

## Chrestos Mission Update 9: July 2005

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### **A Prayer of Moses:**

Let the favour of the Lord be upon us and establish the work of our hands. Let your work be revealed to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Psalm 90:16-17.

### **Thanksgiving Service**

We held a Thanksgiving Service at the end of April for our first year at the Bible School. This was followed by a concert and a meal together with Karen pastors, parents and friends. Our hearts were full as we considered the amazing grace of our God to us who are not worthy of His love. As the students sang, we thought of the many changes that had taken place in their lives. From their own testimonies, the majority of them shared that they had been sent by pastors or parents and it was not always their own choice to come. Some gave God reasons why they should not come; some bargained with God; some thought that they would come and see what they could get and then leave. But God has been so kind and patient with each one and now they have asked for a second year with holidays reduced so that they can have more time to study. Their lives have been changed as they have heard, understood, and obeyed God's Word. Their love for Him and for each other is a challenge to us. We are expecting another fourteen to sixteen new students for our second year that starts on 5 July.

### **The Promised Land**

We only have the present premises for the next two years and finally will not have enough room to accommodate the increased number of students we anticipate coming. Last term we were studying together the Book of Exodus and realised that God also has a piece of land, 'Promised Land', for us, somewhere here in Mae Sariang. We have looked at more than a dozen plots of land – some large, some small, some distant, some near – but God seems to be impressing on our hearts that the land He has prepared for us would be a place of witness in the town..

Next to the Chrestos Team House is a large piece of land that the owners have been trying to sell for the last year or so. We enquired about the price but it was too expensive for us. There is also a large warehouse on the land, containing an old rice-mill. For another four months or so, we looked at many places, but each time the land we looked at was not suitable. Finally, the owners of the land next door approached us to negotiate on a price. With the price reduced, we could afford to buy the land with a legacy that had been passed on to Chrestos Mission. .

When the sale went through, we removed three 'spirit houses' from the property, and consecrated the land for God's glory. The warehouse has been cleaned and painted and final remnants of the rice-mill removed. A ceiling, lights, and fans will later be installed and also a large screen and stage. With room for possibly three to four hundred people, this has potential for pastors' conferences; youth meetings; films, and concerts. Toilets and showers have been built outside and septic-tanks have been installed. Little by little, we will build accommodation for the staff and students, plant produce, and raise animals. This will give an agricultural component to the Bible School with students working in teams on the land. We are planning for an agriculturalist to come and give some training. The produce will also help to supply the daily needs of the growing number of students and visitors who come to the school.

### **Our Promised Land**



### **A Woman in Need**

Since our return from the UK in the middle of June we have been busy preparing for the next term, and also have been working as a team [staff and students] with a young woman, Naw Po Po Da, brought to us from one of the Karen villages. She was showing every sign of being demon possessed. She had been taken to a several shamans. She was also taken to a Buddhist monk, who told her parents that only the Christians could cast out the demons. She was then brought to the Bible School. It was wonderful to see everyone in the School concerned for this dear one, praying and fasting, with some staying up all night to be with her. Our Team also had a precious time together of confession and confirmation of our love for one another. After some days, we saw a big change in Naw Po Po Da as her mind and voice returned to normal. For the previous two months, she had could not go into a church, but that Sunday came with us, sang with our choir, and afterwards was baptised with three other young people. She had not been able to eat, but now enjoys her food. She loves to read the Scriptures and to serve whenever she has the opportunity. Everyone is so grateful to God for what He has done for her and all that He has been teaching us through this experience.

### **Chrestos Communications**

The students, calling themselves Mae Sariang Chrestos Choir, have made a recording that is available on CD and tape called: "Take your Cross and Follow Me." The songs are in three languages: Karen, Thai and English with an English translation enclosed. We hope to get a copy to many of you.

Also, we are producing teaching booklets in Karen and the first one, soon to go to the printers, is 'Come Let Us Build' with studies on leadership from the Book of Nehemiah.

**In Laos** we help to meet the medical costs of pastors & their families. They are poor and medical costs are high. There are times when Christian communities are in need, particularly if they are a small unwanted part of a village. Two young pastors are also studying English in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, so that they can help more efficiently in the Khmu ministry there.

### **Please pray for adults and children in prison in Laos.**

In a northern province on Feb.15.2005 the authorities evicted 11 people from their village and put them in prison; 6 are adults and 5 are children. The authorities are forcing them to renounce their faith in Christ. These people have been in this village for many years. There is no official word as to their sentence or trial. Another Christian was recently arrested in Vientiane. As yet we have no further news about what is happening to him. Another prisoner remains under a fifteen year sentence. These have not been forgotten by God and He asks us to pray for them as though we are in prison with them. Hebrews 13:3

**In Thailand** we give help to Karen refugees in three camps with tins of fish, clothes, stationary, and sports equipment. Help is given to children in a migrant school, Hsah Htoo Lei School that does not receive any government subsidy.

**In Burma**, through those who give to Chrestos Mission, we are able to supply three clinics in Burma with medicines for some of the internally displaced people. We also have a 'Chrestos School' just across the border where over forty children are being cared for in a school/orphanage by a Christian lady called Auntie Htoo Htoo. For this, we supply rice, tins of fish, school equipment and small wages for the teachers. Altogether, because of the generosity of God's people, we are able to supply 2,500 tins of fish monthly to those in need in Thailand and Burma.

With our love and sincere thanks to each one of you, Geoffrey and Pat [[geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com)]

### **A thought from one of the students:**

Things of value are not easily acquired. Search the Scriptures. Dig deep for treasure.

The Word is not always easy to understand, but such a great treasure when you begin to understand it.