

## **Chrestos Update 22: April 2008**

How great is the God we adore, our faithful unchangeable Friend  
Whose love is as great as his power, and knows neither measure nor end.

This last term has been very busy, with many activities going on, as well as the usual teaching programme. We know that many have been praying and we would like to share with you some of the highlights of the last few months and the plans for the months ahead.

### **Visit to Laos:**

We had the privilege of visiting brothers and sisters in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos. We were encouraged and challenged by the work going on there, where Chrestos Mission has an interest and involvement. New believers are being built up in the Word and there is an outreach among the many village girls who have come to work in the big city, with all its potential dangers. Many of these young women have believed and been baptised, and long for the opportunity to go back to their villages and share the love of God with their families.

### **Sunday-School Teachers' Training:**

From March 3-6, eighteen of our third and fourth year students went with Pat to one of the nearer Karen villages. Forty-five Sunday-School teachers joined us from different places and we had a wonderful time together. We studied together about children and the possible ways in which we can be more effective in our ministry with them. The days were full, with sharing of needs and problems, action songs, visual aids, puppet making, drama, and planning. It seemed that the only complaint was that we did not have enough time to do everything we wanted to. We are hoping that this will become an annual event.

### **New Church in Ma O Jo:**

The church founded and nurtured by one of our outreach teams two years ago is continuing to grow. One of our graduates, Pastor Nehemiah, who is an older experienced man, is caring for the believers there. Please pray for him. The work is not easy with so many shamans living and working in the area. Some of our students join him when possible.

### **But We Have Voices!!**



In a few days time, we will be joining some of our staff and students in the Mae Lah Refugee Camp on the Thai/Burma border to celebrate with the students who are graduating from the Camp Bible School this year. While we are there, we will visit a group of Karen men injured by landmines. Some have lost one or both eyes, arms, and legs. We help them, through Chrestos Mission, with food and finance, and hope soon to record their beautiful singing. They are a great challenge to us who have all our faculties. They shared with us,

“We may not have eyes, arms, or legs but we have voices, and we will use them for our God.”

**The Orphanage:**

Plans for the proposed orphanage are going ahead. We are working under the advice of the Thai government. The orphanage will be for boys between the ages of five to twelve years old who definitely have lost one or both parents. Thirteen children are already signed up and two more, whose parents have died of Aids, would like to come but will need special permission because they have no papers. Please pray for these children. We will have four full-time workers and also one part-time worker. We plan to open in early May, ready for the children to enter the local Thai school at the beginning of term.

**Graduation:**

This year we will have our first graduation of those who have studied with us for a four-year period. Our policy here is to study the Scriptures, Old and New Testament, in depth for 7/8 months of the year in the mornings and in the afternoons Karen literacy, Thai, English, music and choir, health, I.T., sewing and weaving. They also gain experience working on the land and helping to raise animals. The rest of the year the students are on outreach to different areas, also visiting many Karen churches, and celebrating at graduations, conventions, and occasions for thanksgiving.

Nine students, six men and three women, will be graduating after four years: one student who has studied with us three years will be leaving to join his fiancée in Sweden: and two older men students, who have had previous experience in their churches, will be graduating after two years.



The nine four-year graduates will all be staying on our staff, one will be the local secretary of our mission, liaising with the Thai government; another as manager of the day-to-day running of the school; two in the recording studio and literature ministry; four in the orphanage; and one to help with the women students, and other ministries. Some of them will be on our teaching team, and will also pursue further studies. It is great to have them serving with us in the ministry here.

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

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