

Ghana School Roof Project Update - Part 4

Dear Friends,

In this April article, I'd like to share with you the fourth update on the *Ghana School Roof Project of 2025*. Let's call this the "Phase Four" Update. Our project is progressing very well and nearing the final stages. I'm so grateful for the incredible support that we have received from everyone at First Lutheran, Bethesda on the Bay, and also our individual benefactors from across the United States that we lovingly call "Friends of the Mission". Each and every one of you has made a tremendous difference in the lives of the Akrampa students thanks to your prayers and also financial support. The New Roofs and the other upgrades/repairs to the Akrampa School will positively impact many generations of students for the future. Thank you.

Let's talk about the progress of the Ghana School Roof Project of 2025:**What has been completed thus far?**

- Old roofs removed; NEW roofs installed on 3 of the school blocks/buildings (KG - 6th Grade)
- New support pillars created out of metal & cement to support a better pitch for the roofs
- New gutters installed on the school which will *soon be attached to a Rain Catchment System*
- Old electrical wires removed, New wiring placed underground and reconnected to the school
- Old doors removed; New doors installed, and painted blue
- Repairs made to the windows
- Exterior & Interior of 3 school buildings were newly painted (blue & white). Those buildings are the original Upper and Lower Primary Blocks, containing the 1st- 6th Grade classrooms and the entire Kindergarten Building was painted. Also, the Exterior only, of our wonderful Kitchen Building was painted, in blue & white to match the other three buildings.
- The **brand-new Borehole/Borewell** has been completed, bringing fresh water directly to the school for the children.

Details:

I hope that over the past few months all of you have been reading my articles, which contain updates about the items above, in great detail. The blessing of being able to complete this many upgrades to the school, on behalf of the students of Akrampa, since the beginning of this year - is an absolute gift from our Lord Jesus. HE used the hands and feet and generous hearts of our friends in the United States to bring these gifts to Akrampa.

My January, February and March articles contain very detailed descriptions of the work listed above, along with a *combined total of 83 photos!!* If you have not seen these photos, and would like to, you can call the FLC church office to request a copy of these articles *with the photos*.

Or you can go online, to read and see my past & present articles & the photos.

Go to this exact website:

www.bethesdaonthebay.org/ghana

The Borehole (borewell) System - a totally new addition to the Akrampa School:

The Borehole has been drilled, and is located behind the Kitchen Building. It has an electric motor and pump that is connected to a newly dug underground pipe, that *feeds the water to the front of the Kitchen Building*, where it is connected to a large poly-tank that holds the water. And below that are two spickets that provide access to the fresh water for all of the students. *The water from the Borehole is exclusive to the Akrampa School only, and Not for the general population of the town.* We have been able to provide a locking system which makes sure that the water is accessible to the students and teachers during school hours, and locked the rest of the time.

The Dedication of the Borehole (water project) and the New Roof Project - to Akrampa:

In Ghana, and in Akrampa, it is common that when something new and wonderful has happened we celebrate with a dedication ceremony, and often a ribbon cutting. (You may have experienced something like this in the United States when there is a 'Grand Opening' and a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new building). The people, parents and officials of Akrampa consider our School Roof Project and all that has happened within it, to be so significant that we held a Dedication Ceremony to celebrate the progress and the gift that this will give to our students and teachers.

On **April 15, 2025**, on the school campus in **Akrampa**, many significant people and individuals were present to celebrate the incredible gifts of this project, for the school and the town.

On April 15th, the whole community, the students & teachers, the episcopal church (represented by the archdeacon of the Cape Coast Diocese of the Anglican Church of Ghana), Akrampa's Chief and the elders of the people of Akrampa gathered to see the **DEDICATION** of the water project (Borehole) for the school. On this same day, the three renovated Primary School buildings were recommissioned and 'handed over' to the administration of the school - this is a ceremonial celebration of the replacement of the entire roofing system for all three buildings and the many other repairs that were accomplished as part of this project (listed earlier in this article).

This water project is the drilling /construction and setting up of the Borehole system to provide a source of fresh water *exclusively for the school*. The town of Akrampa has been on the water supply grid for the community as far back as 1997. Several challenges, over time, had affected the regular flow of water into the town and into the school, resulting in no water for many months over periods of time. This led to FLC having to intervene once again in 2009 to do a lot of repair work to get the town and school back on the water grid. Currently, the school itself particularly needs consistent fresh water for the cooking of the **Breakfast Meals** for the children and for the use of the older students who take classes in our 'Kitchen Building/Domestic Arts Complex.'

Akrampa School functions in two entities, or jurisdictions - which are the: district and regional. And under two distinct administrations: the educational (government agency), and church.

In matters of education, there is the District Director of Education who reports to the Regional Director of Education, then that person reports up to the General Director of Education who is headquartered in Accra, which is the capital city of Ghana.

In matters of church, there is a local manager of the school who happens to be a priest of the *Anglican Church of Ghana*, who serves under the archdeaconry of the church, who also serves under the territorial bishop of the church. *Why the Anglican church, and not Lutheran, you may ask?* When FLC and I first began this Mission in 1994, it was all we could do just to support the building of the structures, and the basic support of my salary along with the general mission needs. So, the Anglican Church helped to provide and pay the salaries of the first teachers in our school. That began Akrampa's relationship with the Anglican Church of Ghana.

Akrampa culturally exists in a community whose local leadership is in the hands of the local Chief and his elders. Then we have the Akrampa School Administration which is led by the headteacher with the support of the staff. Most teachers in Ghana are now employed by the Government of Ghana, and are placed into their job positions and schools by the Government. Akrampa School is considered a *public school* as it has teachers and administration provided by the Government of Ghana. This is why all of the local children, both from Akrampa and the surrounding areas, are accepted as students. Also, Ghana does not have the same rules of 'separation of church and state' as the USA, so as a Missionary Pastor, I am able to go into the school to teach and share the Gospel of Jesus with our students, and sometimes their families, and it is accepted by all of the Ghanaian "educational and church" entities.

At our dedication ceremony on April 15th, my wife Julie and I were present, along with my longtime assistant, Ms. Mercy Abbeyquaye to represent the support of all of our partners in the United States, and my 30 years of leading the children in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was an honor for Julie and I to be there, to see the community come together to celebrate our students!

Thus, we had the education administrators, church administrators, local chief and elders, the staff of the school, and local representatives of the sponsoring Mission Partners (FLC, Bethesda, & Friends of the Mission) all in attendance for this exciting event. There was a ribbon cutting, there was music and speeches, and there were prayers and the official blessings of the buildings during the dedication. It was a great day for our Ghana Mission and the Akrampa School.

As I said at the beginning of this article, the project is nearing its final stages. We are **not** completely done yet! There are a couple more things that need to be finished. But the community and the local officials decided to host the Dedication Ceremony on April 15th due to many factors, even though we still have a little bit of work left to do.

If you missed the first full set of photos of the **Borehole construction**, and the full description of it, you can find those online in last month's article - March 2025.

Now, I'd like to share with you some photos from what we will call 'Phase 4' of the Ghana School Roof Project. These photos show our completed Borehole System and the Dedication Ceremony on 4/15/25. Please continue to read, or scroll down in this article, to see 29 all NEW photos of our project. We'll start with some new photos of the Borehole and its completion, and then move on to the photos of our Dedication Ceremony.



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Photo 1 - To refresh your memory: In the foreground, or front right corner of the photo: you can see the square, raised blockwork that is the protection around the Borehole Head (where it was drilled) & what houses all of its mechanical parts that lie inside. The building behind it, is our Kitchen Building, now painted blue and white. The Borehole water will be pumped to the Kitchen Building via an underground pipe.

Photo 2 - Shows one of our construction workers - finishing up the mechanical and electrical aspects of the Borehole. This is the site where the Borehole was drilled 360ft. into the ground to reach fresh water.

Photo 3 - Shows the mechanical pump of the Borehole Head, that pulls the water up from the Earth. You can also see the electrical cord. And in the very front of the blockwork is a small white pipe going into the ground, which runs the water to our Kitchen Building. There is also a secure 'lid' that has been attached.



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Photo 4 - Again, shows the site of the Borehole Head (where it was drilled), **behind** the Kitchen Building - this photo shows the secure 'lid' in place that will protect all of the mechanical and electrical parts of the Borehole.

Photo 5 - Shows the new cement platform that will hold the poly-tank, along with the first parts of the plumbing. This is in front of, near the entrance to the Kitchen Building.

Photo 6 - Shows a side view of the platform from Photo 5, and the Plumber/Construction worker attaching all of the pipes to the large black poly-tank (holding reservoir) that sits atop of it. The poly-tank holds the water that is pumped from the Borehole Head. In the front you see two spickets that will allow access to the water.

Photo 7 - Is a view of the front of the Kitchen Building, showing where the poly-tank is located, and the blockwork around it still under construction. The plumbing and spickets are ready for water.

More photos of this later, along with the photos of the Dedication Ceremony!

April 15, 2025 - Dedication Ceremony

For the Borehole Water System and the New Roofs and Renovations of the Primary School.

Let me introduce you to some of the Honored Guests at the Dedication Ceremony:



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Photo 8 - From LEFT TO RIGHT: in the front row only:

- Seth Oseku (Linguist to Chief of Akrampa - carrying a staff)
- Julie Wilson (**My beautiful Wife** - green & red dress)
- Nai Kodwo Yamoah (Chief of Akrampa - wearing orange and green)
- Ven. Rev. Aaron Moses Kwamena Eduah (Archdeacon of Winneba, Cape Coast Diocese of the Anglican Church - in full formal robes)
- Rev. Bennett Wilson (**myself** - wearing black)
- Grace Larbi's (Queen mother of Akrampa - wearing purple)
- Ms. Eva Mensah (Akrampa School's Headteacher - wearing blue polka dot dress)
- Mrs. Victoria Boateng Amponsah (Circuit Education Supervisor - tan flowered dress)

You can see the front side of the Lower Primary Block of the school (1st-3rd Grade) in the background of the photo. Along with some of the students to the far right of the photo. Everyone was outside for the celebrations. YOUR generosity is creating so much excitement and change in Akrampa!



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Photo 9 - More Honored Guests attending the Dedication Ceremony: From LEFT TO RIGHT:

----**Rev. Bennett Wilson (myself)**

--Madam Wilhelmina Anamuah (HR, Anglican Education Unit, Cape Coast)

--Ven. Rev. Aaron Moses Kwamena Eduah (Archdeacon of Winneba) -also shown in Photo 8

--Madam Mavis Arthur (Deputy Director, Monitoring and Supervision, Anglican Education Unit from Cape Coast - in green/brown dress)

--Rev. Fr. McClean Bruce Awuah (Parish Priest, Local Manager of the Anglican Education Unit)



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Photo 10 - Madam Emma Abena Asabea (Deputy Director, Monitoring and Supervision, Ghana Education Service, District Office) - makes a speech at the Dedication Ceremony.



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Please disregard my finger, that accidentally made it onto the tops of both Photos 11 & 12.



Photos 11 & 12 - Both of these photos are of the **Kindergarten Building**. *This is ONE building, that is long in length.* I wanted to show you a closer view of the updates, now that it is completed, so I am showing it in *two photos*. The center of the building is where you see the 3 stairs, next to the ABC Mural.

Photo 11 - shows the **left** side of the building, which is fully new construction top to bottom (beginning at the top of the stairs, and going to the left) it was finished in 2024. This is the addition to the original Kindergarten building. Construction on this was started by the parents and the community. When they ran out of money, a family from Ohio gave the rest of the money needed to complete it.

Photo 12 - shows the middle and **right** side of the building. Behind the pillar that is at the top of the stairs is where the original Kindergarten building used to begin. It also did NOT previously have the pillars out front and the breezeway underneath. During this 2025 School Roof Project, this right side, original classroom received a New Roof, new pillars, new breezeway/walkway, and new paint - all to match up with the addition. It looks very nice now that it is done, with the paint and artwork - the little kids are happy!

The Kindergarten building was part of the Dedication Ceremony because overall every inch of the building has had work done on it in the last year - an addition, New Roof, new pillars, new paint, new artwork ... etc. We have had so many new young students coming to the Akrampa School in the last few years we really needed the additional space for them. In February, we had 70 Kindergarten students *enrolled* at Akrampa.



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Photos 13 & 14 - Show the Lower Primary School (1st-3rd Grade) on the day of the Dedication Celebration. The block of classrooms is wrapped in a ribbon, for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. **Photo 13** - shows the front end of the building, displaying the sign in honor of First Lutheran's 30-year commitment to the Mission. And **Photo 14** - shows the backside of the building with the doors to the classrooms and the New Roof. A student walks under the newly created breezeway, thanks to this project the new support pillars were created to accomplish this protection for the students during the rainy season.



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Photo 15 - Shows a portion of the front side of the Upper Primary Block (4th-6th Grade). This is specifically in front of the 5th Grade Classroom, to show both the ribbon for the celebration, but also another painted sign next to the door, saying the building has been provided by First Lutheran. The school is newly painted in the blue and white as part of our 2025 renovations.

Photo 16 - Shows a portion of the front of our Kitchen Building. You can see the entrance door and the new blue and white paint. *Notice the poly-tank in front, that holds the water that is coming from our new Borehole. The concrete stand has now been painted white, and there is a tiled catch basin below for runoff. The two spickets will allow easy access for all of the children to get fresh clean water. (Also, see Photos 1 - 7)

Water is life. Our Dedication Ceremony of the Borehole fresh water, a Gift from Jesus & you!



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Photo 17 - Shows the Poly-tank. Now finished - and wrapped with ribbon for the Ceremony. On the right side of the photo, and down the hill a little, is where the Borehole Head is located. This poly-tank is just to hold the water that is piped up to it, from 360 Feet deep underground at the Borehole Head.

Photo 18 - I'm standing with all of the community leaders and honored guests, as we put our hands together to say prayers & a blessing over the new water system, before the ribbon cutting.

Photo 19 - Akrampa's Headteacher, Ms. Eva Mensah, runs the fresh water into clean bucket.



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The first ceremonial cups of fresh Borehole water - at our celebration on 4/15/25:

Photo 20 - Ven. Rev. Aaron Moses Kwamena Eduah - Archdeacon of Anglican Church of Ghana

Photo 21 - **Myself** - Rev. Bennett Wilson

Photo 22 - Ms. Eva Mensah - Akrampa's Headteacher - with students looking on from behind.

Blessings & Ribbons and Celebrations at our Dedication Ceremony on April 15, 2025:



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Photo 23 & 24 - Ven. Rev. Aaron Moses Kwamena Eduah -Archdeacon, and Rev. Fr. McClean Bruce Awuah -Parish Priest, pray and speak a blessing over the newly renovated school buildings. These photos are of the Lower Primary Block (1st-3rd Grade), before the ribbon cutting.



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Photo 25 - Honored guests step forward to watch as the Archdeacon prepares to anoint the school. The Kindergarten Building is seen at the back of the photo, to the right.

Photo 26 - Ven. Rev. Aaron Moses Kwamena Eduah (Archdeacon of Winneba, Cape Coast Diocese of the Anglican Church) anoints the newly renovated Akrampa School with Holy Water and Oil while saying prayers and blessings over it, asking Jesus to bless our school, teachers, and students.

Music & Celebrations - Honored Guests gave speeches - 4/15/25:



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Photo 27 & 28 - Are both taken from the same angle, at the back of the school courtyard.

Photo 27 - is looking/facing more to the left, and shows the tent set up for the honored guests to sit underneath. Behind that, you can see the blue and white fronts of both the Upper and Lower Primary blocks of the school. **Photo 28** - is looking/facing more to the right, and shows the front side of the Kitchen Building, along with the New Poly-tank for the Borehole water. In the background of each photo, our students are outside again sitting at their desks, listening to speeches, and celebrating also!



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Photo 29 - The desks of the students were brought back out into the courtyard, so that they could take part in the celebrations. They stand, sing, dance, and play the drums as part of the Dedication Ceremony. This is just some of our students, they had all filled the courtyard that day, as everyone was so happy!

Thank you, to each of you - First Lutheran Congregation and Leadership
Bethesda on the Bay Congregation and Leadership
Individual 'Friends of the Mission' throughout the USA

Stay Tuned - More photos, VIDEOS, and updates coming very soon!

--Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson

-with assistance from Kristen Anthony, Ghana Committee Chair