

Chrestos Update 19

August 2007

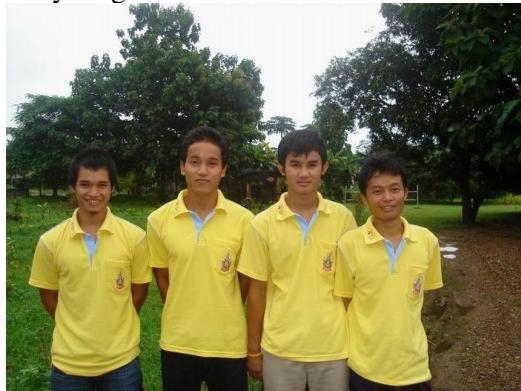
The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

As we look back over the past few years since the formation of Chrestos Mission we have so much to give thanks for. We are so grateful to the Chrestos Board in the UK that give their utmost support to us both and the work here, and also our Chrestos Board in Thailand that enable us to operate here and give advice. There are many that pray and give support in different ways and we want you to know how much this means to us. We would like to write to each one of you personally, but this is not possible as the work has grown considerably and our days are very full. Here in Mae Sariang, we work closely with our Karen Team of five men, with the recent addition of a Karen sister who has joined us as our secretary and book-keeper. We have weekly team-meetings where we discuss together matters related to the Bible School. We are so grateful for these young men and women with their different gifts, who have one heart with us in the work. Most of all, we want to thank our God who has led and supplied throughout these past years in wonderful ways and continues to work among us.

Answers to Prayer:

There are about seventy-five people, including staff and students, in the community here. The majority of students come for a four year teaching and training programme and then go out to serve in different parts of north Thailand. This year there are sixty students. From their sharing, we see that the Lord has brought them here from many varied backgrounds and we would like to share with you about some of them.

A Karen evangelist has been praying for the last six years that at least one of the young people in his village will go to Bible School. His prayers have been wonderfully answered, because not one but four young men have come, and they are those whom he thought most unlikely. They have come from rather a wild life in the past but are now eager to study the Word of God and to serve Him wherever He sends them. The changes in their lives are remarkable. God is raising up a new generation of young men and women who want to love and serve the King of kings.



Saw Pah Ra, Lai Poe, Pei Loh, Moe Chai



Saw Say Plaw

Also, several years ago there was a well-known evangelist in this area but, to his great sorrow, his son did not follow the God of his father and went his own way. The son, Saw Say Plaw, is now about fifty years old and in the past has been the headmaster of a school in Chiang Mai, but in the last ten years his life has gone down and down, due to his addictive habits. He visited our community during a conference earlier this year and felt that he would like to return. A few weeks ago he came back with his bag of belongings and asked if we would accept him as a student here as he wanted to start his life afresh. We explained to him that we would love him to stay but, in spite of his age and background, he would have to live and study the same as all the other students. He was happy to do this and moved that day into the men's dormitory. When he woke up the next morning his desire for drink had gone. He is now eager to study the Word of God, rising very early to pray, and serving others whenever he has the opportunity. His father has died, but the prayers for his son have been wonderfully answered.

We do not just want the students to sit and learn in the classroom, but also to be out with their people. Nearly every weekend, we divide into four teams, and visit Karen villages to bring encouragement to groups of scattered and sometimes isolated Christians.

Conferences:

In the months of September and October we will have conferences for the youth and the children, and also a time of fellowship together with the leaders from the Karen Bible School in Chiang Mai. The Youth Conference will be focusing on the life of Joseph and two songs have already been composed and recorded. They will be sent to the youth in different areas to learn for the Singing Competition. We are expecting around two hundred young people for that event and are excited about what God will be doing among us.

Please continue to pray for Laos. In several areas the Christians are being persecuted and some are in prison, but the church continues to grow,

Please continue to pray for Burma where there are an increasing number of Internally Displaced People trying to get into Thailand, fleeing from the Burmese army that have continued their offensive during the rainy season.

Thank you for letting us share with you some of these items for praise and prayer.
With our loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat

Chrestos Mission, P.O. Box 48, Mae Sariang,Mae Hongson Thailand 58110
Phone no. 00 66 53 683 176 email address: geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com