

Chrestos Update 20 October 2007

**Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the LORD endures
forever. Praise the LORD!**

Fun and Fellowship:

October is the school holiday time and becomes the time for conferences. During this month, we have had three conferences, all with a different flavour, but all very exciting and we believe far-reaching for future work among the Karen children and youth in north Thailand and beyond. At the beginning of the month we hosted a 2/3/day time of fellowship with staff and students from the **Thai Karen Baptist Bible School in Chiang Mai**. It was a time of forging friendships and a deepening in our understanding of each others needs, problems and aspirations. This will become an annual event and they will be our hosts next year.



Then a couple of weeks later, over a hundred children arrived from many places for the Children's Conference. We had a wonderful time together with action songs, games, crafts and Bible stories. It was good to spend time with several of the Sunday School teachers who came with them. They shared with us some of the needs and we feel that we can give some help in the village churches with teams of our students and also teaching materials. They went back to their areas refreshed and strengthened.



This last weekend we have had the **Youth Conference**. The last time it was held one hundred and seventy young people came. We thought it would be more this time and about three hundred arrived with great expectations. It was one of the most exciting weekends we have had here. Before the conference the Bible School students had shared requests for prayer for the young people who would be joining us. Thirty five different requests were given, and the Lord answered their prayers. The

theme was the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Again, there were lively songs, drama, sports, singing competition, talks, concerts and many other things that young people enjoy. We also met with the youth leaders that brought them and again they wanted us to consider the possibility of teams of our students visiting the villages, particularly to get alongside the youth. All of us here in the Bible School want to reach them in every way possible.

We would be grateful for prayer for Saturday November 3 when we will have our annual **'Bible Day'** with many Karen students from different hostels in the town of Mae Sariang [many do not have secondary education available in their mountain villages].

All of these conferences provide valuable experience for our students and is part of their four year training. During this past term we have studied Luke & Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, Hebrews, Ecclesiastes, Job, 1, 2 & 3 John, and Old Testament Overview. Some Karen teachers have also helped us with the teaching programme. We look forward to having nine graduates next year; four men and three women. They will remain on our staff and some will be on our teaching team.

The ATOM Team:

During October we also had a visit from the ATOM Team from the UK.

They have travelled to many places, with many new experiences [learning Thai cooking and riding on elephants!]. They also become more aware of the situation in this part of the world. They have spent some time with us at the Bible School, and enjoyed meeting the students and joining in some of the activities at the Youth Conference. It has been a joy to have them with us.

In a couple of weeks the students will be going back to their villages to see their families and will return at the end of November to go on outreach into several areas during the month of December. They are a great encouragement to the Christians, particularly to those who are in distant places. Please remember them in your prayers.

Women's Border Retreat

We will be travelling to the Thai/Lao border November 28-30 November for the Khmu Women's Conference where Pat will be the speaker. We are expecting many Khmu women from Laos. The women are so happy to be there and the three days are full with teaching, sharing, singing, drama and just enjoying being together in freedom. We are woken by the call of the drums at five a.m. for prayer and constantly challenged by these dear ones who live under the restrictions of a Communist government but keep a fervent love for the Lord. After the conference we will be crossing the border into Laos to see the projects that Chrestos is helping with there.

The situation in Burma remains critical. Many have been killed and imprisoned, because of their peaceful protest. Ethnic cleansing continues with thousands fleeing from their homes in the Karen and Shan states and those who do not escape in time often being tortured, raped and killed. We continue to pray that true justice and peace will come to that land that has suffered so long.

Your love, prayers and interest in the work here mean so much to us and we continue to be amazed at what the Lord is doing among us. Thank you for being part of it.

With our love, Geoffrey and Pat

Chrestos Mission, P.O. Box 48, Mae Sariang, Mae Hongson, Thailand 58110
email address: geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com