

## Chrestos Update 16: January 2007

**It is good to give praises to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night. Psalm 92:1**

As we look back over another year our hearts are filled with gratitude and wonder at the greatness and generosity of the LORD.

**Visits:** It was a wonderful joy and privilege to visit the States and see Ouame, Tong Vieng and their family during the month of December. The doctors had thought that Ouame's renal transplant would not survive because of an overwhelming virus infection but, in response to prayer and the Lord's goodness, his kidney seems to be recovering. Our four grandchildren: Anna [will be getting married in April to Jay]; Stephen is at home helping his parents with the chicken farm; John and Goh have just had their second child, Elias; and there is a possibility that Joseph, Ouame's youngest son, may come to visit us sometime this year. We also had a very special time with Patrick, Dorcas and Henry. Time seemed short, but they hope to come to Thailand when there is opportunity.

**Outreach:** While we were away in December, three teams of students were on outreach to many Karen villages, and the team in the recording-studio stayed back to produce Bible readings and Christian songs to help Christians in remote villages. On our return at the end of December, Geoffrey visited Ma O Jo, where one of our teams had been in December 2006 and December 2007. Through their witness ten families have believed and, with a little financial assistance, built their own church. During his visit, Geoffrey led a service of dedication of the church. We are thrilled to see this new congregation worshipping the Lord. During term-time, we are now visiting village churches most weekends. We feel that it is important for the students not only to learn in the classroom but also to have a practical experience at every possible opportunity.

**Dedication of New Building:** The new building for the accommodation of the lady students and some of the members of staff will be dedicated to the Lord during the month of February. The present ladies dormitory will become another classroom, study-room and library.



In July we will be accepting another quota of students into the school, possibly making a total of between 50 and 60 students, and we are so grateful that we will be able to accommodate them. This year we have seen wonderful changes in the lives of many of the students as they have responded to God's Word to them. Another young man has just recently been brought to us by the Karen leaders who asked us if we could receive him. He is settling in well with the help of some of the more mature students.

**Women's Retreat:** We are planning a Karen Women's Retreat from Feb.22-24 here at the Bible School. Our second and third year lady students will be taking care of the women who come and the theme will be "Becoming the women God wants us to be". Pat will be teaching from the Book of Ruth and a Karen pastor's wife will be speaking on the Christian woman in her home, church, and community. We are looking forward to a wonderful time together and so grateful to the men who will be cooking for us and caring for the children.

**News from Laos:** Please continue to pray for the brothers and sisters in Laos. We have heard of three Christians who have recently died in prison. Other Christians have been kidnapped and not heard of again. BC has been in prison since 1999 and continues to serve a long sentence, but remains faithful to God. Their commitment is a constant challenge to us and their reward will be great.

**Please pray for Burma and remember the Global Day of Prayer for Burma on March 11.**

This year the attacks by the Burmese army on the Karen people and other groups have been greater than ever, leaving many hiding in the jungle and trying to reach safety. Let us remember them as we sit in the comfort of our own homes and also those who are trying to relieve their suffering, sometimes at great cost.

**Karen refugees in the Ei Tu Hta Camp**



With permission, we have been able to help the people in the Ei Tu Hta, refugee camp, a new camp just inside the Burmese border. During our last visit, as we arrived about a hundred internally displaced people arrived also, having travelled two weeks through the jungle after their village was attacked and destroyed. We supplied them, through Chrestos, with 400 blankets, 1500 balaclavas, other clothes, and 1500 tins of fish. They were so grateful for so little and it was such a joy to later worship and thank God together for all His love and mercies shown to us.

We will be visiting the UK during the month of April to report to the Chrestos Board, see our family and friends, and share about the work.

With our love and sincere thanks to each one of you, Geoffrey and Pat

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