

## Chrestos Update 23: June 2008

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

Dear Chrestos Family, we would like to share with you the following for your interest and prayers.

### Graduation:

It was a wonderful day on May 18<sup>th</sup>, when twelve of our students graduated. There were two older men graduating after two years of study, one graduating after three years, who is preparing to join his fiancée in Sweden, and the remaining nine after four years of study. Eight of these have come on to our staff, and one has been conscripted into the Thai Army, but will return to us after his two year tour of duty. They have all taken up their responsibilities with dedication and purpose, and it is a joy to have them now working alongside us. Some of these graduates have come on to our teaching team [which now includes several other Karen teachers], and they are preparing their materials for this coming academic year.



### Further Studies

Some of the graduating students, as well as serving on the staff, will also be taking time to continue their studies in different subjects by correspondence.

### New Term:

The new term will start on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one new students will be joining us this year, making a total of sixty-six students. Some have already arrived, to have more time to improve their Karen literacy.



Thara Christopher and wife Thara Mu Christina, with their two lovely children Simon and Andrew, and some family members after Christopher's graduation.

## The Home of Peace and Joy



Twenty-three boys, between the ages of five and fourteen, have settled well into The Home of Peace and Joy managed by four of our graduates. All the children go to the local Thai school. It has been such a joy to hear them sing songs and recite memory verses with great gusto!! Geoffrey and some of our staff had a meeting with the District Governor and other Thai officials, who expressed their approval of our work with the orphans.

### Recording Studio:

Our staff and work in the recording studio continues to expand, and we would appreciate prayer for the projects that we are involved in. The Old and New Testament Scriptures are being recorded with songs ready to send to many places in Thailand, and also to other countries where Karen are being resettled as refugees, through the United Nations.

**Filming:** With the assistance of an American charity, majoring in vernacular films, we will be enabled to dub a professionally produced film of Matthew's Gospel into the Karen language in the coming months. Starting in August, Chrestos Mission will be on a local radio station for forty minutes twice a week, for preaching and singing in Karen, as well as teaching health, development, and English.

### Burma Emergency Relief Fund

Refugees are coming from the Delta area, and our team has been able to supply them with food, clothes, and toiletries. Meanwhile the money that we have sent in to our partners in Burma is being used to feed and to care for the needs of the survivors, including the provision of a small truck for the distribution of supplies. There has been a very generous response. This update comes with our sincere thanks for your love and prayers for the work here in north Thailand and the regions beyond. Geoffrey and Pat



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