

# Chrestos Update 28

## October 2009

*"Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge." Psalm 46:10-11*

These verses have been a great blessing to us, showing to us the necessity of being still and knowing that He is God, however busy we are. He is exalted among the nations. He is exalted in the earth. He is the King of kings and, although at present His kingdom is hidden, the day will surely come when every eye will see Him in His beauty and His glory. The LORD [YAHWEH], the Commander of the armies of heaven, the angelic hosts, is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge. This encourages us as the Chrestos Family grows and the work expands. Our thanks to each one of you for your prayers for us, and for those in much need in Laos and Burma. We feel overwhelmed by the love and help given to us, and for your kindness shown to us in many ways.

### **Taking up Responsibility:**

Nearly the end of term! As we look back, we thank God for our staff and students. God's work requires a high level of commitment, and we see this developing in those working here, and further afield in different villages. Most could get much higher salaries than we are able to pay, but they regard this work as a calling from God.

### **Wedding Bells:**

October 31 will see the first wedding of two of our graduates: Tha Hser Minn and Hsa Da. Tha Hser Minn is the manager of our Media Productions. He has carried this work forward with his team in a wonderful way, producing much material on CDs and DVDs, radio, and booklets.

**Htaw Htoo** is completing the computerisation of our accounting system. There are plans being worked out for a very significant ministry for him, using his computer expertise, in the coming year.

**Family Worship:** Morning Worship is led by Geoffrey three mornings a week, teaching Wisdom Literature. He is now on Psalm 119. Our graduates take responsibility for the other four mornings. The students, divided into five teams: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, take responsibility for the evening worship.

**Study of God's Word:** This term we have studied New Testament Overview, and several books in depth from the Old and New Testaments. We thank God for our teaching team of twenty men and women. We have ten graduate teachers, five resident teachers, and five visiting Karen teachers for Bible, Christian Education, Agriculture, Leadership, Evangelism and Family-Values. Increasingly, we see the need for this work to be under dedicated Karen national leadership, and work towards this goal.

**Personal Counselling:** We allocate time to listen to individual students. Some come from difficult backgrounds, some with limited education, due to the distance of their villages from the nearest school, but they all come eager to learn. One first year student shared with us that she is the only Christian in her family: her mother has died, her father has gone into a Buddhist temple, and her older brother is on drugs. During this past year she has been working and saving to come to Bible school. We thank God for young people like this who, against great odds, persevere in their desire to love and serve God.

**Graduates:** Please pray as we discuss with our graduates this coming year about their future work. There are many Karen construction workers in Chiang Mai. These young people, some from Christian families, face many temptations. We continue to pray about this and other needs.

**Scripture Memory Competition:** The children in the Home of Peace and Joy recently had a Scripture Memory Competition for three different age groups. They all did extremely well but one excelled, Leekit (below), having memorised ninety-seven verses. It is a great joy to see these children having opportunity for education, and a future career that they would not have had in their villages.



**More Friends:** A policeman from the Law Courts in town came to play football with our students, because he enjoyed being with them. Then another joined them, and in the last few weeks, the chief judge, who loves to play football too, is coming. He is a very humble and kind man. We are very grateful for the friendship that we can have with them.

**Youth Conference:** Due to lack of space, we had the Youth Conference this year at the big Karen church in town. Because of this, less than half of last year's numbers came, but next year, by the grace of God, we expect to have more space, with the purchase of the semi-derelict hotel next door. The theme was Galatians 2:20 and many returned home with a greater desire for Christ to live His life through them.

**Home Visits and Village Outreach:**

During November the students will return home for the busy harvest time, and to honour their parents. During December they will be visiting mountain villages in five groups, spending two

or three nights at each village. They will encourage the Christians and evangelise, with home visits and nightly meetings.



**Evicted Christians in Laos**

**Laos:** Persecution continues, mostly by expelling Christians from their villages, and depriving them of their houses, lands, livestock and other possessions. They are moved to infertile land, or lack of spare land, so that it takes considerable time before they can generate enough food or income to feed their families. Chrestos has been providing rice for them through the Khmu Christian Connection.

**Visit to the States:** We will be visiting the States, leaving on Nov 2nd, and returning on Dec 13th. We are looking forward so much to seeing our families there, now all living in Arkansas: Dorcas, Patrick, Henry and Esther and Ouame, Tong Vieng and their four children and three grandchildren. On Nov 26th, we will be at the Thanksgiving Meal that will include most of Tong Vieng's family from different places. Geoffrey will also have opportunity to see Hsa Twel and his family in Dallas, Texas. He has been asked to preach at the Karen Church there.

With loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat.

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