

“Sharing Christ’s Kindness”

CHRESTOS MISSION UPDATE



From Mae Sarian

OCTOBER



Visitors aplenty!

Tourism is up in Thailand this year and so are the numbers of visitors to Chrestos. We have been blessed by James Deegan, Pastor Chum Pang and 4 young men from The Good Shepherd Church in Toronto, Pastor Johan who has valuable ministry with the persecuted church in China (also associated with The Good Shepherd Church) and Neiko & Wendy Tase.

James Deegan, a recruitment consultant, came at the request of a friend in England and spent almost 2 weeks at Chrestos learning about Karen life and helping to teach English.

Pastor Chum Pang visited Chrestos Mission for the first time but 6 years ago he invited me to speak at his church’s summer conference. The Good Shepherd Church kindly paid my fares and accommodation. Pastor Chum Pang brought 4 members of his church and taught the book of Jeremiah. The 4 young men helped teach English, worked outside and experienced a mountain villager’s way of life for just over 2 weeks. The Good Shepherd Church sponsor 8 of our students and were able to spend time and build relationships with many others during their stay.

Pastor Johan came for a week and reported on the persecuted church in China. He also led devotional time with the students. The students are always pleased to see Pastor Johan and hear and pray for their brothers and sisters in China who don’t enjoy the same freedoms we have here in Thailand.

Neiko & Wendy came for their second time along with their 2 year old daughter, Vivi. Neiko is from Nagaland in India. Karen Christians helped to evangelise the Naga people over a century ago. Neiko taught 2 books: Philemon and Nahum. Neiko is an evangelist to the Indians, Pakistanis and other central Asian people in the ‘Night Bazaar’ in Chiang Mai. He is also on the committee of the Gathering Church also in Chiang Mai.

Student Body

We ask continued prayer for our students. Now we have 67 having increased our intake this year. Most of them come because they want to know God better and serve Him in their future lives. For some the fun and fellowship and escape from village life may be a more prominent motive. A few come from parental pressure, as the parents hope and pray that God will change their children’s lives here. Sometimes, He does!

Saw Gideon is such a person. From his own testimony he grew up with godly parents but his life was wild. His forceful mother insisted that he come to Bible School and there has been a dramatic change since. He has given his life to The Lord and now is a meek, godly man who is skilled and hard working. He has made a mobile stand for the projector, waterproofed the fishpond and the water cistern, and has done all kinds of maintenance work. He is also a leader and as he works he has a team around him who gradually learn the skill he has. He has been so valuable to Chrestos that we have awarded him a scholarship, meaning that he does not have to pay his annual fees any more. Another of Gideon’s characteristics is that he is not shy. Sometimes students have a burning question but they are shy to ask it. Gideon will always ask it for them. As Gideon gives his testimony it is a challenge to many.

Another, Saw Yoha (“John”), was in a gang that was busted by the police. One member committed suicide in prison. Yoha came to Bible School and became a godly, loving student and later an assistant pastor. Geoffrey had the privilege of performing his wedding ceremony.

There is a great need for Godly village pastors and evangelists among the Karen people and Chrestos seeks to meet this need.



1st Year Bible School Students lead evening prayers



Pastor CP Lee, Tim, John, Andrew and Jason have a picture with Chrestos students before leaving



Pastor Yohan, Neiko, Wendy and baby Vivi (r-l)

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Geoffrey and the fire extinguisher

As Geoffrey was leaving the Team House to teach Hebrews on a Thursday morning in August he brushed past a 6kg metal fire extinguisher which fell on his right foot. His foot was cut and became very swollen and bruised but the x-ray in Chiang Mai showed no fracture. Praise The Lord! However, some skin on top of the foot went black and necrotic leading to an ulcer and an infection which included the whole foot. Geoffrey was admitted to hospital for a week with IV antibiotics every 6 hours. That got rid of the infection but there wasn't much progress regarding healing. After a few weeks, Geoffrey, went to another hospital in late September to seek alternate advice and maybe better medication. He was seen by a surgeon and given 2 different gels – 1 for cell re-growth and 1 for moisture - and a bandage that only needed changing every 2 days. Geoffrey should be all healed by December.



Saw Banthon in Yala, South Thailand



Saw Likhit in Chiang Mai, North Thailand

Flown the nest...

Saw Likhit is studying Law at Chiang Mai University and is on the football team which involves 16 hours of training a week. So far this does not appear to have affected his grades but we pray that sport will not eclipse his spiritual life nor his academic achievements.

Saw Banthon is in the Royal Thai Army and is stationed in Yala which is located in the dangerous South of Thailand where Islamic insurgency involves almost daily murders of army personnel, police and government employees. Please pray for his safety and spiritual wellbeing.

Both love to come back to the Home of Peace & Joy when they have holidays.

Items for Prayer

- For The Hser Minn, Chrestos manager, who is taking on more responsibility as the work grows.
- For the distribution of Karen publications to Karen in many countries, including a parallel Karen/English NT with study helps and The Lion Children's Bible.
- For our radio programmes going out on 3 stations and CDs of sermons and hymns being distributed to churches without pastors.

Chrestos Sponsorship: Staff and Students

Sponsors are needed for several staff and many Bible School students. The cost is £25 per month. For further details until further notice please contact:

Pat Atkinson +66(0)9 1024 2408
pat.atkinson37@hotmail.com

Chrestos Home of Peace and Joy

Sponsors are needed for boys from the age of 6 up to 16 in our Home of Peace and Joy. The cost is £25 per month. For further details please contact:

Sarah Thackeray +44(0)1787 373 474
randsthackeray@btinternet.com

Just a Few Thoughts

Every month Pat sends out to women in different countries 'Just a Few Thoughts'. If you would like to be included please let her know.

**Thank you from all of us here at Chrestos,
With our loving greetings,**

Geoffrey & Pat



CHRESTOS MISSION Charity No. 1095325

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**"For we do not have an enduring city here;
instead, we seek one to come."**

Hebrews 13:14

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