

Chrestos Update 18: June 2007

“The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him – and of her.” A.W. Tozer

Dear Friends,

Much has happened since our last update and we stand in awe and wonder at the faithfulness of our God.

UK Visit: We visited the UK during the month of April and it was wonderful to see many of our family and friends again. The highlight of the visit was the birth of baby Moses, a beautiful child, to Philip and Sarah. Within the same month they moved to Oxford. As well as attending the A.G.M. of the Chrestos Mission, we also spoke at many different venues, and we are so grateful for the love, prayers, and interest in the work of so many. Thank you to everybody that made our trip so worthwhile.

Outreach to the Mountain Villages: During this month, the men students, in two teams, are on outreach into the mountain villages. The rainy season has been very heavy this year and many of them have had colds, coughs and fevers, so they will be returning in the next few days, earlier than expected. One of our older graduates, Pastor Nehemiah, has been appointed as pastor to the church which our students founded through their outreach. The lady students have been spinning and weaving cloth for the new uniforms. Also, a new baby has been born into the community – Joseph, son of our translator, Hsa Tweh and his wife Muk’abor. Both mother and child are doing well.

What a Blessing! On our return to Chiang Mai a dear friend, who has a Computer Company with a staff of national Christians, asked us to come and visit him in his office. To our amazement he wanted to send a team of his workers to the Bible School, to do everything that needs to be done with the computers there. He would also like to give to us three second-hand computers. He had no idea that we were hoping to set up, at some point, a Computer Laboratory that could be used for learning English, Theological Studies, and IT training. We are so grateful to him and his staff for their kindness in using their valuable time and expertise to help us in the work here.



Health Training Course

The students asked Geoffrey for a three-week Health Training Course in the month of June. This will enable them to offer simple medical help to villagers that are remote from any medical facilities. We are privileged to be able to help these needy people in practical ways and hope that they will be receptive to the wonderful message of salvation.

Teaching and Training:

We work closely with a very fine gifted team of Karen young men and women. At present, all but one of them still students. When they graduate next year, they will be able to give even more time to help us teach and train the young people coming to us from the villages. Please pray for our team. We are excited about what God is doing. Three of our men students will go for agricultural training for three weeks this month so that we can develop the land more effectively.

New Academic Year:

Our new academic year will be starting with a Celebration and Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, July 1st, and we expect about fifteen or more new students to join us then. Please pray for them.

Conference Facility:

Our warehouse, converted into an auditorium, on the Bible School property, is proving invaluable in the work here. It is not only used for teaching but also increasingly for conferences. This coming year we are planning for a Pastors' Conference, Ladies Conference, Youth Conference, and Children's Conference, as well as 'Bible Days', when we invite the youth from several hostels in town to join us for a time of learning and fun together. The students also play an important part in the planning and carrying out of responsibilities during the conferences.

Visitors:

We are expecting a number of visitors and volunteer helpers in the coming months. They will be helping us with administration, and English teaching in the local Thai secondary school. We will also have some local Bible teachers and some from overseas to help us in the Bible teaching.

Chrestos School in Burma:

While we were in the UK we heard that the Chrestos School/Orphanage in Burma had been taken over by the Burmese army. Auntie Htoo Htoo and the two other teachers escaped, and made their way to the border of Thailand with the forty-six children, but the children were not allowed to come into Thailand [the Thai authorities are very concerned about the severe problem of child trafficking in the region.]. So the children were sent back hopefully to Karen relatives. Auntie Htoo Htoo is now in the Mei Lah Refugee Camp, where there are many more orphans. Chrestos Mission will set up a new hostel there as a safe haven for these children. Please pray for the children who have returned to Burma and those in need in the refugee camp. We have received the news that the clinic we support in Burma is still in operation.

Ei Tu Tha Refugee Camp:

We continue to support the internally displaced people [IDP's] inside the Karen State of Burma on the border of Thailand. We take them tinned fish, blankets, balaclavas, and donated second-hand clothing. We also join them for Christian services as they fill the make-shift bamboo church that they have built for themselves. We are constantly challenged by their love for God in their extremely difficult circumstances.

Care for the Children:

We continue to supply protein, 30,000-40,000 tins of fish, every six months to the children in refugee camps, migrant schools, orphanages, and hostels, and over the years it has been thrilling to see an increased growth in many children. Also, we want to thank all of you who have supplied clothes, particularly for the children. In one of the 'thank you letters' from a Karen brother he said something very telling, "What is old to you, is new to us. Thank you for thinking of us."

Learning in Laos:

Chrestos Mission has also given money for the establishment of two small sewing schools with a Bible teaching component in Laos, where regular Bible Schools are not permitted. We also continue our medical support for pastors and their families in Laos. Please pray for those in prison or evicted from their villages because they refuse to give up their love for Jesus.

With our sincere thanks and loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat
Chrestos Mission, P.O.Box 48, Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son, Thailand 58110
Phone No. 66 53 683176 email address: geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com