

Chrestos Update 27

August 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

In our early morning worship together we study the Wisdom Literature. A few days ago we were reminded again of the prayer of Moses Psalm 90:16-17. 'Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes establish the work of our hands'.

This is our prayer also for the Chrestos Family. We are so grateful for those who have loved, prayed, and supported us in many ways from the small beginnings of Chrestos Mission in January 2003, until the present day. The work has grown rapidly and, with the different ministries developing, we would ask for your prayers that we may continue to know God's strength and wisdom as we direct the work here.

The Bible School:

This year we have had an intake of twenty two Karen Bible students. This brings the total number of students to seventy-five. It is our joy and privilege to help them in their understanding of the Word of God, and wonderful to see them wanting to dig deeper into the Scriptures, asking thought provoking questions, sharing their findings, and often using creative ways of communicating truth, such as drama and song. In a four year period of study, they prepare for different ministries. At weekends, and for two months in the year, they go out in teams to encourage and evangelize in rural villages.

Graduates:

Some of our graduates from the last two years are now taking responsibility for some areas work here. They sense a calling from God, and we are so encouraged and challenged by their devotion and zeal. Please pray for Kawsay as he manages the day to day business in the Bible School, and liaises with government and church officials. Song Kran is the assistant manager and helps him in every way possible.

The Home of Peace and Joy

Kri Htoo leads the team with four other graduates to help him: Joy, Hta, Paw Paw Hta, and November Htoo. We now have thirty-one boys aged between five and fifteen, who are well cared for, and developing into fine young men. They go to a local Thai School and the staff shared with us that they behave and study well. On Saturdays they have extra tuition in Thai. At our request the school authorities agreed that our boys do not have to bow to the Buddha image at the school.

Three of the older boys are very good football players, and were on the school team for a football tournament of all the local schools in this part of the province, but our boys would not play on Sundays. So the school requested that no matches be played on Sundays. Amazingly, this was granted, and their school won the under 15's trophy, advancing to play in the provincial tournament, whose organizers also agreed to no matches on Sundays. Their school also won the under 15's provincial trophy. By the request of these three young orphans, Sunday was kept as a special day in a Buddhist country, and the Lord rewarded them with consistent wins.

Studio Staff

Tha Hser Minn, previously known by his other name Saw Law Wah, is the team leader of the studio staff. Eh Lo Tha, and five graduates work closely with him: A Bee, Muco Polo, Ja Su, Cha Da, and Shree Paw work in the office, in the studio, and on the radio. The team is producing DVD's, CD's and VCDs of preaching and singing in Karen, and Bible films dubbed into Karen. The weekly radio program reaches a hundred kilometre radius and consists of preaching, singing, health, development and English teaching, with a good response from the listeners.

Our Teaching Team seeks to improve their skills in exegesis and communication, and includes several of our graduates, who have completed their four year training. We thank God for them, and for the freedom we have here to teach the Word of God here without hindrance.

We are also encouraged by our graduate staff, working with children, the future of the Karen people. On the 'front line' is Pastor Nehemiah at Ma A Jo. Two of our staff, Eh Htoo Hei and Eh Wa continue to prepare materials for children in the villages.

Relief work continues, providing tins of fish, clothing, sports equipment etc. to refugee camps, especially for new camps of recent arrivals. We also supply needy hostels, where village children come for schooling in the town.

Thank you for praying for Geoffrey teaching in a small Karen Baptist Bible School in Yangon (Rangoon). Geoffrey was able to visit two orphanages, where Chrestos money was used to build housing, and supply food for the orphans left by Cyclone Nargis. Over a hundred extra orphans are being housed at two orphanages, which previously only had about twenty-five orphans each. The children are well fed and cared for.

Khmu Work:

Geoffrey and Pat were both invited to teach at the Khmu Leaders' Conference in Thailand, that lasted for three intense days. It was such a joy to be with these godly and motivated men and women.

We both attend the Khmu Christian Connection (KCC) Board Meetings. Reports from Laos show that the Khmu Church continues to grow in spite of persecution. Many Christians are expelled from their villages, and have to leave behind fields, houses, live-stock and all their property, but the Lord takes care of them. We feel privileged to be able to help them with Chrestos funds.

We thank God for health and strength. Believing that He has called us to this work, we do not plan to leave until He directs us. Our aim is to train our national Karen staff to teach and serve their own people. They are very capable, and we have learned much from them. Please pray for us as all we prepare for the future.

Our sincere thanks and blessings on you each one from Geoffrey and Pat

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Recording Studio Team

