

Chrestos Update 11: January 2006

‘Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to those who have no might He increases strength.’ Isaiah 40: 28-29

Teaching and Training in Mae Sariang:

Due to the increased number of students, the hospital wing no longer has sufficient space for us. We are considering building on the land next door to the Team House to supply enough accommodation for the increase of student numbers expected in the next two years. The land is already producing vegetables and fruit and in the near future we plan to have livestock. This will not only help on the food-bills but also provide agricultural training for the students, many of whom come from Karen villages, some in remote areas.

In the coming months, the lower floor of the Team House will also be used as an extension to the Bible School. This will limit the number of guest-rooms in the Team House but the number of guests in the future will not be so great as before because of our programme of indigenisation.

The students now have a four year course, including six months of practical work stationed in a village or children’s hostel. They also have two months of outreach each year, when they gain experience in personal work, evangelism, preaching and working together as a team. Recently we had outreach in two teams, and the students found a hunger for the Word of God among the people in the areas they visited. In the coming months we are planning for some of the men students to visit one of these places for a few days each week, when they can preach, teach, and gather in the harvest that we believe is ripening there.

Relief Work:

Chrestos Mission continues to provide for those in need on the Thai/Burmese border, where we visit the Hsa Htoo Lei Migrant School and the Mae Rah Moh and Mae Lah refugee camps. In the latter camp, Pastor Arthur and his wife Clasper now have 90 children in their care. The children in different places are often protein-deficient and we supply them with 40,000 tins of fish per year.

Our Chrestos School in Burma now has 46 children and we supply them with finance for food, rice, educational supplies, and small salaries for the teachers. Also, Chrestos supports two clinics for the displaced people. Thank you to all of you who help those in need in these places.

News from Laos:

During the October 2005 Khmu seminar on the Thai/Lao border certain people were alarmed to hear that their church had been burnt down by police and officials. On return to their village, in spite of pressure to renounce their faith, they continued to worship God in the burnt church. One of their leaders, who had served as a Communist district governor for over thirty years, was arrested on his return to Laos after the seminar. Since becoming a Christian, it has been increasingly difficult for him. Finally he was imprisoned, became extremely weak after being denied food for two weeks, and was then moved to a hospital where he died. In spite of this persecution, the Khmu church continues to grow. Please pray for his family and others in need in Laos at this time.

In December, Khamyeng [Pastor Sionh’s wife] and Pat taught the Khmu women from Laos at a three day seminar for the women on the Thai/Lao border. Sixty-two women came, eager to learn and to share.



Khmu Women at the Thai / Lao Border Seminar

Family News: Our family is scattered on four continents but we are grateful for the loving communication we can have, even though we are separated from some of our children and our grandchildren by thousands of miles. For those of you who know our family we would like to share briefly about where they are and what is happening in their lives

Ouame and Tong Vieng are delighted that Ouame now has a donated kidney and no more need for dialysis. They do pastoral work among the Lao and Thai Dum and have a chicken farm in Arkansas. Our four grandchildren [all grown-up now], Anna, Stephen, John and Joseph, are all studying and working in Ohio and go to help their parents when they have free time. Michel and Ruth with our lovely grand-daughters Arunie and Ilona, based in Chiang Mai, continue their vital ministry among the Karen, working with the internally displaced people and refugees. Patrick, Dorcas and Henry live and work in Los Angeles. Dorcas has a busy job in accident and emergency medicine. Henry is growing into a fine young man. Philip and Sarah live and work in Oxford, with occasional trips to Kenya, and we had the joy of visiting them recently. Daniel is still working with the housing charity in London and Peter is now living and working in Bournemouth.

‘Nothing delights Him [Jesus] more than to find those whom He can take with Him into the Father’s presence, clothing them with power to pray down God’s blessing to those around them, training them to be His fellow-workers in the intercession by which the kingdom is to be revealed on earth.’ [Taken from ‘With Christ in the School of Prayer’ by Andrew Murray]

Prayer is our most important work and we are grateful for each one of you who joins with us to help bring the blessing of God to the people of Thailand, Laos and Burma.

With our love, Geoffrey and Pat