

Chrestos Update 5: May 2004

'The harvest is indeed plentiful but the labourers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to thrust out labourers into his harvest.' Matthew 9:37-38

During these last few months we have been preparing for our move to Mae Sariang, a town about three hours drive south west of Chiang Mai and forty-six kilometres from the Burmese border.

We do want to thank you for your love, prayers and gifts. We are amazed at the constant provision for the ministry and for the team that God has provided. One of these provisions is the Team House in Mae Sariang with its many bedrooms, newly painted and polished. This will be a wonderful place to house the team, the teachers, short-term workers, visitors, and those who may want to come and rest.

We have just heard from our Thai lawyer that our application for us to be a Thai Foundation under Chrestos Mission has been approved. This gives us recognition with the government and visas for some of our team members. Thank you so much for your prayers. Under the Thai Foundation we have three main areas of responsibility: these are relief, education and literature, and we would like to share with you how these are developing for your prayerful interest.

1. Relief: Help for the Karen

The Mae Rah Mo Camp is about 3 to 4 hours drive from Mae Sariang over rough terrain but the journey is worth it when you see the appreciation of those in the camp. They realise afresh that they are not forgotten by the outside world.

The Mae Lah Camp is about 40 minutes drive from the town of Mae Sot. During the last visit three guitars were given to the young people through the generous gift of a visitor from Singapore. They were thrilled as they are very musical and sing beautifully in harmony.

Relief: Help for the Khmu

Many Khmu come from their villages in northern Laos to earn money for their families. The young women work in the sewing factories and the young men in the water bottling factories. There are over a 100 factories in Vientiane. The young people are vulnerable and some become involved in drugs and prostitution. Please pray.

Financial help is given on a monthly basis for Khmu pastors and their families with medical needs [their pay is low and medical costs are high]. In the next few months medical kits will be organised for pastors and evangelists amongst the Karen and the Khmu to use on their trips to the villages. We are able to obtain wholesale medicines from Bangkok that considerably cuts down the cost.

2. Education:

The Bible School at Mae Sariang:

The Bible School is looking really wonderful: clean, painted, renovated. The teams of Karen from the villages have done an amazing job. The Bible School will open on 5th.July. We are in the process of sending out student application forms. We have heard that there is a lot of interest.

3. Literature When we were in Thailand before [1975-1984] Pat had seven booklets translated and published in Thai by O.M.F. and Scripture Union. These included material on childbirth, family life, counselling, Character Studies for Women and studies in the Tabernacle and Offerings. She will be revising these manuscripts and having them reprinted in Thai and Karen.

With our loving greetings and sincere thanks, Geoffrey and Pat