

May 2014 #48

Home Again in Ghana

A Day in the Life...

Dear Friends,

In this month's article I'd like to give you an update on the Akrampa mission school, and also my personal health. I returned to Ghana in mid-February, and after the first trip to Akrampa to give the donated wheelchair to Gloria, the next thing was to begin work with Mercy on a menu & a schedule for the breakfast program. By the time I came home, the children had already benefited from a whole month of 5 meals a week instead of only 2. Thank you again to the very generous couple at FLC who donated the additional money to make this happen. The positive consequences of 5 meals a week had already been manifesting itself in the increased population in the Kindergarten class.

Now, the Kindergarten class has become so large that two rooms are needed! The head teacher had to relocate the Primary One (1st grade) class so that the additional little children being admitted into Kindergarten would have more room to study. While the increase in Kindergarten students is a huge blessing, it has an unfortunate result for the Primary One. Now their classroom is outside. The Primary One class is being held under a shade made from palm tree branches with their black boards on the back wall of the Primary Six classroom!

The Akrampa school now has so many new Kindergarten students, that many parents brought the little ones to school without uniforms. Thank God for the money recently sent from FLC to provide uniforms for the children. We decided to focus on the little kids first, and the tailor and seamstress are busy making the uniforms.

All of the children continue to work hard at their studies and the teachers are doing their very best also. On March 12th, after the usual school Devotion, the entire Akrampa school came out into the town and dramatized the menace of malaria and what homes are to do as prevention from the disease. Some of the students acted as mosquitoes! The occasion was a very lively one, and the parents who were the audience, highly appreciated the effort by their own children. The malaria drama was acted out under one of the big trees in the center of town.

A sample, treated mosquito net was shown during the drama to encourage its use by families in their homes. The treated mosquito net is given to expecting mothers at a heavily subsidized cost, but it is expensive for the average Akrampa family to buy for themselves from the health outlets that sell them. In place of the treated mosquito nets, there are several brands of mosquito insecticides - commonly known as "coils" - in stores and markets, which people buy and use in their rooms.

Also in March, I began to feel some chills and thought it was malaria (fever). I attempted to treat this at home with malaria medication and when that didn't seem to yield the expected results, I went to the hospital. I was admitted and the diagnosis was a UTI and prostate (BPH). I was in the hospital for almost a week and was discharged March 29th. The following week, the big toe of my left foot began hurting badly and after two days my foot was so swollen that for many days I couldn't even wear slippers. A uric acid test was done and it ruled out gout. This has passed now. And with the exception of this most recent health concern, my overall health remains quite good, including my back and hip.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben