

Dear Friends,

As you read this January article it will be well into the beginning of 2026. And yet, I send you good wishes for a very Happy New Year from my family and everyone in Akrapma. We pray that 2026 will be a blessed year for each of you and your families.

In this article I am going to do a short talk about the **Akrapma Kindergarten and its students**. Also, I will share some photos with you of our Kindergarten students. First, let me say, throughout this article I'll use this abbreviation: KG, to mean Kindergarten. As you read, and as you see the captions for the photos, please note ... KG = Kindergarten. Thank you.

Our Akrapma School contains these grade levels: Kindergarten (KG), then Basic Primary which comprises our 1st – 6th Grade, and also the Junior High School (JHS) which is 7th – 9th Grade. *If a student chooses to go onto High School (10th-12th Grade) they must leave Akrapma to do so, as we do Not have a High School.*

The Kindergarten – Students & Teachers

The Kindergarten (KG) block of our Akrapma School now has two spacious and adequate classrooms because of the recent renovation – I'll tell you more about that shortly. We have two KG teachers, both being female, one for each classroom. One has been a teacher for over 21 years, with 10 of those years teaching at the kindergarten level. The other has 10 years since graduating as a teacher, with 4 months of teaching kindergarten pupils.

Akrapma Kindergarten is split into the two classrooms because they are two different levels and ages of children. The **Kindergarten 1 Class** is comprised of our very youngest students. In America, you might be more familiar with calling this something like pre-school or early daycare. The **KG 1 Class** has 17 boys and 14 girls, making a total of 31 of our littlest students. About a third of the students in the current KG 1 Class are between the ages of 2 & 3 years old. The more acceptable age that children should be entered into our KG 1 Class is 4yrs old, so that by the time they are ready to move up to the Kindergarten 2 Class they would be 6 years of age. But you may remember that I have on occasion mentioned that because of the **Breakfast Meals** that we provide, some parents deliberately enroll their *very small* children in the KG 1 Class so they can be fed.

The KG 1 Class has the largest number of students per class in all of our school but gets reduced when the students 'move up' to enter the Kindergarten 2 Class. One of the reasons for this is to ensure that by the time the students are ready to continue onto 1st Grade, the students would have reached the caliber & aptitude to study in relation to their age.

The current 2025/2026 **Kindergarten 2 Class** is comprised of 13 boys and 6 girls, making a total of 19 students in the KG 2 Class. When these students are ready, they will move up to the 1st Grade, which we call Basic Primary.

The Kindergarten – Classrooms & New Furniture:

From the time it was first built, up until the spring of the year 2024, our Kindergarten was a small building containing only one classroom, and **all of** the KG students. The parents & community of Akrampa wanted more space for their children, so they began to raise money to add onto the KG building.

The Akrampa parents & community raised enough to begin the construction of a second KG classroom in 2024, but ran out of money before construction was complete. A family in Ohio stepped in and donated the additional money needed to complete the second KG classroom.

Then last year, during the *2025 Ghana School Roof Project*, the entire Kindergarten building received a new coat of paint, a new covered walkway in front, and the old/original KG classroom received a new roof. Thank you to the family who donated to build the new classroom in 2024, and to **everyone** who donated for the School Roof Project in 2025!

At the end of 2025, the family who helped to build the second KG classroom donated additional money so that we were able to purchase new furniture – little tables & chairs – for both of the Kindergarten classrooms. The new tables and chairs are appropriate size for our little ones, and they are made from a very heavy-duty, durable plastic. I worked with Eva, the Head Teacher at Akrampa, to make this decision and to then make the purchase of these tables and chairs. The climate in Ghana is very wet, with both rain and humidity and often desks/tables/chairs that are made of wood will rot. This is why we decided to purchase the heavy-duty plastic furniture.

If you want to read more, or see photos of anything *mentioned above*, they can be found online in my: May 2024, May (Part 2) 2024, June/July 2024 & January through July 2025 articles.

Find ALL of my articles, past & present, at both of these websites:

www.bethesdaonthebay.org/ghana or www.trinityvermillion.org/ghanamission

The teachers, students and I would like to send a huge Thank You to everyone who is a part of the Ghana Mission, we love you all. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, love and donations. The Ghana Mission is fully funded by your donations; we cannot do this without you!

*** A special note:

*Although Julie & I will not be able to be in Ohio with you, during the month of February 2026 the Ghana Committee will be taking orders for their Bake Sale. They will be selling homemade cookies, **via pre-order forms only**, and delivering cookies to the churches in March. All proceeds benefit the Ghana Mission. Please inquire at your church: First Lutheran, Bethesda, & Trinity – for details on how you can pre-order the cookies and help our mission. Thank you.*

Please continue to scroll down to see: 14 new photos of our Kindergarten students.



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Photo 1 – In case you did not have the chance to see this photo last year: this is the full Kindergarten building, after the 2024 addition of the second classroom & after the 2025 School Roof Project. The left side of the building with the lighter colored roof is the new classroom addition. The right side, with the darker roof is the original classroom, now with a new roof. Notice the full exterior now has a covered walkway in front, with new support pillars. This protects from rain and helps with cooling.



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Photo 2 – Akrampa School's Headteacher, Eva, is at the outdoor market to purchase the new furniture (little tables & chairs) for the kindergarten classrooms.

Photo 3 – Pastor Ben takes a selfie while shopping at the outdoor furniture market with Headteacher Eva, who can be seen in the background in the red dress.



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Photo 4 – Headteacher Eva speaks with the delivery driver, as the KG furniture is loaded into the delivery truck.

Photo 5 – Back in Akrampa, seated in front of the Kitchen Building, **Pastor Ben** and a helper begin to assemble the new tables and chairs for the KG students.

Photo 6 – The KG students enjoy their new furniture & look at the camera, while their teacher gives a lesson on their numbers, in the background.



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Photo 7 – The KG students learn their numbers & letters with puzzle pieces.

Photo 8 – The KG students dance in a line with their teachers around their new classroom & their new furniture. Songs & dance are great ways to keep the kids active while they are learning.



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Photo 9 – One of the KG students is deep in thought, or lost in a daydream, as his classmates play near him on the floor.

Photo 10 – One of our youngest KG 1 students holds onto the chair that is still a bit too big for him.



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Photo 11 – A bright smile from a female kindergarten student as she looks back at her classmate.

Photo 12 – The KG students sing and dance with their teachers.



13



14

Photos 13 & 14 – Some of the Kindergarten (KG) students play a game outside (on the new covered walkway, with their teachers) to see who can fill a water bottle first, using only their hands to scoop the water from a bowl. The competitors are a boy and a girl, each representing their groups. The girl won.

Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson

Photo editing / arrangements & captions by Kristen Anthony – Ghana Committee Chair