

Chrestos Update July 2010

Seek the LORD while He may be found.

Call upon Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55:6

Several times recently, in different ways, we have been reminded of the need to prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, in all His glory and power. This is indeed the day of opportunity for us to seek and to serve the LORD.

Visit to the UK April 24 - May 24

We had a very busy four weeks in the UK. It was wonderful to see Philip, Sarah, Moses and Anna in Oxford, Daniel in London, and Peter and Sandrine in Bournemouth. An extra bonus was seeing Ruth with Arunie, who was taking some GCSE exams in Oxford. They have now travelled to France to be with Michel and Ilona at the home of Michel's mother for a few weeks, and will return to Thailand at the end of July. We never find it easy to be separated from our children and are so grateful for the precious time we can spend together.

Thank you also for all who arranged meetings for us where we could share about the work here, and also for the hospitality as we travelled from place to place. We think it was 12 different beds!!

Graduates Serving

Twelve of our students graduated in April. Two have joined our Chrestos Staff at the Bible School, one has joined the staff at The Home of Peace and Joy, two are helping in the new church at Ma O Jo, two are helping in their home churches, one is helping in a Christian hostel, and three are helping in the Mae Lah Refugee camp.



New Graduates Year 2010

New Students

It is encouraging to see another group of sixteen new students, young men and women, coming to join us at Chrestos for a four year period of study and training.

Sponsoring Students

Thank you to all who are sponsoring students. Most of them come from poor backgrounds and they benefit greatly from your love and prayers.

Chrestos Outreach

Teams visited 76 villages with 46 churches during the month of May.



New Academic Year

This year we have thirteen resident teachers, including eight of our graduates, on the Teaching Team and six visiting teachers. We concentrate mainly on Biblical content and subjects related to Christian work, such as evangelism, leadership, pastoral care, counseling, and Christian education.

Two of the elders from the church of several of our students [one the father of a graduate] asked to come and study with us, because they had no opportunity to study when they were young. We hope that others of their generation will also join us.

English Bible School in Siloam, Chiang Mai

We had two good weeks with the six students in the English section of the Siloam Bible School. Geoffrey taught on Genesis and Pat on Mark. We enjoyed teaching a smaller group after our large classes at Chrestos, and we had some good questions and sharing together.

Karen/English New Testament

We are now completing the proof-reading process, and these New Testaments will most probably be available to us around September time, having been shipped from Albania. We are anticipating receiving one thousand, one hundred copies for distribution in Thailand and Burma. We are beginning to prepare for a second edition, which will have references, notes, paragraph headings and maps, with the help of David Morse of the North Thailand Christian Mission.

Karen Baptist Global Fellowship in Chiang Mai

Because of the difficulty of having this annual fellowship meeting in Burma, it has been decided to hold it every year in Chiang Mai. This year Karen Baptist leaders from ten countries met together to encourage one another and to plan together for the future. We felt very privileged that Geoffrey was invited to address the assembly. We felt it was very beneficial to get to know these dedicated men and women scattered in so many places, and pray that we may be of service to them with our CD's, DVD's and literature.

The Home of Peace and Joy

We have thirty-four boys being cared for by four of our graduate staff. One of the boys, Arun, had a serious accident while he was with his relatives during the school holiday. He had pain and difficulty in walking, having had multiple fractures of his pelvis. He has now returned to us having made a remarkable recovery. Thank you to those who have prayed for him.



Recording Studio

Here a village pastor is receiving a CD player for his people to listen to preaching and singing CDs in Karen.

The Praise and Worship DVD is now available. Information will appear on our website.

The team have dubbed the Matthew and Acts films into Karen, and are now preparing a script and filming, 'The Lost Son', using our own staff and students as actors. It is wonderful to see talents being developed and used. They have been greatly helped by the visit of Dr. Soe from Burma, a professional film director and writer.

Our radio programs are now being broadcast in Mae Sariang and Om Koi. They come on immediately before the news, and we have heard that people are listening to them at the local Mae Sariang market over the loud speaker, while they wait for the news to come.

Literature

Pat has written several illustrated booklets in the past that have been translated by OMF into Thai. We are now translating these and others she is preparing into Karen. Dr. Soe would also like to translate them into Burmese. Some are short Bible commentaries. Our graduates and pastors use them as teaching helps, but they are also simple enough for those who have limited Bible knowledge.

Sunday School Materials

Tharamer Eh Htoo Hai, one of our Chrestos staff, has produced Sunday School Materials that are greatly appreciated. They are being used throughout the southern part of Mae Hongson Province. Our studio has also made CD's of songs and activities for children to go with the teaching.

Khmu

We had a phone call early one morning in late June from a Khmu leader. He shared with us that he has been having meetings with a number of Khmu Christian workers. They have been so excited about what they are learning that they have been going on until two in the morning, and then rising after only a few hours sleep to continue to learn and to worship. There is a tremendous hunger after God in spite of, or maybe because of, the persecution of His people. Please pray for our brothers and sisters at this time.

Website Development

We are very grateful to Mr. Kerry Hassler for taking on the updating and development of our website. This will proceed slowly over the next few months as we have time to feed him information and pictures.

With our love and sincere thanks from the Chrestos Family here in Mae Sariang, those whom we seek to help in the refugee camps and hostels, and those in need across the borders in Laos and Burma.

Geoffrey and Pat



Home of Peace and Joy boys

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