

“Sharing Christ’s Kindness”

CHRESTOS MISSION UPDATE



From Mae Sariang

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016 EDITION

Trip to the States

Every year Geoffrey and Pat try to visit the States to see mostly family and some friends. Ouame, their oldest son, and his wife, Thong Vieng, reside in Arkansas, as does Dorcas, their second daughter, and her husband, Pat, and their kids, Henry and Esther. Thanksgiving is the best time to go as the “American” Atkinsons can all get together for fellowship and turkey! Grandchildren (Ouame’s children) with their respective families make the drive down from Ohio. From Chiang Mai, Thailand, to Fort Smith, Arkansas takes up to 30 hours via Seoul, Korea and Dallas, Texas.



Geoffrey with son, Ouame



Pat with daughter, Dorcas, and grandson, Henry

Christmas in England

Geoffrey and Pat landed in Chiang Mai at midnight Thursday 10 December from America and left for England early Sunday morning on 13 December. Having a ‘cold’ Christmas is the polar opposite to Thailand’s “winter” which measures about 16 degrees Celsius in the mornings and 34 degrees in the afternoon up in Mae Sariang.

They stayed with their son, Peter, his family in Bournemouth and friends all over –it was an extra special joy to spend time with their granddaughter (Sarah and Phil’s daughter), Anna, 6, recovering from heart surgery.

Outreach Campaign and Sweet December

Every year Chrestos Mission sends the students from the first three years onto “Campaign” for the duration of December. “Campaign” serves many purposes, outreach training for our students as well as a chance for Chrestos Mission to get involved with the Thai-Karen community in the more remote villages. The students are split up into teams that have had a month’s worth of outreach preparation and they go into different villages and put on a programme for the entire village. It is a great opportunity to reach those who have not heard the gospel via songs, drama, dances and most importantly, sermons. The visit from the students lifts and encourages those small village churches that may not have much interaction with the outside world.

The Karen typically do not celebrate the “25th” as Christmas Day but more the entire month of December. Yes...its Christmas **EVERY** day in December! Turkey and the trimmings are replaced by a stew that has bits and bobs thrown in throughout the day...and is eaten in the evening with family and friends. If there is one special day in December its usually the 05 December which is a joint celebration as it’s the King of Thailand’s birthday and Father’s Day as well.



Christmas Outreach in a Karen village



Saw Sornchai with a rodent snack...

CAMPAIGN SEASON

Boys of Home of Peace & Joy having fellowship



Students en route to a village for outreach



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Geoffrey and his foot

Four months after badly injuring his right foot when a 6.5kg fire extinguisher fell on it in August; his right foot is almost back to full health. He’s almost back to his daily dance routine with grandson, Marcus, of a morning. Your prayers are much appreciated as well as the advances in medical technology – special bandages which required less changing and GHG (human growth hormone) gel for the stimulation of cell growth.

Clothes donations!

We at Chrestos Mission have been blessed and touched by the kind generosity of those sending in hand-knitted children’s clothes from the ‘Knitwork’ in England and used clothes from overseas and Chiang Mai. It can get pretty cold in the more remote mountainous villages on the Thai-Burma border and the villagers are grateful for everything. Sometimes the villagers on the Thai side are a little forgotten as the focus is mostly on the refugees. With little education and not much access to anything it’s a wonderful chance for Chrestos Mission to share Christ’s love. We have received lots and lots of clothes from Pastor Larry Pettus in Arkansas, and Stephan Tetzl, a teacher, at the Christian German School in Chiang Mai.

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:

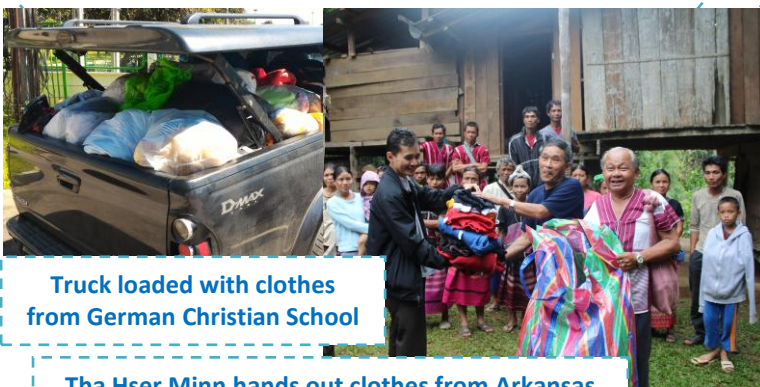
Sarah Thackeray +44(0)1787 373 474
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Just a Few Thoughts

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



Truck loaded with clothes from German Christian School

Tha Hser Minn hands out clothes from Arkansas

CHRESTOS MISSION Charity No. 1095325

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Items for Praise

- Granddaughter Anna’s successful heart surgery
- Travelling mercies for Geoffrey and Pat
- Meeting with Chrestos Board in UK

Items for Prayer

- Students returning from outreach in the villages – and for those who have been blessed by the ministry.
- New term starting 04 January 2016

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*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
‘rejoice!’ Let your gentleness be known to all!*

Philippians 4:4

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