

November 2013

Electricity Comes to Akrampa—Part 2

Dear Friends,

In last month's article I told you how the government of Ghana and the World Bank are working together to accelerate development across Ghana. It has taken more than 28 years, but finally electricity has arrived in our mission village of Akrampa. After taking last month's article to explain the 'how,' I'd like to tell you 'why' this is so important.

Do you remember the last time the electric went out in your house? Maybe due to a storm or other technical issue... Do you remember that moment of relief and joy when the power came back on? In Ghana power outages are a regular, sometimes daily issue, and not just in the rural areas. Even the major cities and hospitals experience power outages regularly. It can be very frustrating, and sometimes even deadly in the hospitals. But Akrampa has never had electricity at all!

For the people of Akrampa, electricity coming to the village is a kind of liberation, deliverance, if you like, from darkness into light. The lack of electricity in the village all of these years has prevented many social, technical, and trade developments. Electricity brings an element of safety to the village. Now when walking outside at night, snakes, reptiles and other animals will be easily seen, preventing harmful bites. Local industries like dress making, etc., that require electricity will be possible in Akrampa. Children will now be able to study after dark without straining their eyes in the candle light. And those in the village who have more resources will be able to acquire radios and/or televisions to be connected with the outside world. This will bring awareness of world news, education, and entertainment into the village.

The most significant impact of electricity in Akrampa will be at the school! The First Lutheran 2013 Endowment Fund Grant is going to provide computers for the Akrampa mission school. The Ghana Task Force and I are working together to research and decide if laptops or desktops will be best for the classrooms. Most likely, in early 2014 we'll have everything ready for the computers to arrive in the classes. At that time, we may need a little help from you in getting the school wired and electric turned on. I'll keep you informed of the progress. Soon, the ability to have electricity in the school will give our kids an educational advantage that they have never had, which will positively impact them for the rest of their lives!

Blessings,
Pastor Ben