



January 2023 Laying foundations for future growth

“God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.” With these words, J. Hudson Taylor reminds us to keep humble, attentive to our Father. “If any man serves me he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.” John 12:26.

We give thanks for Campus staff. They are committed and fulfil essential roles, teaching, training, pastoring, feeding and safeguarding students and orphans. A united team, they give their services for a low wage. We are keen to retain their service, care for them and affirm their value in a culturally appropriate manner.

Long overdue is the planned upgrade of staff accommodation on campus with five family units to be built at a total cost of £150,000. £100,000 has been raised through the sale of the first Orphanage that used a building a short distance from the main campus. Believing these labourers to be worthy of their hire, we are looking to our Father for His provision for the remaining £50,000.

We praise God for His work amongst the Karen, through which young men are rescued from drugs and women from early marriage to read and learn the Bible and live productive lives in spiritual worship of Jesus (Romans 12:1-2). We are not surprised when, after 4 years on campus, many find their life partner amongst fellow students. (see photo on page 2)

These couples form a strong nucleus for evangelism and church growth. Building the body of Christ requires sacrifice that many Chrestos graduates have come to terms with and are fully prepared to make. Their presence helps to retain in villages an age-range that is often lost to the church by being lured to local towns through the promise of better pay. Luke 8:14. Their example motivates village youth to seek training for themselves. (see photo of staff with two villagers on page 2)

Another “community transforming initiative” is the planned expansion of the four-year training course to distance-learning for those unable to commit to prolonged periods away from home. Occasional weekends together are included.

Equipping ahead for future leadership at Chrestos Bible School:- our two post graduate students (UK sponsored) soon complete the first of four years higher-level training.

The 21st cohort of fourth year students are writing up their experiences of Internship - their last written work before graduation on 19th March. My wife and I plan to be present.

December each year sees a one-month-long celebration of Christ's coming and gives Chrestos students a first taste of Mission. This year they met opposition from a “witch doctor”, who forbade the students to enter a village. Animist village leaders may require converts to Christ to leave their home and village and move elsewhere. By contrast, in one village the non-Christian population received staff and students kindly and even invited them to return next year! In Christian villages, students were impressed by the welcome and hospitality they received, by their unity and the love of Christ expressed through church members and hard-working Pastors. Students knew the joy of the Lord in their hearts as they witnessed to Jesus.

John Silverstone Trustee January 2023



Praise and Prayer

Praise God for the Godly vision and example of our Director and his team. Please ask God to supply for staff accommodation according to His will.

Praise God as He continues to “snatch brands from the burning” and transforms the lives and values of Karen young people.

Praise God for students at Chrestos who have already decided to set aside “the cares and riches and pleasures of life” (Luke8:14). Pray also for Chrestos graduates, now families in villages, that they will continue steadfast - knowing the close presence of the Lord, from whom they will receive the inheritance as their reward.

Praise God for the testimonies of students on mission to difficulties and encouragement. Pray they will continue in lessons learned:- supporting one another, the blessing of unity in the Spirit, the enduring motivation of Jesus’ love to work hard.

Please pray for our two graduates (right) in higher-level study, equipping for future leadership. 2 Tim 2:22 & John 13:34-35.

Praise God for two new translators, enabling coordinated visits from supporting churches.

Praise God for 2022 intake of 17 students and 5 orphans settling in well. Please ask God to bring forward those He is drawing to selection for 2023 intakes.



For those who wish, gifts can be made via the chrestos-mission.org website or by BACS to Account Name: Chrestos Mission
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