

## Chrestos Mission Update

### January 2011

**Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things that you have not yet known. Jeremiah 33:3**

**We had a wonderful trip to the USA.** It was a joy to be with our children, Ouame, Tong Vieng and their four children and three grandchildren, and Dorcas and Patrick with Henry and Esther. We met with some of our Karen brothers and sisters. Geoffrey was blessed to stay a week with Pastor Hsa Twel, and attended the AGM of the Karen Baptist Convention of America.

**Chrestos Bible School:** While we have been away, our Chrestos staff and students have been on outreach, climbing many mountains and visiting many villages, evangelizing and encouraging the people. Some are very tired, and we will delay the beginning of this term until January 10<sup>th</sup>, to give them time to regain their strength and visit their families. This term, as well as the teaching sessions, there will be two conferences: for men in February, and for young people in April; times of 'togetherness', greatly appreciated by all.

We will continue the staff studies 8-9 a.m. Monday to Friday and be studying 1 & 2 Thessalonians and 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Wedding bells are ringing again; four graduates will be getting married in the next two weeks. Two new baby girls have been born into the Chrestos Family and another little one will arrive in the spring.

**Training Opportunities:** During the month of January we will have one of our auditors from Chiang Mai, who does the Chrestos audit, coming to give sessions with our book-keeper Naw Joy, and others will be able to attend.

**Home of Peace and Joy:** Our boys continue to grow physically, mentally and spiritually, under the kind but firm care of our staff there.



We sometimes join them for worship, drama, and games and always come away thanking God for the potential of their young lives. The teaching of Christianity in the Thai Rat School continues, with two of our teams going in for an hour each week for the seniors and juniors. About 120 children are still coming and enjoying the singing, stories and drama.

**The Recording Studio:** We are producing CDs and DVDs of Christian drama, preaching and singing that are sent to Karen scattered in many different countries. The team has also completed their first film "The Lost Son", produced in a modern presentation that will touch the hearts of many young people. The actors and actresses, mainly from Chrestos Community thoroughly enjoy their new assignment.

**Literature:** Sunday School materials prepared by Thramer Eh Htoo, a member of our staff, are available in Karen. Pat has prepared short commentaries in booklet form. These are available in Karen and English: Nehemiah, Ruth, Esther, Philippians, and Jonah [please enquire if interested].

#### **English/Karen New Testament:**

Scottsdale Bible Church has produced an English/Karen New Testament with the help of Chrestos Mission. It is now available world-wide from Chrestos Mission and from [www.KarenKonnection.com](http://www.KarenKonnection.com) for N. America.

We are preparing a second edition with maps, references, notes and headings.

A couple of weeks ago Karen leaders decided that Chrestos Bible School would be the venue for the **Karen International Singing Competition to be held in July 2012.**

**Chrestos has two Sponsorship Programs.** One is for the students and one is for the boys in The Home of Peace and Joy. If you are interested in helping in this way please contact us at the email address below. We will put you in touch with volunteers helping with these programs in the UK.

**Children to Children:** In St. Gregory Primary School, Suffolk, UK, and The International Christian School, Hong Kong, the children are concerned for disadvantaged children, whom they have only heard about, but they want to be friends with them and help them. They are finding all kinds of creative ways to earn money to send to them. These children will grow up aware of the many needs outside their own world and they will be richer for it.

**Winter Woollies:** There are groups of women knitting beautiful colored hats and sweaters for the children in refugee camps and Burma. Each piece is unique. This makes it special for the children who receive them. Each one knitted with prayer. If you would like to be part of this 'knitwork', we will put you in touch.

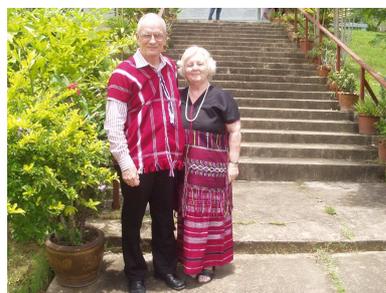
**A Sad and Broken World:** 'Chrestos' is the Greek for 'kindness', part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As we live in this sad and broken world the Lord wants us to reach out with His kindness to those in need around us. Through Chrestos, we have the privilege of distributing thousands of cans of fish, clothing, blankets, and other needed items to refugees, orphans, mine-victims, and others. Thank you from those who receive, through your kindness.

**Star Orphanage:** Thramer Eh Wa, one of our staff, visits the Karenni Camp regularly with some students. They give support to those in the Star orphanage/hostel located there.

**Khmu Work in Laos:** This is now the eleventh year that Bounchanh will have been in prison. Persecution in Laos is now coming from family members. Some young men, applying for positions in the government or the police force, are rejected if their Christian parents refuse to renounce their faith. Mark 13:12-13. Please pray.

**Visit to Hong Kong:** We had the privilege of serving in Hong Kong with our Chinese brothers and sisters from 1985 until 1995. We still have many dear friends there, and will visit them from January 31<sup>st</sup> until February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Visit to the UK** to see our family there, attend the Chrestos Board Meeting and share at meetings, where there is opportunity. We will be there from April 10 until May 16. Pam Shepherd will be arranging our schedule.



Thank you for your gifts and prayers, enabling the work here to move forward.

With loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat  
Chrestos Mission Charity No. 1095325

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