

Chrestos Update 24: September 2008

The LORD has done great things for us, of which we are glad. Psalm 126:3

Chrestos Christian Education Centre

It has been a wonderful first two months of this term. The twenty-three new students have settled in well and are participating in all activities. In our Family Worship Time, in the early morning, we have continued to study the Wisdom Literature [Psalms this term]. In our morning studies, after breakfast until midday, we have looked at an overview of the Old Testament, and by the end of this year will have looked at twelve books of the Old and New Testaments in depth. We never cease to be amazed at the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of our God [Romans 11:13]. We now have eleven on our Bible Teaching Team; seven of these are on our staff and two are teachers from the Siloam Bible School in Chiang Mai. Also, we have had two visiting teachers. In the afternoons, the students study subjects such as English, Thai, music, health, counselling, drama, children's ministry, I.T., typing, sewing, weaving, drawing, agriculture. We are all on a learning curve.

The Home of Peace and Joy

The twenty-three boys at the Home of Peace and Joy seem very happy and contented, and they seem to have grown remarkably, since they arrived. We were pleased to hear that the teachers at the local Thai School said that they were well-behaved children and they are pleased to have them in the school. They join us at the Bible School for some of the worship and fun times together. They are learning action songs and Bible verses. Also, they receive extra tuition in the Thai language every week to improve their learning skills. They are cared for in such a loving way. Just recently, the men staff and all the boys came to the family service in new Karen shirts beautifully woven by our two ladies on the staff there – truly a labour of love.

Recording Studio

There are three facets of the work in the recording studio. We are still producing CD'S of Karen preaching, singing, and recording the Scriptures, to be sent to various places in Thailand and beyond. Also, we are preparing programmes for the local Thai radio-station. These will be broadcast forty minutes, twice a week. Again, this includes preaching, singing, health, and community development, all in Karen. They have also asked for an English learning programme that Pat is recording with one of our Karen Team. With the help of an American Mission called VVMI, we are also working on dubbing the film of Matthew's Gospel into the Karen Language, and plan to dub Acts and other Christian films in the future.

Forty of our students have just made a DVD of choral pieces, quartets, and duets at the Voice of Peace studio in Chiang Mai. This will be distributed to many places. Here they are preparing for the recording.



We have had several visitors since the beginning of term, and a few weeks back we had the ATOM Team from the UK, six women and three men. They arranged a 'fun-day' for the children and also helped to build a chicken-coop – a first for most, if not all, of them.

Up and Coming News:

Pat will be visiting Hong Kong from September 17-24 and is looking forward to seeing again many of our loved ones there. It will be a busy time and she would appreciate prayer.

October 18 - 23 will be the month of our Youth Conference. We never know how many to expect, but each time the numbers increase and it could easily be three hundred or more this year. The theme is "Are You Ready?"

November 6 – December 16 Visit to the States

We are so looking forward to being with our son Ouame and daughter Dorcas and their families, including a new little granddaughter Esther.

The students will return to their villages during November and will be going on outreach to different places during December. Please remember them in prayer.

Laos Update:

In the southern part of Laos there were seventeen families held as prisoners in a school with no food or water. They were told that they would have to stay there until they denied Christ. After three days ten of the families had denied Christ but seven still refused to. The ones who denied Christ were allowed to go back to their village, but those who kept their faith were turned out of the village and had to live in shacks in the rice fields. We have heard no more since. Please pray for our brothers and sisters suffering in Laos at this time.

Burma Update:

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Burma Emergency Fund.

Our partners in Rangoon are the Karen Baptist Convention and through the generosity of donors were able to provide water and sanitation, food and household items, mobile medical teams, and tractor/ploughs, seeds, and diesel fuel in order to get in this year's crop. They were also enabled, with the help of further funds given by Chrestos, to take in one hundred and ten orphans, who had no one to care for them.



Thank you for standing with us in the work here in north Thailand and the regions beyond.

With our loving greetings,
Geoffrey and Pat

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