

Chrestos Update 12: April 2006

It is grace we need, and not sin, to make and keep us humble. The heaviest laden branches always bow the lowest. The nearer the soul comes to God, the more His Majestic Presence makes it feel its littleness. [Andrew Murray]

News from the Chrestos Bible School

Building Plans:

Together with our Karen Team, after prayer and discussion, we have decided that we should go ahead with building on the property next door to the Team House. This will include student dormitories, married staff accommodation, dining room and kitchen. The large warehouse will be used for classes, conferences and outreach. The lower floor of the Team house will provide rooms for the recording studio and office, the computer classroom, and another room for storing equipment. We would like to develop the agricultural programme, growing produce and raising animals, to supply some of our own needs in the Chrestos Community and also train the students for when they return to their villages. We give praise to the Lord and thanks to all of those, who have wonderfully provided for these developments.



Outreach:

We see the need not only to be learning in the classroom but also to be training on the field. During this last term, every month for a few days, Geoffrey has visited a cluster of five villages called Ma O Jo in a remote mountain area with a team of students. There they have medical clinics, teaching and services. Some have believed and many are interested. They would like to build a church for themselves, if we provide the roofing. Very few can read and so we see the need to provide teaching and song tapes for them and for many others.

The studies for this year have now ended, and for the next few weeks until April 15 all of us, staff and students, will be visiting several Karen conferences and Bible school graduations in different places. After that the students will be stationed in teams of two's and three's in different villages to encourage the Karen Christians in those areas and to evangelise.

Chrestos Communications:

We have just recently had our first booklet printed in Karen on the Book of Nehemiah called 'Come, Let Us Build'. The second one, soon to go to the printers, is called 'A Baby is Born'. This gives helpful information about what happens in a woman's body from conception until the time of birth, and then the care of children up to five years old. These details are woven around the story of Hannah and Samuel. This is also available in Thai.

Chrestos Graduation:

At the Graduation Ceremony on July 2nd, 2006 our second year students will receive a Chrestos Certificate for completing two years of study, and four of our ladies will be leaving to serve in their villages. The rest will stay for another two years and will receive a Chrestos Diploma. We will also be welcoming more new students into the Chrestos Family.

Lah and Moei

We have a Shan family, Lah and Moei and their two daughters Ang and Ying, living at the back of the Team House. They are faithful people that are a great help to us and to the students. Just over a month ago Lah fell into an empty, deep water tank and shattered the bones in both of his heels. He is recovering well after surgery in Chiang Mai. Recently both Lah and Moei have become Christians and removed the spirit-shelf from their house. Our men students meet with them to pray and read the Scriptures. They would like to be baptised when Lah is fully recovered from his injury.

Due to the generosity of many friends, we are now able to include two more Karen refugee camps in our distribution of tinned fish for orphaned children.

Also, we have been able to send in warm clothing to the displaced people in Burma. Thank you so much for your love.

**Laos:**

Please pray for the Christians in Huay Seang Village, Luang Prabang Province, who are experiencing persecution. Their church building was torn down at the instigation of an anti-Christian teacher at the local school. The pastor was arrested but was finally released when three other Christians taken with him refused to leave the police-station without him.

Burma:

The situation in Burma is critical at the moment. Many refugees are fleeing from the attacks of the Burmese Army, and some have been blocked from escaping. Please pray for them that God will provide a way.

We are continually blessed by the love of so many and are so grateful for the many ways in which you enable the work here to go forward under the blessing of God.

In His love,

Geoffrey and Pat

P.O. Box 48, Mae Sariang, Mae Hongson, Thailand 58110 geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com