

Chrestos Mission Update 10: October 2005

A man's mind plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

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Dear Friends,

The weeks have passed so quickly. We want to thank all those who have written to us and to the many that pray and give for the work here. Our days are full with many responsibilities, but we also feel that we are not only working but also watching God at work: changing lives through the power of His Word, daily caring for all our needs, and guiding us into His will for the future of the Mission and those whom He has entrusted to our care.

Planting and Producing:

When we first arrived in Mae Sariang, we saw in our garden at the Team House several black plastic bags containing saplings that had never been planted so that they could take root and produce fruit. This was a picture to us of the many Karen young people in north Thailand who needed to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God that they might produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It is wonderful to see this now happening in the Chrestos Bible School. This year we have 26 students: 14 men and 12 women who have come from several different areas. We have already studied together since the beginning of term Joshua, Ruth, Jonah, Zechariah, Obadiah, Zephaniah, John, Philemon and James. The students also cover other subjects such as Karen literacy, Thai and English language lessons, Health, Singing, Music, and Computer. This year they have the added experience of working on the land next to the Team House, and we are beginning to eat our own vegetables and fruit from what is grown. On the land there is a large warehouse that has been renovated and equipped, ready to be used for Christian Conferences [the first Youth Conference was held last weekend], concerts, films, and dramas. This will be a centre for outreach in the community and beyond. Naw Po Po Da, the young woman mentioned in our last update, is studying well and loves to serve her brothers and sisters in the school.



This is the Chrestos Team House, the heart of the Mission, where we meet morning and evening as a family, to worship the Lord and study His Word together. The name 'Chrestos' is Greek for the fruit of the Spirit 'kindness'. We often remind ourselves that words are easy but actions are hard. Please pray with us that many will experience the kindness of the Lord through the work of Chrestos.

Decisions and Developments:

There have been some further decisions and developments since our last letter and we would like to share these with you for your prayers:

*At the request of the Karen leaders, the course at the school is now being extended to a four year course, but if a two or three year course is more suitable for some students we are happy for that also. The course will include practical training in different areas.

*At the beginning of the month, we have a period of twenty-four hours set aside for prayer and fasting for the suffering church in a certain area of the world. We have focused prayer already on the needs of the Christians in Eritrea and North Korea, and this month we will pray for Pakistan.

*We have also seen the needs of those in the Karen villages for simple medical help, and we hope to be able to visit different places on a monthly basis with a team of students.

The ATOM [A Taste of Mission] Team from the UK has been with us in Mae Sariang meeting the students at the Bible School and more young people at the Youth Conference. They have visited the Karen refugee camp and the Hsa Htoo Lei Migrant School and are now in Laos.

The relief work continues for those in need in Laos, Burma and on the Thai/Burma border. In our last update we mentioned that a Khmu Christian in Laos had been arrested and not heard of since. He has now returned home. Praise God!

With our loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat

Students on Outreach

