

Chrestos Update July 2011

Visit to the UK: We would like to thank all of you who made our visit to the UK in April/May so meaningful. We attended our annual Chrestos Board Meeting to report on the development of the work and also shared at different churches and groups. It was wonderful to see our children and grandchildren again, and catch up on all that is happening in their lives

Chrestos Bible School. Most Karen in Thailand live in the mountain villages, where there is a great need for more pastors, evangelists, women, youth, and children's workers in the rural churches. Our Bible School is seeking to meet this need. We meet together once a week with our Karen Team to discuss the work that is expanding rapidly. It is wonderful to see gifted young lives taking increasing responsibility in the different areas of service.

The new academic year started on June 12 with sixty-eight students, eager to study the Bible morning by morning. It is a privilege to work with them. In the afternoons, they study computer, music, Karen, Thai and English.

Home of Peace and Joy This year we have thirty-eight boys. It is very encouraging to see them eagerly participating in morning and evening worship. All are in school except for two who are now in vocational college; one learning to be an electrician and the other a motor-mechanic.

Children to Children Ministry An exciting ministry has been developing of children having a heart for other children in need. We are calling it 'The Children to Children Ministry'. At the International Christian School in Hong Kong and at St. Gregory's School at Sudbury in the UK, the children are praying for the Karen children in the refugee camps in Thailand and finding creative ways to help them. In the UK, this all started with an eight year old girl visiting with her family and going to one of the refugee camps, on the border of Thailand and Burma. She then went back to her school to inspire the rest of her class to help the children there. This has now grown into a project for the whole school.

Not only do the needy children in the camps benefit from this, but also the children in Hong Kong and UK grow up caring for a world beyond themselves.



Thank you for remembering us.

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, as much as you did it for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters you did it for Me." Matthew 25:40

Building in Progress The hotel and its land next door have been bought by another person already. We believe that the Lord has intervened. We are now building on our own property a new recording studio [we have been using converted bedrooms for the past few years!] and also a building for the boys from the Home of Peace and Joy. This will bring the children closer to the rest of the Chrestos Family and also more space to exercise. The present orphanage building will be used for staff accommodation



The foundations are laid with prayer.

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it. Unless the Lord keeps watch they keep watch in vain'. Psalm 127:1

Reaching Out to the Karen: The Karen from the refugee camps, many of them Christians, are now being scattered to many countries. Our studio staff record CD's and DVD's of preaching and singing in Karen as well as dubbing Bible films. 'Project Video' will give further training to our staff, who then will help train other groups. Those involved so far are Karen, Lisu and Akha and these will be joined by Lahu and Hmong – all preparing to serve their people through video. It is truly wonderful that we can work together in this way.

We are now broadcasting radio programs on three radio stations, all covering a radius of about 100 kilometres. We have freedom not only to give health advice, development ideas and teach English, but also preaching and singing. The feedback is good, and recently we started broadcasting from the army station free of charge, at their request.

Karen Scripture Publication Chrestos Mission helped Scottsdale Bible Church to publish a Karen/English parallel New Testament, and this church has kindly handed the project over to Chrestos Mission, including the proceeds from the first edition. Three thousand copies were printed, and these have mostly been sold within a few months.

We are now working on a second edition of 10,000 copies, to have references, textual notes, headings, general notes, a glossary and maps. We have bought equipment and software, assigned staff, organised training and have consulted with the most suitable printer. This project is over and above our present budget, and we will trust the Lord for initial funds. We anticipate that the proceeds from each publication will bring in enough income to print the next edition on a non-profit basis. Crossway Publishers are giving us a licence to use the English Standard Version New Testament, with notes and references. The Myanmar Bible Society is giving us a licence to use the Mason text of the Karen New Testament. This is a new venture for us and we request your prayers for it.

Booklets: We continue to publish booklets as Bible Study Helps. In the pipeline at present are: The Servant King [Mark]; Beloved of God [Daniel 1-6]; Twelve Tests of True Faith [James]; The Sound of Victory [Joshua]. They are in English and Karen but

could be translated into other languages as needed. Please contact us if you need more information

Reaching Out to the Community: Chrestos Teams go into Thai Rat School, where our boys study, for one hour each week to teach about seventy children Christianity. Recently we had a visit from staff at the Mae Sariang Law Courts explaining to us about Thai Law, and answering our questions, followed by a football match. The new district governor, recently appointed, asked if we could visit him and explain more about our work. He wants to help us in every way possible and will visit us sometime in the near future. We thank God for these opportunities to build relationships.

Seminar at Nongkhai on the Lao/Thai Border: From July 20-27 we will be with our Khmu brothers and sisters in Nongkhai. We have both been asked to teach for six hours during the three days of seminar. This will be followed by the Graduation Ceremony of the Khmu Bible School students and the Khmu Christian Connection Board Meeting. We would appreciate prayer that all may be blessed and strengthened in fellowship together.

Pat will be arriving in the UK on August 6 to see the eye surgeon in preparation for cataract operations. She will be staying at the home of our son-in-law and daughter, Philip and Sarah, in Oxford.

Thank you so much for your love and prayers, With our loving greetings, Geoffrey and Pat

CHRESTOS MISSION Charity No. 1095325
Dr. Geoffrey and Mrs. Pat Atkinson
P.O.Box 48, Mae Sariang,
Mae Hongson, Thailand 58110
Phone [66] 53 683 176
Email: geoffrey.atkinson@gmail.com
Email: pat.atkinson37@gmail.com
Website: www.chrestos-mission.org

UK contact: Pam Shepherd
Phone: 01344 454632
Email: shepherdpam@btinternet.com

Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.
Psalm 46:10