

Dear Prayer partner,  
There is much positive news from Mae Sariang in recent months.



**New Director and his family:** At the end of last year, Thra Davi Poe accepted the post of Director at Chrestos Bible School. (see attachment 1: New Director) We have had several encouraging times of fellowship with him over zoom via our translator. He has now moved into a bungalow on campus with his wife Naw Th' Nay Paw and 2yr old son Saw Khu Moo. We have been encouraged to see a good team spirit alongside Ajan Wittaya's wise tutelage.

Chrestos Mission has benefitted and matured greatly under Ajan Wittaya's faithful and capable interim leadership, taking up the baton and now passing the baton forward from Geoffrey and Pat to Thra Davi Poe.

Over the past 6 years Ajan

Wittaya (Karen name: Ajan Hsa Ri Htoo) has made changes that demonstrate careful forethought and expectation of God for the future of His work through Chrestos Mission.

We gratefully acknowledge Ajan Hsa Ri Htoo's generous-hearted contribution - surely he has been the right man at the right time. We give him our thanks and see yet again the evidence of God's Sovereign authority and blessing. All Praise to God!



### **Training leadership for the future:**

Senior campus staff have selected two graduates from Chrestos Bible School to attend four-year training at a University Bible Seminary in Chiang Mai. Mc Gilvary College of Divinity "prepares quality leadership at Bachelors and Masters levels for the Church of Christ in Thailand".

(See attachment 2: "Training leadership for the future" for more details.)

Senior staff maintain contact with other past graduates who show potential to strengthen the future training team at Chrestos.



Praise God that we were approached about 2 years ago by someone with the vision and readiness, offering to fund higher level training plus the associated personal costs.

These developments have been the subject of much prayer and now, thanksgiving and ongoing prayer! They are a further incentive to us to work hard to extend our prayer and supporter base.

***Today's work is the mustard seed with great potential for the future of this work in The Father's hands. God takes us deeper as we pray and commune with Him. May he take us deeper still for students and staff, present and past. As we pray, may God direct our hearts and minds and "sight". Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit! Zech 4:6.***

**Other Staff Changes and acknowledgements:**

After fourteen years running "The Home of Peace and Joy", Kri Htoo has stepped down so that he can join his wife and children and her family in her home village. We pray with him that his practical skills in service and personal skills in teaching and discipling young men will be greatly used by God to anchor and encourage many in their faith. Saw Ah Gyi is taking over responsibility for the Orphanage.



Our most senior women's teacher has also stepped back. We have been greatly privileged and blessed to benefit from Thramu Eh Htoo Hai's teaching and personal ministry. (Thramu is the form of address for a lady teacher.) She brought the maturity and balance of many years prior experience of directing a refugee camp Bible School. She will be able to give her time more fully to her local church and to assisting the her husband who is pastor of a church in Mae Sariang District.

The Manager of the Bible School, Thra Bu Ka, has also decided to retire from Chrestos Mission. The students and other staff have benefitted from the discipline and good order he maintained - always with a dry sense of humour that has left students knowing exactly what was expected whilst warming toward this approachable and servant-hearted man. Many students testify to Bu Ka's warmth and the encouragement he has given them. Older students have learned from his example and may yet follow in his role. Bu Ka will spend more time with his wife, his son, his daughter and their families in Chiang Mai.



**Please pray** for all three of these dear fellow saints to be sustained by wisdom, love and prayerfulness as they support their families and local Churches and especially for Bu Ka encouraging his family through stressful times and unemployment related to covid.  
 for Davi Poe, other campus staff, Trustees and local Church Pastors as they cover a greater range of the teaching curriculum.  
 for senior students and staff members taking over practical responsibilities in the Bible School and Orphanage.

**Student Life: Graduation - of Bible School students:**  
**of Orphan boys:** (for both, see attachment 3 - Graduation)

In Early February, parents, family, friends, pastors from home churches and many others gathered with the 19 graduates from Chrestos Bible School to celebrate God's faithfulness and the successful completion of four years study and training. All 19 have permanent placements in churches, hostels or as evangelists. Four have been assigned positions of responsibility.

Past graduates make use of the opportunity to gather from Friday to Sunday, sharing messages, testimony, worship and humour. Many "adopt" a current student for prayer.

### **Praying for our students:**

Please pray for the first year students of 2021, giving thanks for 100% retention and for reports of friendships and fellowship exhorting and strengthening their character of life.

The seven yr3 students move to the fourth year and the challenges of internship in August.

### **2022 intake of Bible School students and orphan boys.**

We thank God for ten young men and eight young ladies who have applied to the Bible School and look to God for the full intake of 20.

Six new orphan boys have already applied. We are asking God to bring four more.



### **Recruiting and encouraging:**

Praise God for the pastoral hearts of our staff members. They would like to visit and encourage some of our current students in their villages during the holiday period but are currently prevented by covid restrictions. The same is true for plans to visit past graduates and to represent the Bible School and the Home of Peace and Joy to village churches and elders.

### **Further projects:**

In the past year, thoughtful use of existing space and resources has seen a library built. Ajan Wittaya is actively building up resources in Thai and Karen for teaching and personal study. The auditorium projector wall was upgraded. Sturdy internal partitions have increased dormitory accommodation for the boys. Overlapping into 2022, a new **Men's shower and toilet block** was finished in time for the graduation gathering!

### **News of Geoffrey and Pat:**

Geoffrey and Pat spent time recently with Dan and Duan and received separate visits from Sarah and Peter. They remain physically well and continue to enjoy loyal hospitality of campus staff. Staff have arranged care support for Pat and are cooperating with family plans and assessments for longer term plans.

John Silverstone. (12th April 2022) [john.silverstone@chrestos-mission.org](mailto:john.silverstone@chrestos-mission.org)

Contacts: Pam Shepherd: [shepherdpam@btinternet.com](mailto:shepherdpam@btinternet.com)

Ross Hill: [ross.hill@chrestos-mission.org](mailto:ross.hill@chrestos-mission.org)

or via the website: [Chrestos-Mission.org](http://Chrestos-Mission.org) for historical and current information, contacts and giving.