



August 2021

At the beginning of September, despite covid restrictions, our fourth year students, mostly in pairs, begin six months internship in Karen villages. 20 students, 5 young men and 15 young women. One of the men, Saw Siwichai, will have to leave early as he has been called up by the military. Pray for his witness as he has a great heart for his Redeemer.

Praise God for 25 new first years from a wide range of life experiences. Some have literally escaped addiction to opium and alcohol through coming to Chrestos. Staff confirm that after early struggles with cigarettes, all 25 are committed to study and progressing well.

Campus life is locked down with students unable to return home for holidays. Staff creatively make life on campus widely interesting and energetic! There is a new music band with an array of wind and percussion instruments. Four teams work in groups to compete in singing, sports and even handwriting skills in newly learned Karen script!

Testimonies of first year students highlight the growing role of Chrestos.

- 1) Students meet God through His Word, grow in faith and sense God's personal commissioning. Many students have personally known the strong pull of the world; they want to rescue wandering youth and adults and build their home church. They recognise the value of prayer, evangelism, teaching, shepherding, and serving in love.
- 2) They see senior staff speak honestly about needs, gathering the student body to prayer, watchfully shepherding those facing difficulties, sacrificial in service and love.
- 3) Students practice right handling of the word of God and leadership.
- 4) During the village visits made by students and interns, other young men and women see their maturity and are attracted to apply to the Bible School. Over a few years a nucleus of Chrestos graduates has grown up in some villages; trained labourers, supporting the village pastor and strengthening the church. Praise God!

If you feel you should have heard from us about your sponsored student or orphan or have other questions, please alert the sponsorship team - that is, either me or Ally Fitter who recently joined the UK Trustees. Ally and her husband, Jonny spent eight months on campus 2019 -2020. They prayed for and with students, taught scriptures and English and enjoyed sports and other recreation with them.

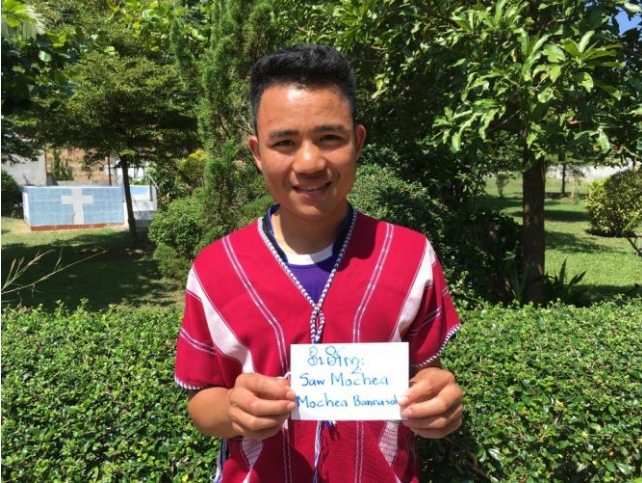
Yours in His grace,

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Saw Maw Jay is a recent graduate. Throughout training at Chrestos he prayed for his father to be delivered from addiction to opium and alcohol. He also prayed for and encouraged his sister and cousin in the same village to give Christ first place in their lives. On graduating he returned home and established regular family worship each evening. His father's dormant faith has been re-awakened and his sister and cousin have joined the new first year intake!

Saw Maw Jay's sister, Naw Mu and cousin, Naw Wah Htoo are pictured below.



His prayer is for them to return to the village in years to come to strengthen and increase the Church.



**Praise and thank God with us for:**

the obedience of students to God's leading to train at Chrestos Bible School.  
 many who come with a sense of commissioning from God to serve their village church.  
 the strong start to training made by the first year  
 Geoffrey and Pat in good spirits and well supported on campus.

**Please pray for:**

Interns learning to serve and nurture people in the church. Col3.23  
 To know they do not go alone - Matt28.16-20 - but in the power of the resurrected Saviour.  
 To abide in Christ and be blessed with fruit. Psalm 126.6; 1 Cor15.58; Eph 3.14-19.  
 Throughout internship, God will confirm to each His personal commissioning and gifting.  
 For student's own families' labours; good crops; struggles with ill health.  
 For marriages in recent years of Chrestos graduates, to model God's ways for the family.  
 For trustees in Thailand and the UK to be guided, not by good ideas but by obedience to hearing from God.  
 Habakkuk 2.1-4.  
 We would love to give you details so that you can pray alongside a student throughout their four year training and into full time ministry. Please ask.