kindergarten building (without a roof) off to far Left side of the photo, with parts of the Akrampa village in the background. My beautiful wife, Julie, is standing to the far Right, in the black and white dress. Seated, is the *very first teacher* that the Akrampa School ever had: **Mrs. Mercy Abbeyquaye**. Mercy has been my assistant and most trusted helper with the Akrampa School for 30 years. A student is seen sitting next to Mercy.



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Photos 5 & 6 - Both show the main road that leads toward the mission village of Akrampa, from Accra, where Julie and I live. This main road has been under major construction since we arrived home in December. It makes my drive to Akrampa take much longer, and it has become a very bumpy & difficult drive. The road was really never 'good' to start with, but it has become even worse during construction.

I thought you might like to see what my commute to work looks like, in Ghana.



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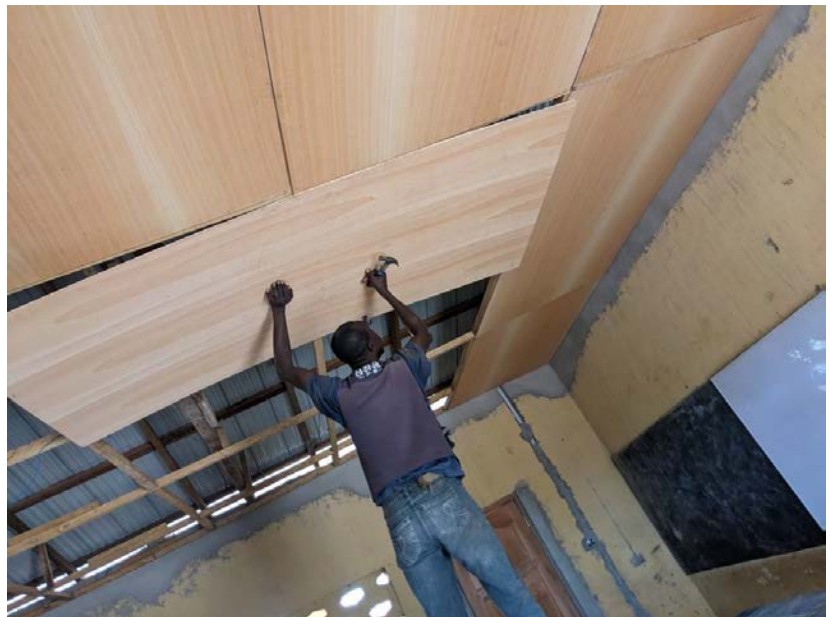


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Photos 7 & 8 - Both show the electrical lines that have been re-run back into the interior classroom walls, after the construction phase of the project had been completed. Light switches and electrical outlets will be installed here. Note at the roof line, the new mason work, and also the new roof is installed. The children look on, as the work is progressing.



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Photos 9 & 10 - Both photos show the carpenter installing the plywood that will become the new ceilings, in the interiors of the classrooms. The new mason work at the roof line is done, the new ceiling joists have been installed, the electrical has been re-run, and the new roof is complete. A teacher stands in the doorway in Photo 9, in front of one of the newly installed doors.



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Photos 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 - The older students of Akrampa were tasked with sweeping out the construction debris from the interior of the classrooms. They were happy to help, knowing that it moves them one step closer to getting back into their classes. Notice the New doors, also.



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Photos 17 & 18 - Both photos show the back side of the Lower Primary Block (1st- 3rd Grades). The cloudy day makes the New roof look more like silver, but it is really a dark blue. Please notice that the school has now been Newly painted, blue and white! The children mill about outside of the school.



19



20

Photo 19 - In the *center/left of the photo*, is the front of the Upper Primary Block (4th- 6th Grades) On the *far right of the photo*, you see the front side & edge of the Lower Primary Block (1st-3rd Grade) The New Roof is fully installed, in dark blue, on both blocks of the school, although the color doesn't show well on the cloudy day when this photo was taken. Please notice that both blocks of the school have been Newly painted blue and white!

Photo 20 - Shows the full Kindergarten Building, with children out front. The *entire Left side of the building* was built new in the spring of 2024, as an addition to the original classroom. This addition was started by the parents and community, & when money ran out, a family in Ohio gave the rest of the money to complete it. When this new addition was built, we painted it blue and white, and it became the inspiration to paint all of the buildings blue and white. The *Right side of the building* was the original small Kindergarten classroom. We had too many small children and really needed the addition. During this *2025 Ghana School Roof Project*, the original side of the classroom received new support pillars out front to match the left side, and it received a New Roof, and matching blue & white paint. Now the Kindergarten building is complete.



21

Photo 21 - This photo is taken looking at the end/edge of the Lower Primary Block (1st- 3rd Grades). This end of the Lower Primary Block bears the name of **First Lutheran Church**. On the *Left side of the photo*, you can see part of the Upper Primary Block (4th- 6th Grades). Both the Upper and Lower Primary Blocks of the school were the first school buildings to ever be built in Akrampa. They were both paid for, in full, by First Lutheran Church. (See photos 17- 19, for a bit of context as to how these buildings are set up in relation to each other). To the *Right side of this photo*, you can see part of the Kindergarten Building. All three buildings have been Newly painted blue and white, and the New Roofs are complete.



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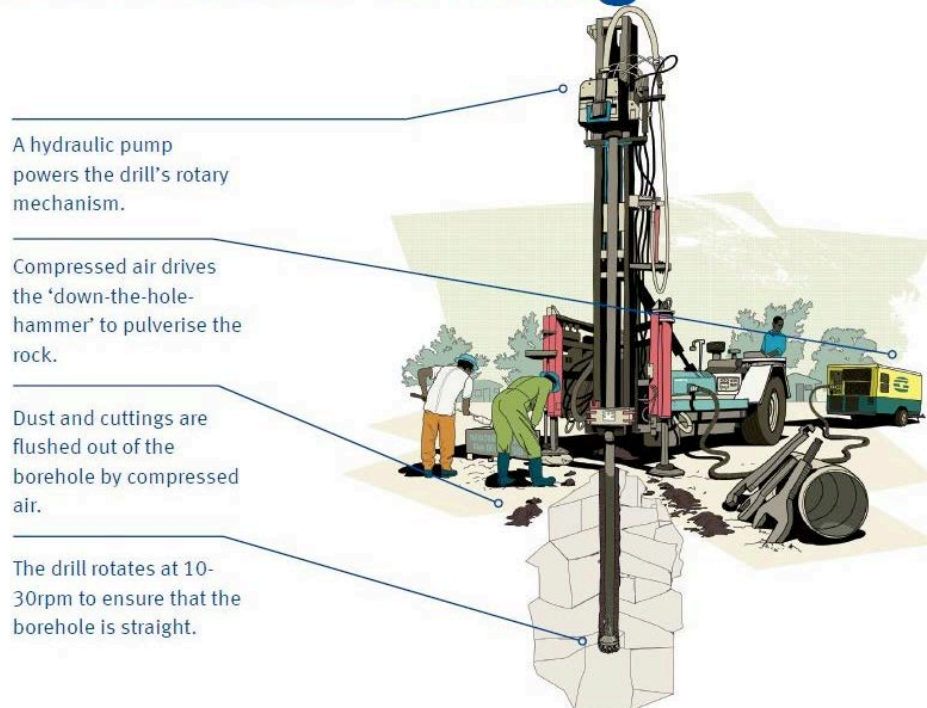
Photo 22 - Is the front view of the **Kitchen Building**. This was built in 2020/2021. It is used to cook the **Breakfast Meal**, three times a week, for the students. And it is used as the Home Arts Classroom for the older students. It received a fresh coat of blue and white paint during this current project.

The Borehole:

The next set of photos will be of the beginning stages of the Borehole (borewell). At the time of writing this article, the Borehole project is not fully completed. Additional photos of the progress will be shown in my next (April) article. And please watch the E-News as I will be sending VIDEOS of the progress, and also showing how this wonderful gift of water actually works, technically, and to help the students.

Here is a 'general example diagram', to give you a bit of information, before our Akrampa photos:

Borehole drilling



Akrampa's Borehole

Thus far, our **Akrampa Borehole** has been drilled.

Our Akrampa Borehole pipe was drilled 150 Feet below the surface of the ground.

The pipe went through/past, the water table, or "ground water", where most traditional wells stop.

Our Borehole pipe is drilled down through the clay/rock, into the "aquifer" below, which is defined as an underground reservoir of fresh water.

The blockwork around the top of the Borehole (well head) has been laid, and the first stages of the electrical components for the electric-powered head have been put in place.



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Photo 23 - Shows the drilling truck at the Akrampa School, to drill the Borehole. It is behind our Kitchen Building. In this photo, you see the edge of the Kitchen Building, on the right side of the photo. At this time, the Kitchen was still painted the dark yellow color.

Photo 24 - In the foreground, or front of the photo: you can see the Square, raised blockwork that is the protection around the Borehole and all of its mechanical parts that lie inside. The building behind it, is our Kitchen Building, now painted the new blue and white.

When all of the mechanical, and electrical work is complete, the Kitchen Building's electric will power the Borehole pump, which will just be a small box. I'll send more photos of this once this portion of the project is complete.

The Borehole, and all of its components, once complete, will allow water to flow into our Kitchen Building, to provide for the cooking of the Breakfast Meal, three times a week.

Water in the Kitchen Building will also be used by our older students in the pursuits of their classroom studies in the subject of Home Arts.

In the final stages of this project, the concrete Borehole head will then be covered by a steel plate that will secure the wellhead from being tampered with ... the steel plate will always be under lock and key, welded on the plate.

This will secure the water for our Akrampa School only, and no one else.



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26

Photo 25 - Is a photo taken while standing directly over the Borehole wellhead, looking down. This shows the mechanical and electrical parts of the Borehole. These are the only things that are above ground, inside of the square concrete blocks that you see in Photo 24, on the previous page.

Photo 26 - Shows one of the men from the Borehole drilling company, sitting inside of the Borehole wellhead. He has attached an exterior pipe to the pump. You see the feet of the children as they have brought a steel pan over, to watch the very first time that the Borehole is tested, to bring water to them. This is only the first test. Water will eventually flow into a large storage tank, and then be piped into the Kitchen Building. But the children were very excited to see this progress!



27



28

Photo 27 - Is taken facing 'away from' the Kitchen Building, looking out at the Borehole site. The children stand happily on the concrete block, posing for this photo for me. A teacher watches over them, from a few feet away. Newly built houses from the surrounding community are seen in the background, built by new people moving into the community.

Photo 28 - Is taken inside one of the newly painted classrooms of our Akrampa School. The students wave and smile at my camera, to be a part of the "selfie" that I'm taking for you.

Thank you! Please stay tuned, as more photos and videos will be on their way to you soon!
 --Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson
-with assistance from Kristen Anthony, Ghana Committee Chair