

Dear Friends,

In October I was blessed to be able to tell you about the construction of the much needed new Kindergarten classroom for the Akrampa School, financed by the 2015 FLC Endowment Grant. This article is to keep you updated on the progress. The schedule for this project was intended to be completed by the time the children returned from the long vacation. It was close, but not quite done when the students came back.

Now what does this addition to the infrastructure, to the facilities, of the Akrampa School mean? Of what real significance and impact is this creating?

When the building was in the finishing stages of construction, I arrived there to find that the desks had been moved into the class. At this time, the cement covered both the inside and outside walls, but the painting was not done. As it turned out the temptation to use the new building was so strong that the head teacher had used it for one day before I arrived. There is great pressure to accommodate the students in a building, to bring them inside, out from under the trees, and the heat. I had to impress upon the head teacher that I sympathize with his circumstances but I want to 'finish', and properly hand over the new classroom before it may be used. I did ask them to remove the desks and to wait upon the painting to be complete.

I understand that teaching the children under the trees for so long now has such tremendous challenges, and since teachers and pupils have endured so much, they felt that 'half a loaf, is better than none.' Seeing the new classroom there (almost done) was such an amazing gift for both teachers and students, they just could not wait to use it!

This time of year is a period of intense heat, with very high daytime temperatures. Even though this is a normal climactic condition for Ghana, sitting in the heat of the sun for long periods can cause high fevers and other related illnesses. All of these things have made teaching outside difficult.

Among these and other challenges, the desks, teaching materials, and children's items were being destroyed while exposed to the weather. The weather also affected the teachers' moods and motivations. Each morning the teachers walk to school in the hot sun, then sit/stand in the sun all day to teach. The students have also suffered. The heat has caused a lot of distraction for them and that made them fidget a lot, and ultimately affected attendance to school. Teachers too, have been found wandering around the compound to ease themselves of the conditions.

By the time you are reading this November article, the painting will be complete, and the new Kindergarten class will have been given to the teachers and students for daily use. Needless to say, this will dramatically change the situation here for the better! I want to once again thank FLC and the Endowment Committee for this wonderful blessing that you have given the students and teachers at the Akrampa School!

Blessings,

Pastor Ben