



"The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effect"
"who by the power at work within us can do far more abundantly than all we ask .."
James 5:16; Ephesians 3:20

December 2024

We thank God for your prayers to the Lord of the harvest and Ruler of The Kingdom of Heaven..

In our September prayer letter, Chrestos Mission looked forward to a visit by 16 members of Oakhall Church over Autumn half term. Anyone interested in joining ten days taste of mission was encouraged to seek God - was this His will and timing for them?

For some, the answer was no. Others, encouraged when they saw God clear away difficulties, put their energies into fund-raising events and services - a Barbecue, cake making and lots of car cleaning added to generous donations! We are thankful for the prayerful and generous-hearted support of our Oakhall Church family. This met some air fare costs, all expenses for travel to and from Chiang Mai and two nights' accommodation in a "Coffee Village" - Chaw Di. Here, Chrestos Graduates work together in leadership roles including Pastor, evangelist and Women's Association. Chaw Di church is currently planting daughter churches and investing in future labourers by encouraging selected youth to train at Chrestos.

Campus staff arranged a full schedule, including travel to see and support some of our fourth year students on intern experience. We were impressed by the wide variety of responsibilities embraced by these students and their ready initiative to put training into practice when serving the local church and community. In one village, a 19 year-old lady student, Naw Wah Htoo, seemed to be left entirely to her own initiative to arrange services and messages to the local church, visit elderly and teach children. This was a huge and unexpected challenge! Her prayer request was not for herself but for others in their distresses.

For the first time, Chrestos sent a team to Issan people in Udon, where Christian presence is rare. (see attachment, below) All intern students commented how much they were learning through the unexpected challenges of ministry.

Visitors were surprised as deep relationships with students quickly blossomed. One lady was "surprised at the love of God in my heart toward people who had so recently been total strangers". All were impressed by the spontaneous servant heart of our Karen student hosts. Missionary zeal was set alight - seeing how God is at work. Many stated, "It is not a questions of, if we come again, but, when we come again!"

A few days after we left, the new staff accommodation was formally opened with a service of thanksgiving. Five staff families moved in early in November and are enjoying their new homes.

Praise God for:

sustaining interns; their faith and positive attitude. Galatians 6:9.

unity amongst the visiting group and willingness to, "make it work".

the love, hard work and care of campus staff (and students) to prepare for our visit.

Please pray with us for:

4th year student interns like Naw Wah Htoo, sowing the Gospel by life and word.

our God Who goes before us, to generate and sustain deep prayer and partnership through this and future visits.

Please also find 3 attachments telling how God is answering long-term prayers for widening outreach by sending a group of interns amongst Issan people in Udon (Northern Thailand); continuity in future leadership through Portay and Rosebell, our leadership trainees; the long, slow work of running a hostel for school-age children - sowing and watering the seed in young lives.

Your brother in His service,

John Silverstone. (on behalf of Chrestos Trustees) December 2024.

Contact details / donation via our website: chrestos-mission.org

Reaching new people groups – The Issan People in Udon Northern Thailand:

Psalm 40: 1-5; He heard my cry; He drew me out of the miry bog and put my feet on the Rock; Many will . put their trust in the Lord; You have multiplied .. your wondrous deeds.

First students in Udon: Left to right: Saw Hto Lay Wah (green top) Naw Peh (white) Naw Wilai (dark blue hoodie) Saw Kler Por who grew up in Chrestos Orphanage. Pastor Kwan back row and his wife, centre.



These four are God's answer to many prayers; first, to establish the work of Chrestos Mission amongst Karen village churches and then to reach to other people groups in Thailand. The four students tell us of fresh lessons learned about making the gospel known outside their own culture alongside Buddhist Issan people in Northern Thailand.

The girls plan to set up a small business cooking a favourite Issan dish to extend opportunities for conversation with local people, who ask, "why are you here?". The short answer - to make known the love of Christ! The girls are loved by the village children they teach. The boys serve in any way they can - menial or significant. The pastor is himself a trophy of grace, deep in the word of God and filled with joy and enthusiasm since being born again 4 years ago and restored 3 years ago to his wife! Pray they will all be strong in the Lord and effective in witness. Eph 6:10; John 20:21.

This is another long-term investment of prayer as school age children living in hostels receive the seed of God's word and become adults

Portay and Rosebell – Future leadership Trainees



These two are also the answer to years of prayer to equip and train leaders in preparation for succession. For ease on English ears, we call them Portay and Rosebell. They are training for future leadership roles at Chrestos through a four-year, MA-level course in Biblical studies. The course includes affiliation to a different local church each year. Now in the third year, they spend five days a week studying. Intern experience, each serving a different local church each year from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening and throughout most vacations means they have to be intentional in their use of time to maintain personal fellowship with Jesus.

We have been able to meet them four times during the course so far. Their growing perspectives and enthusiasm confirm the wisdom of Karen Trustees in selecting them for this training for their future roles. Portay and Rosebell thank us for encouraging them by making the time to catch up. God's work. God's glory.

Please pray for them: Colossians 1:11-14; Patient endurance with joy and thanksgiving - eyes fixed on the Kingdom. Hearts to learn and retain; Become good team-builders in their future roles at Chrestos Bible School.

Running a hostel for school age children

... that the love with which You have loved me may be in them and I in them. John 17:26.



Saw Jar Di and Naw Paw Lah Nwee with their one year old son, Saw Beth El, manage the hostel at Khun Yuan for early teenage youth too far distant from home villages to make a daily journey to school. This is a tough task. Girls and boys have disciplined daily routines. Hostel life includes Bible, teaching, songs and other responsibilities during term time. Local church pastor and others assist.

Many will remember praying a year ago for this couple.

Please pray for wisdom, love, grace, forgiveness in their role as house parents; for enduring positive relationships and respect to grow; That young lives are shaped by worshipping Christ.