

Chrestos Update 26: May 2009

The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Visit to the UK

March was a very exciting month for us as we traveled back to the UK and then journeyed to Martinique for the wedding of Peter and Sandrine. The wedding was held at the Evangelical Baptist Church, and followed by a large wedding-feast. Several of the family members were there: Patrick and Dorcas, with Henry and Esther, came from the States, and Philip and Sarah, with Moses and Anna, came from the UK. We all stayed in a villa together and had a great time. Daniel was Peter's best man, and several other friends came along. They stayed in another villa and often joined us for meals.

We spoke at several meetings while we were in the UK, and are so grateful for the kindness and hospitality of those who arranged these for us. Just before we left, we attended the Annual General Meeting of the Chrestos Board where our chairman, Jimmy Ho, shared that, due to pressure of work, he needs to take a Sabbatical. We want to express our thanks to him for all the valuable service he has given to the Mission since its formation in 2002. We welcomed Anthony Harrop as the newly elected chairman.

Many Conferences:

Since our return at the beginning of April, generally the hottest month of the year, we have had many conferences. It started with the annual **Thai Karen Baptist Conference**, held this year at Mae Sariang. It was estimated that about three thousand came, for part or whole of the time. Our studio staff worked long hours before and during the conference on the sound system. During the conference, the large new building of the TKBC was consecrated to the Lord.

The next conference was the **Chrestos Children's Conference** at our campus with about 250 children attending. Two of our new Karen staff planned the program and, with the help of our students, gave the children a wonderful time of learning and playing. We will see how many come next year !!

We are now planning for a Sunday-School Teachers' Conference during this next academic year. Our plan is to take men and women already teaching Sunday School in the villages and some of our students who are gifted in children's work, and give them further training. Then in time, they would become trainers of other teachers. There is a great need to multiply ourselves if we are going to reach the future generation.

The Chrestos Women's Conference followed the next week. Their theme was, 'Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.' Proverbs 31:30.

About seventy women came from different areas and they so enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship and have fun together. The three stars of the conference were three older ladies, who sang the songs with great gusto, while one of them played the guitar with real rhythm. Wonderful women!!

Then came the **Chrestos Men's Conference**; the first we have had on the campus, especially with the ordinary man in mind. Some time ago in a village, we were asked whether we could have something for the men so that they could become better husbands, fathers, and helpers in the church. It is wonderful to see this now happening. Thirty came, and again it was wonderful to see them sharing, laughing, singing and studying together. We hope that this will be the first of many. **Their theme was Deuteronomy 6: 5-6**

Student Outreach

In the last few weeks, several teams of our students have been visiting four different areas, and that has included over fifty churches. In some places, they have been encouraging the Christians, and in other places evangelizing and sharing about God's love and provision for them. We believe that this is an essential part of their four-year training and they return with a desire to dig deeper into God's Word, that they may be more equipped to go out again next time. Pastor Nehemiah continues to serve at Ma O Jo and

a number of villagers have come to the Lord and been baptized. He is visiting us at present, and sharing about the work

Graduation of Students;

We will have our Graduation Service on Sunday May 17, when nine of our students, four men and five women, will be graduating after four years of study and going into different areas of service. Some of our graduates will be coming on to our Graduate Teachers' Training Team, where we work together on further experience in exegesis and communication skills using questions, group activities, and drama..

Recording Studio We have completed the film of Mathew, on four DVD's in Karen and have it ready for distribution. We also have CD's of Bible readings, sermons, choir and other Christian songs. These are being distributed locally and abroad. We are now in the process of dubbing the visual Bible film of Acts into Karen. We have also been broadcasting on the local radio station that has a 100-kilometer radius. This includes English teaching as well as other Christian programs. We are producing more booklets in Karen and the latest ones in the pipeline are 'The Meaning of Baptism' and 'The Secret of Joy' – Studies in Philipians.



The director of the Chrestos Recording Studio Team, Thara Tha Hser Minn, showing the CD player to the villagers.

The Home of Peace and Joy

We have a further nine boys this year in the Home Peace and Joy. Their mother tongue is Karen and they are getting special tuition in Thai during the week.

The Government Hospital in town has asked Pat if she could give eight sessions of Medical English over a four week period for the staff and students working at the hospital. They would like to communicate with foreign patients more effectively. We are happy to do this, as it is some contribution we can make to our community here in Mae Sariang.

The Chrestos Family is a family in many places, and we want to thank each of you for helping needy brothers and sisters here in north Thailand and the regions beyond. It is greatly appreciated by many. .
With our loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat

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