

This is a special joint letter, which includes notes of thanks & gratitude from both Pastor Ben & also the Ghana Committee.

Dear Friends,

In light of recent, and also upcoming events, I have chosen this time of the year as an opportunity to express thanks, on my own behalf and that of the entire Akrampa Community, and more especially, pupils of the Akrampa Basic School through the Junior High School.

I am saying that this gratitude is from three groups: myself and family, the Akrampa Community, and the Akrampa School, with very good reasons. It is all about relationship and how deeply we cherish it, and I am doing that with deep feeling because in my culture and customs, we view the expression of gratitude as a demonstration of how valuable the relationship is to us. Until the advent of technological devices like the phone, particularly, that enhances communication, we would personalize our gratitude with our physical presence.

Let me explain. When I was growing up, I observed that the elderly would carry a portable wooden stool to the house of the benefactor, early in the morning, before the benefactor would step out of his/her house. They would place the stool just outside the door to **sit and wait** until the benefactor would step out.

We would actually go to the house of the benefactor to **verbally express** our gratitude, in person, for what has been done for us. We would not send anyone to do that for us, because we want to **say the thank you** ourselves since the beneficiary of that blessing is us. Of course, the size of the community is not large and distances between homes were no hindrances to be a challenge to go and say thank you. Most benefactors are deeply touched by this **gesture**, of saying **thank you** which for them means that what they did has been deeply appreciated.

I wish that I could come to Ohio and sit outside your homes to Thank You, but because that is not possible, I hope that you know what a blessing you are to The Ghana Mission.

I wish to say that you deserve to be thanked greatly --

For me personally, for the support provided for my health; For the Akrampa School, for the major Roof Project of 2025 that included two new sources of fresh water for our students, for the (hopefully) upcoming Junior High School Renovation in 2027, and above all, for the **Breakfast Program**; And for the community, in providing education for their children and securing their future in this highly competitive world.

THANK YOU, DEAR FRIENDS.

Pastor Ben

Please read on for a Thank You letter from the Ghana Committee.

Dear First Lutheran, Bethesda on the Bay & Trinity Lutheran,

As part of Pastor Ben's article this month, **on behalf of the Ghana Committee**, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to the *congregation and leadership* of First Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran. We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to our 'Friends of the Ghana Mission', which are individuals who love, and financially support the Ghana Mission, but may Not be part of any of the three congregations listed above.

The Ghana Mission, led by Pastor Ben Wilson, has stood the test of time, over 30+ years for a few reasons. 1). Our Mission has been blessed by the Lord Jesus, and His hand has always protected it. – 2). Pastor Ben has been an excellent Leader in teaching our Akrampa Students about the Gospel of Jesus. – 3). Our benefactors, congregations, and friends in Ohio and the United States have been faithful in their prayers and financial support for all of these years.

Over the past few years, the Ghana Committee has done a lot of fundraising for projects at the Akrampa School. We have asked a lot of you, as congregations, from giving money for the huge Roof Project of 2025, to Cookie Bake Sales, and Dine-to-Donate events for general Mission needs & our upcoming project of the Junior High School Renovation. And through all of this, each of you has risen to the occasion and helped the Mission. This shows how much you care! *Like Pastor Ben, we too wish that we could sit outside your homes to Thank You!*

**The Ghana Committee is very aware that there are many wonderful charities, non-profit organizations, and Christian Ministries (both within the walls of our church, and outside) that many of you support or may want to support. We know that when you prayerfully give to the Ghana Mission, that may mean that you cannot give elsewhere. Or maybe the Ghana Mission is just a huge part of your heart for the Lord and your heart for helping, and you choose to give to it, and not elsewhere. Either way, we do Not take that gift lightly. The Lord sees your cheerful giving heart! And we are so grateful, and so thankful. Your generosity changes everything!*

Please understand, nothing in the Ghana Mission (current or future) can happen without your faithful, ongoing financial support. Our Ghana Mission is run completely with your donations. But, the beautiful part, that not every other organization can say; is that 100% of the money donated to the Ghana Mission actually goes to Ghana! Your donations pay for the day-to-day operations of the school, the many needs of the students, the Breakfast Meals for the students, and for special projects like building renovations and fresh drinking water.

Dine-to-Donate for the Ghana Mission – was held on August 12, 2026.

Most recently, we'd like to thank everyone (from First Lutheran, Trinity, & Bethesda), and all of the friends/family that you brought along, for coming out to *Berardi's Restaurant* and enjoying a great meal at our *Ghana Dine-to-Donate event*. The owner of Berardi's said that it was a big success, and he will be able to donate \$550. to our Ghana Mission.

Thank you for this huge show of support for the Ghana Mission! We hope that each of you had a wonderful meal at *Berardi's* and enjoyed some great fellowship with friends & family.

Thank you,

Kristen Anthony – Ghana Committee Chair