

Chrestos Mission Update October 2010

“God has chosen the weak things of this world to put to shame the things that are mighty.” 1 Corinthians 1 v.27

Many Visitors:

This year we have had many visitors coming from different places. They all contribute to the life of the community here, and say how much they appreciate the student body singing for them.

It has also been a joy and privilege to have our Chrestos Board Chairman, Anthony Harrop, visiting us for a few days. He has given us valuable help and suggestions in different areas of the work.

Studies Continue:

It has been a very busy, but profitable term, with 76 students doing the four-year Bible Course. We have been studying together an Overview of the Old Testament, and the books of Isaiah, Ezra, Jonah, Luke, Ephesians, Philippians, and James, as well as Counseling, Christian Education, Teaching and Drama. The students are keen to learn, and have done reports on some of the books they have studied, for future reference.



We now have fourteen teachers, including nine of our own graduates. They also have responsibility in other Chrestos ministries.

Graduates Study

We continue with the Graduates' Study, as requested by them, from 8 a.m – 9 a.m. Monday to Friday. We are challenged as we look together at First Corinthians.

New Staff Quarters

Some of our staff and students have built a new staff quarters on the campus, with the help of a builder from the refugee camp. Everyone seems very settled and satisfied with their new homes.

Keeping the Children Warm:

The weather will get cooler in the next few months, especially in the mountains. We do appreciate all of those ladies who have knitted, so lovingly, the hats and sweaters for the children. We have been able to send them, with many other pieces of clothing, over the border into Burma for those in most need. Many have had to flee, as their villages come under attack, and they are now hiding in the jungle. Please keep knitting; it is such a blessing to so many.

The Boys in the Home of Peace and Joy

are doing well in their studies and sports. Recently they won first prize in the Mae Sariang Culture Competition, when they performed a national Karen song and dance with poles.



October 15-17 Joshua Chan will come with a team of Khmu Bible students from Chiang Mai. They will spend a whole day at the Home of Peace and Joy, having all kinds of fun activities with the boys there.

Children's Conference

We will have a Children's Conference October 12-15. Last year about 250 children joined us. From past experience, we find the numbers for all the conferences increase year by year. Please pray for the team led by Thrumer Eh Wah. She will have the third and fourth year students as her helpers.

Invitation to Teach at the Thai School

We have received an invitation from the Thai School where our orphans study. They want us to send in two teams for an hour each week, to teach the Bible to juniors and seniors, consisting of about 120 children. This will start in November at the beginning of next term.

The Studio Team is filming 'The Lost Son' in Karen. There are many willing actors and actresses from the staff, students, and friends from the churches. We have also had Kevin, an expert from Chiang Mai, to improve our filming techniques.

News from Laos

The large numbers of Khmu becoming Christians, and growing spiritually today in Laos, is due in large part to the Khmu radio broadcasting program. This broadcast is twice a day from the Philippines and beams into Laos, Thailand, China and Vietnam, where the Khmu are living. The population of the Khmu in Southeast Asia is about 800,000 people, with about 700,000 in Laos, of which there are about 60,000 Khmu Christians in eleven provinces. Please pray.

Relief Work

We supply thousands of tins of fish to children in the refugee camps and hostels. This includes the young people in the Karenni and Mae Lah Refugee Camps that have a regular visit from our staff and students.



We also supply tins of fish to the landmine victims in the Mae Lah Refugee Camp. They sing beautifully and shared

with us, "Some of us may have lost our sight and some their limbs but we still have voices to praise the Lord."

Outreach

In a few weeks most of our students will be going in outreach teams to visit many Karen villages. Please pray for safety as they travel, and for strength and wisdom as they seek to serve.

The Karen/English New Testament is completed, and 1,100 copies are on the way to us. We will be selling it at subsidised prices to refugees, and Karen in Burma and Thailand. The second edition will be produced in the future with notes, maps, references and a glossary, which has been completed and sent for checking to leading Karen Christians.

Visit to the States

We will leave for the U.S.A. on Oct. 28th, and will return to Thailand on Dec.9th.

We are looking forward to seeing our family again; Ouame and Tong Vieng with children and grandchildren, and Patrick and Dorcas with Henry and Esther.

An American Chrestos Board has been formed and is applying for tax exemption.

Thank you for your gifts and prayers that enable the work here to move forward.

With our loving greetings,

Geoffrey and Pat

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