

Chrestos Update 14: September 2006

As the Father has loved me so have I loved you. Continue in my love. John 15:19

Dear Chrestos Family,

Geoffrey had a wonderful trip to Canada, and met with many friends in Vancouver and Toronto. Then we enjoyed the company of three volunteers from Toronto: Mandy, Sophia and Tim, from The Good Shepherd Chinese Church, who were a great help to us as they taught English, book-keeping and science for two weeks in Mae Sariang.

Student Body:

This year we have thirty-nine students in the Bible School: nine in the third year; twelve in the second year; eighteen in the first year.



One of our lady students, Naw Ker, is blind. She has a great love for God, and is a constant challenge to all of us.



Another student, Saw Day Lay Poe, is slightly brain-damaged after a severe accident on his motorbike several years ago, but again he has a heart for God and that is the most important qualification we are looking for.

The more mature students are encouraging and nurturing the younger ones. They have all settled into the recently built dormitories and are using the new dining-room kitchen complex, where we get a panoramic view over the valley to the mountains. We feel so blessed by all that the Lord has provided for us through your love, prayers, and support.

The General Secretary of the Thai Karen Baptist Convention, with whom we work closely, said to us recently; 'You have come at just the right time'. This is a crucial time for the Karen young people, who are moving more and more to the cities, where there are so many temptations. It is our privilege and responsibility to reach out to them.

Chrestos Community:

We realise that God has not only formed us into a Bible School, but also into a community of believers. From our base here, staff and students go out with relief supplies to the refugee camps, migrant-schools, and villages in need. We also seek to encourage village-churches in more remote areas, and take the gospel to young people and children in schools and hostels.

Some visit the community for studying the Bible, attending conferences and services, and for help of different kinds. We want to continue to grow and to be a blessing to others as we live, learn, and work together. Please pray for us.

Teaching Team:

This academic year we, and four young men on our Karen team, have been teaching. We have also welcomed four visiting Karen teachers, who share meaningful experiences and insights with the students. In the mornings we study the Bible and in the afternoons other subjects such as: Karen, Thai and English; Music Notes and Choir; Health and Basic Agriculture.

Karen Youth Conference:

Next month we have a Youth Conference for three days with up to 100 young people coming from the villages. This will be good training for our students as they work with them. Please pray for our team as they prepare and that the young people will listen and respond to the messages given.

The ATOM [A Taste of Mission] TEAM, from Oakhall Expeditions, will be visiting Thailand from October 15-29th, and among other activities will be at the Karen Youth Conference – that should prove to be a real cultural experience for them!! We look forward to receiving them.

Chrestos Communications – Recording Studio

The Recording Team is rapidly producing CD's for the villagers and young people. 'The Lost Son' dramatised by the students with music and sound effects is ready to go, and now they are starting on Genesis.

Chrestos Communication - Literature

Three more booklets are in the pipeline: 'A Bible Overview' [Old Testament] and 'A Bible Overview' [New Testament], and 'Doesn't Anybody Care?' The latter is an illustrated booklet on counselling, that was translated into Thai by O.M.F. in the 1980's. Pat has now revised the manuscript, and it is being translated into Karen.

The Situation in Burma remains very serious.

More and more villagers are fleeing into the jungle, and trying to cross into Thailand. Chrestos is helping these dear ones in practical ways where possible. Please pray for them.

News from Laos:

Pastor Sionh Chan and his wife Khamyeng recently visited Laos to encourage the Khmu Christians. Please pray for Khamyeng as her health has been fragile, and also for the Khmu students at the Bible School in Chiang Mai.

With our love and greetings, Geoffrey and Pat.

P.O. Box 48, Mae Sariang, Mae Hongson, Thailand 58110
Phone no. 66 53 683 176 email: geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com