

September 2013

Our Mission Plan

Dear Friends,

In the late 1990's after I returned home to Ghana from Ohio, Pastor Jimmy, Pastor Woody and I began to pray and make decisions about what we wanted to accomplish with our mission in Ghana. I decided to take this September Lectern article, which is my 40th article, to go back in time and tell you about our "mission plan" for Akrampa.

Our first plan was to acknowledge what we were NOT going to do. Although I have been an ordained Minister since 1988, we decided that we would not found a church for FLC in Akrampa. The basis for this determination was to avoid conflict and/or to appear as if we were competing with the local Lutheran Church, which was of the Missouri Synod tradition in Ghana. The Missouri Synod is the most common Lutheran Church in Ghana.

Instead, we decided to begin a practical and powerful actualization of the 'Mission Statement of First Lutheran', beyond its reach in Lorain county. We decided to: **Tell, Worship, Welcome, and Provide** - among the people of Akrampa! The plan was, and still is, the implementation of the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Evangelism. We wanted to bring the WHOLE Gospel to Akrampa by helping to meet the material, physical and spiritual needs of the people. Through the generous donations of the congregation of First Lutheran we have been able to build and maintain a school for the children of Akrampa, where they are also served breakfast twice a week. All because of YOU! And thanks to both First Lutheran and The Chapel - Sandusky, we were able to replace Akrampa's damaged fresh water pipe a few years ago. Also, members from both congregations have adopted children from Akrampa, and their support helps the children to be healthy, happy, and able to attend school.

As the years have passed, more and more of the people of Akrampa are disassociating themselves with the worship of idols and turning to Jesus. Every week the children gather in the school to hear the Word of God, and have Bible studies. And now a local church has come to meet every week in Akrampa. NONE of these things ever existed before we started mission work in Akrampa. One of my roles is to help teach & prepare those who have accepted Christ, to become ready for baptism. Then when they are ready, I help them find a local, Biblically based church that they can become a part of, and be baptized in their new church home.

Our focus as a mission is to bring Christ to them, stay with them, provide tools for social and personal development, and prepare them for Heaven, above all things.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben