

Dear Friends,

Near the end of 2025, the Ghana Committee asked some of our readers to share either their thoughts on the Mission in general, or their favorite memories of Pastor Ben and Julie. We'd like to share a few of those responses with you now. And at the end of this article, we'll provide information on how you too can share with us your thoughts on the Ghana Mission.

Here are responses from 3 of our readers:

“Julie gives the best hugs! So thankful for Pastor Ben’s visits to our mother during her last days. We are also thankful that our contacts with Pastor Ben have expanded our global awareness. And we are grateful to be able to be a part of this ministry that Pastor Ben has undertaken.”

~~Virginia Kaada

“Pastor Ben had his first popsicle (for dessert) at my house!”

~~Sandy Whitman

“Numerous years have passed since (my husband) Fred, and I became supporters of the Akrampa Mission (specifically the Breakfast Program) & many changes have taken place during this time. Sadly, Fred passed away in 2018, and I have continued to support the mission alone. Changes that have happened with the mission over time include: Akrampa Breakfast Meals are no longer cooked outside over an open fire in all kinds of weather, but now in a new Kitchen Building; newly painted and renovated buildings have been added; roofs have been replaced; fresh water is now readily available to the students; lessons taught in safe classrooms ... many changes indeed!

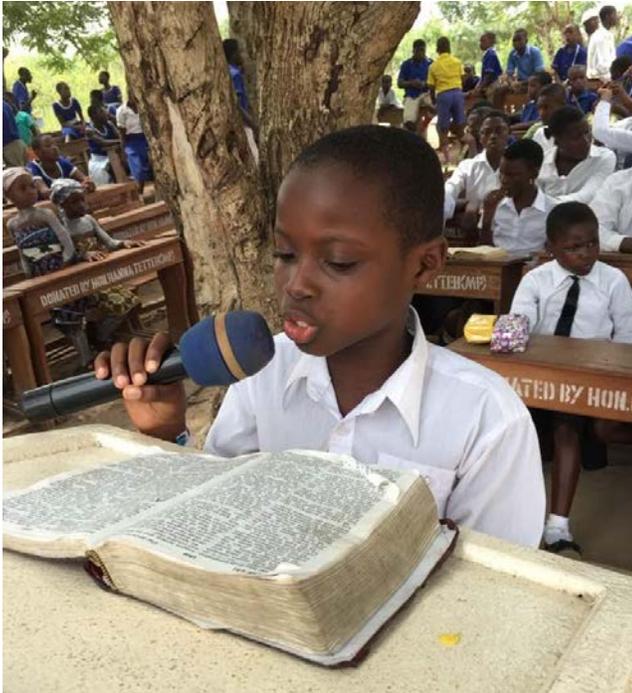
Pastor Ben, Julie and all of the school’s staff members have worked diligently to advance the goals of the Akrampa project. There have been many challenges for them: government regulations, funds, health concerns, weather, escalating food and construction costs, unexpected increases in student attendance & cultural concerns. It has not been an easy journey. But with God’s help and the dedication of all involved ... and the generous giving and support from First Lutheran, Bethesda on the Bay, and Trinity; along with some individual contributions ... hopes and dreams have been and will continue to be achieved.

For me, a photo shared by Pastor Ben sums up the Akrampa project’s mission ... the photo was of a young boy reading the Christmas story out loud from a Bible. He was sharing the Scripture with others. The scene touched my heart. Not only is this “Little Lamb” being fed physically at a safe school, but he is also being fed spiritually.

This I believe to be the best goal, indeed!”

~~Ruthe Kinsler

Below is the photo referenced in Ruthe Kinsler's comments, and a second one also:



1



2

Photos 1 & 2 – Show two young Akrampa students reading out of the Bible to their peers; during the traditional *Festival / Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*, which is held at Christmas time in Ghana. This festival was explained in detail by Pastor Ben in his *December 2025* article.

The Ghana Committee would love to hear from you:

Please consider responding to any of the following questions.

You don't need to respond to all of them, **just choose one**.

Please share your name, with your comments, so that we can print them in a future article.

- 1). Please share your favorite memory or story about Pastor Ben and/or Julie.
- 2). Please share your thoughts on the Ghana Mission; what does it mean to you, or how has the mission impacted you on a personal level?
- 3). Please send a **question** that you have about the mission, the students, the school, etc., and Pastor Ben will answer your question in a future article.

Please send all responses via email, with a Subject line of: *Ghana Responses*

Email your thoughts to us during the month of *March 2026*.

Send responses to this email address:

info@firstlutheranlorain.org

Thank you! Kristen Anthony – Ghana Committee Chair