

Chrestos Update January 2012

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! Romans 11:33

Journey to Hong Kong and America

Geoffrey, Pat and one of our staff, Eh Wah, went to Hong Kong from November 7-11 for the International Publishers' Forum, organized by Media Associates International [MAI]. Many countries of the East were represented: from Mongolia to Australia, from India to Hong Kong. We learnt much vital information about publishing.

In the U.S.A. we met with the church which started the publishing of the Karen/English New Testament and have now passed it on to us. Geoffrey spoke there three times, and also at the Karen Church.

We visited Thara Hsa Twel, the recommended future director of Chrestos Mission, and his family in Dallas, who are caring for many of the Karen refugees there. Then we travelled on to Arkansas to spend some precious time with our family: Ouame, Thong Vieng, their children and grandchildren, and Patrick, Dorcas and their children, Henry and Esther. It was a wonderful time of being together and having opportunity to get to know the children better.

English/Karen New Testament

4,000 copies of the second printing of the Karen/English New Testament will be sent by the printers to U.S.A., Australia, and Thailand for world-wide distribution to Karen people, in late January or early February.

Christian Writers' Seminar

During the first week of November Chrestos Mission hosted a 'Christian Writers' Seminar' in Mae Sariang led by Tony Wales, a publishing consultant with MAI.

Many leading Karen in the area joined with us and we are now planning ahead for the formation of a 'Karen Christian Writers Association'. Chrestos Mission is now registered with the Thai Government as a Publishing House.

We thank God for our Chrestos Team and for the privilege we have of serving Him together in the different Chrestos Ministries. As they develop and use their gifts, so they become gifts to their people and many are blessed.



Outreach Program

Our Bible School students went in 3 groups to 35 villages on outreach, seeking to encourage the Christians and sharing the Gospel with those who do not yet know the Lord. Our fourth year students are now doing practical assignments in different churches for four months before they graduate.

Karenni [Red Karen] Camp Orphans

About a year ago we were asked if Chrestos could visit and take care of over 60 orphans, mainly young people, in the Karenni Camp, with the funds still coming from a church in Australia. We agreed to help them with this ministry, but have just received word that the members of the church feel they must now stop support, due to the recession. We feel that we cannot abandon these orphans, so will try to help them as we can.

February 10-12:

This is the year for the Chrestos Bible School to welcome the Siloam Bible School staff and students from Chiang Mai for three days of fellowship. This strengthens friendship and understanding between the two Karen Bible Schools now and as they serve their people in the future.

Daniel, our son, is coming to help us early March, mainly with the administrative side of the work and also other areas that could use his skills. Please pray that he will settle quickly into the Chrestos family.

Saw Eh Ni – Chrestos Bible School Student



Saw Eh Ni comes from the Takalu, who are a remote segment of the Karen people. They acknowledge the One True God, but also sacrifice to the spirits. They have a culture different from the other Karen. This group came to the notice of Allan Eubank, a veteran missionary, several decades ago when he was still in seminary, and the knowledge of the Takalu was a major factor in his call to Thailand. In the early years, he visited them regularly, but later the Communists infiltrated the area and he could not go for fifteen years. The response among them was small. In 2009 Allan invited a group of Chrestos students to go with him. There was a breakthrough and forty-nine of the people believed and were baptized. One of them, Saw Eh Ni, decided to come to Bible School. He came this year and, although only having had primary education, he is listening and learning well.

News from the Khmu Christians in Laos: At the Border Seminar, one of the men gave testimony about his twelve year old son Mee, who became paralyzed. He killed many pigs to offer to the spirits and witchdoctors and finally took his son to the hospital, but the condition got worse. He then went to Huay Sai Noi Village, hearing that there were Christians there. The Christians told him that Jesus could heal his son's sickness and also save those who believe in Him. The parents left their son at the village believing in Jesus and His power to heal him. After the Christians had prayed for the boy for four months he was completely healed and returned home to great joy in the family. He now sings in the church and goes to school. Everyone is amazed at the power of God.

Lord, please give me a mind to understand, a heart to love, and a will to obey, for Jesus' sake, Amen

Praise the Lord for the Peace Agreement between the Burmese Government and the ethnic minority states. **Please pray** that the Government will not go back on their agreement. It looks more hopeful than before.

Flooding in Thailand:

You will have read in the papers about flooding in Thailand and the effect this has had on the Thai economy. This is probably the worst flooding that Thailand has had for many decades, especially in the central area where most of the factories are located.

Visit to UK

Arrival Friday 13 April - Departure Friday 18 May
Details of venues to be given later - to book Geoffrey and Pat please contact Pam Shepherd.

Staff and Student

Sponsorship Programme

Sponsors are needed for staff and Bible School students. The cost is £25 per month.

For further details please contact:

Sheila Martyn: 01883 344 947
jsemartyn@tiscali.co.uk

Chrestos Home of Peace and Joy Sponsorship Programme

Sponsors are needed for 31 boys from the age of 6 up to 16 in our Home of Peace and Joy.

The cost is £25 per month.

For further details please contact:

Sarah Thackeray: 01787 373474
randsthackeray@btinternet.com

Thank you from all of us here at Chrestos and the regions beyond. With our loving greetings, *Geoffrey and Pat*

CHRESTOS MISSION Charity No. 1095325

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