

FREE BURMA RANGERS

LOVE EACH OTHER. UNITE AND WORK FOR FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND PEACE. FORGIVE AND DON'T HATE EACH OTHER. PRAY WITH FAITH, ACT WITH COURAGE, NEVER SURRENDER.

The Free Burma Rangers (FBR) is a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement working to bring help, hope, and love to people in the conflict zones of Burma, Iraq, Kurdistan, Syria, and other places they are invited. Working in conjunction with local ethnic pro-democracy groups, FBR trains, supplies, and later coordinates with what become highly mobile multi-purpose relief teams. After training, these teams provide critical emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing, and human rights documentation in their home regions.

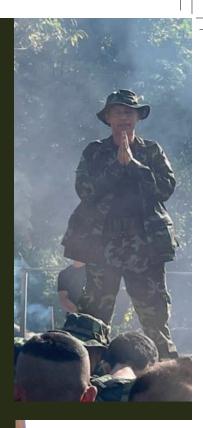
The purpose of the Free Burma Rangers is to share the love of Jesus and to be His ambassadors wherever we go. People of different faiths are welcome to be part of the Free Burma Rangers and people of different ethnicities and beliefs make up the FBR humanitarian relief effort and all are called to serve for love.

VISION. To free the oppressed and to stand for human dignity, justice and reconciliation.

MISSION. To bring help, hope and love to people of all faiths and ethnicities in conflict areas, to shine a light on the actions of oppressors, to stand with the oppressed and support leaders and organizations committed to liberty, justice and service.

OBIECTIVES.

- 1. To inspire, train and equip people in conflict zones to bring positive change through acts of love and service.
- 2. To provide immediate medical assistance, shelter, food, clothing, educational materials and other humanitarian aid in the war zones and to improve logistics and medical evacuation.
- 3. To develop the Information Network of Burma that documents, reports and disseminates accounts of human rights violations and provides an early warning system of Burma Army attacks.
- 4. To provide prayer and counseling for victims of human rights abuses and to support programs for women and children.
- 5. To train, equip and sustain indigenous humanitarian relief teams in the field.







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PASTOR EDMOND PRAYS WITH NEWLY GRADUATED RANGERS. SENIOR RANGER DAVID HTUN AUNG KYAW FILMS THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.





RANGERS IN THE GAP

FBR teams operate in the humanitarian gap, that is, the space between the most dangerous part of an active frontline in combat and the rear areas, where most humanitarian organizations operate to provide needed relief for those caught in the middle of conflict. Humanitarian workers are rarely at the front for many reasons, including the mortal danger present at the front and subsequent security protocols; the complex, ever-shifting environment; and the specialized training, equipment, and relationships needed to provide any kind of assistance at any front line. At the same time, the ability of armed groups to provide medical care, evacuation, or shelter is often limited, preoccupied as they are with protection.

This means civilians who require medical treatment, food, shelter, or transport are often on their own and extremely vulnerable as they attempt, usually on foot and often with sick, injured or elderly family members, to cross lines of battle to reach care and safety. In Syria, we saw that sometimes the gap between the front lines and the nearest relief was over fifty miles of desert. While we were on a relief mission in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, where the Sudanese government attacked daily, people had to cross hundreds of miles of desert to get help. In Burma, the longest civil war in the world rages on at seventy-three years as a relentless military attacks and attempts to block assistance to displaced people at the front lines. Outside relief is often arduous days of walking away. The humanitarian gap can, indeed, be fatal.

This humanitarian gap is where FBR teams operate. Often side-by-side with frontline soldiers, FBR medics can stabilize the wounded, both soldiers and civilians, then evacuate them to more stable care. The teams help fleeing families escape by being guides and providing transport, maintaining crucial communications and information between the front lines and back, and providing emergency resources such as shelter, food, water, and medical supplies. In so doing, they are bringing help, hope, and love into the darkest of places.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING, BEING WITH US, AND HELPING US DO THE THINGS WE CANNOT DO ALONE.

JET FIGHTERS STRAFE WITH CANNONS AND ROCKETS, DROPPING BOMBS ON US AND VILLAGERS TRYING TO FLEE. WE LIFT UP DEAD CHILDREN, TRY TO EVACUATE AND TREAT WOUNDED. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS ARE FLEEING TO THE MOUNTAINS SEEKING REFUGE. THIS IS BURMA NOW.

The fighting in Burma has not been this bad since World War II. There are over 1,500,000 internally displaced people and more have fled the country. In Karenni State alone there are over 250,000 people in hiding. We see the destruction all around us.

In the midst of this, we see something else: an unprecedented unity of purpose throughout Burma that crosses all lines - social, religious, ethnic, economic. People from all over Burma are rising up and saying, "Enough! We don't accept this dictatorship and we want freedom."

We stand with them and all people in love and for freedom. Standing for freedom is for the sake of the oppressed and also the oppressor. It is not right to let the Burma Army, ISIS, or anyone, rape, murder, kill, and pillage. Everyone suffers from evil and while we stand against those who attack, we also pray for their hearts to change. Jesus helps us stand with those under attack, to work for freedom and also to forgive, reconcile, and find a new way together. The purpose of the Free Burma Rangers is to share the love of Jesus and to be His ambassadors wherever we go. People of different faiths are welcome to be part of the Free Burma Rangers and people of different ethnicities and beliefs make up the FBR humanitarian relief effort. All are called to serve for love.

This annual report covers the situation in Burma, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Tajik-

istan. In Iraq and Syria, our Kurdish and Iraqi teams continue to help those displaced by the fighting with ISIS and attacks by the Turks and their proxies. Also, in Raqqa, Syria, we thank God and all those who helped us rebuild the church that ISIS destroyed. In Afghanistan, we were able to help people escape and start new lives. We have a small team helping in Ukraine and we pray for the people there.

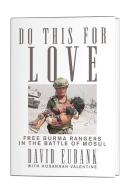
Thank you for praying, being with us, and helping us to do the things we cannot do alone.

Jahn

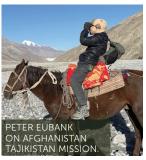
David, Karen, Sahale, Suuzanne, and Peter Eubank and all the Free Burma Rangers.

AVAILABLE NOW. THE BOOK & FILM



















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Situation Update: Burma

ON 1 FEBRUARY 2021, THE BURMA MILITARY ARRESTED THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY, WHICH HAD WON THE RECENT ELECTION, AND THUS DISMANTLED THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE, THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM) FORMED AND THE CITIZENS OF MYANMAR STOOD UP AGAINST THE REGIME.

Police officers left their posts to join the protests. Doctors left their government positions in hospitals and constructed field hospitals to treat those wounded during protests. Students, professors, lawyers, train drivers, plumbers, electricians, engineers, aid workers, and farmers all decided they'd had enough and joined the CDM movement.

As the resistance movement grew, along with support for it among the general population, so did the violence of the Burma Army. It began with shooting into peaceful protests in the cities and escalated into large-scale attacks on the ethnic areas using artillery, attack helicopters, and fighter jets. The increase in violence led to more people joining and seeking help from the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) who have been protecting their people for more than 73 years. The revolution has now displaced hundreds of thousands of people from cities, adding to an existing IDP population within the ethnic regions.

Burmese civilians from the cities are, for the first time, being confronted with what the ethnic minorities have been experiencing for years: the violence of their own government. Many have told us told us, "I now understand the suffering the ethnic people have endured under our government. I am so sorry that it took me this long to realize how evil our government is. Now I am experiencing firsthand the oppression by our own army against us. We hope the ethnic people can forgive us and that we can build a new Burma." Perhaps this time of chaos can serve to unite people for freedom and end the discord of ethnic difference.











CHRISTMAS EVE MASSACRE

Burned alive: 45 Karenni villagers were shot, stabbed, and burned, some while they were still alive, by Burma Army troops from Division 66 on the morning of Christmas Eve, 24 December 2021, in Hpruso, Karenni State, Burma. A Karenni FBR relief team responded to the massacre and found the burned remains in the back of four trucks. The bodies of first responders who had been executed by the Burma Army were also found.

After the massacre, it took three days to secure the area and drive back the Burma Army. With the area secured, a formal investigation of the incident by the Karenni Army, Karenni National Defence Force and Karenni State Police was able to begin. The doctors referenced a list of the missing as they tried to identify the bodies. Some bodies were identified by the clothing or jewelry they wore.

On 29 December 2022, the bodies of all those killed were laid to rest in a memorial site in Karenni State.

AN FBR TEAM PARTNERED WITH LOCAL

GROUPS TO REMOVE THE BODIES AND THEN —
DOCUMENTED THE AUTOPSIES ON EACH
INDIVIDUAL. THEY FOUND AND DOCUMENTED
EVIDENCE OF WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES.



FBR Teams: Burma

THE FREE BURMA RANGERS FORMED IN BURMA IN 1997 AND ARE COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS FROM DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS WITHIN BURMA PROVIDING DIRECT RELIEF TO COMMUNITIES MOST AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT OPPRESSION.

These teams are trained to provide relief and medical care while documenting and reporting human rights violations. Since its formation, more than 1400 missions have been conducted to assist over 1,800,000 people.

The Burma Army staged a coup on 1 February 2021. A year later the country is still fighting to free itself from oppression. Our teams are continuing to operate within areas of ethnic control but are now being called to assist teams in major cities. They are partnering in new ways with individuals who are ethnically Burman and opposed to the government.

FBR has over 130 teams operating in the cities and jungles, providing medical aid and evacuations, IDP support, and front-lines reporting and human rights documentation. Attacks across Burma have increased; shelling, bombings, landmines, and the use of attack helicopters and fighter jets are now common occurrences.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

- 1. Immediate cross-border humanitarian assistance directly to areas of need through ethnic governments and NGOs and direct assistance to the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) in the Burman areas of the plains and cities.
- 2. Political recognition of the ethnic groups and support of the movement for a democratic and federal government between the ethnic groups, the Civilian Defense Movement (CDM), and pro-democracy political groups such as the National Unity Government (NUG), CRPH and NLD.
- 3. Protection for people under attack from Burma military and police, both in the cities and in the ethnic areas. Also, the support of safe areas where people targeted by the regime and defectors from the police and army can go.
- 4. Establishment of a no-fly zone over the ethnic areas of Burma to prevent Burma military air attacks against the population.



FORGIVE AND DON'T HATE EACH OTHER

"Love each other. Unite and work for freedom, justice, and peace. Forgive and don't hate each other. Pray with faith, act with courage, never surrender." This is the Free Burma Ranger motto, and it is an ethos that we have focused on with every Ranger training.

This year it took on new significance as, for the first time in the history of FBR, we welcomed and trained Burman teams. These teams are comprised of ethnic Burmans who have decided to stand against the oppressive military and with the oppressed people from all over the country. Yet, Burmans have been the long-time oppressors of the ethnic people. The presence of the new Burman teams gave an opportunity for a new level of reconciliation and unity, as the Rangers received and welcomed these new teams. Hearts and minds were opened and space was made for forgiveness, reconciliation, and the formation of a new bonds of unity and friendship.



KARENNI STATE

KAREN STATE

RANGER TEAMS

ARAKAN

15 Teams: 9 Full-Time, 6 Part-Time

Partner Organizations: Arakan Liberation Party and Arakan Army

BURMAN

10 Teams: 10 Full-Time

Partner Organization: None

CHIN

7 Teams: 4 Full-Time, 3 Part-Time

Partner Organization: Chin National Party

KACHIN

8 Teams: 2 Full-Time, 6 Part-time

Partner Organizations: Kachin Independence Organization and Kachin National Organization

KAREN

44 Teams: 44 Full-Time

Partner Organization: Karen National Union

KARENNI

15 Teams: 15 Full-Time

Partner Organizations: Karenni National Progressive Party and United Karenni State Youth.

LAHU

2 Teams: 1 Full-Time, 1 Part-Time

Partner Organization: none

MON

1 Team: 1 Part-Time

Partner Organization: None

NAGA

5 Teams: 2 Full-Time, 3 Part-Time

Partner Organization: Naga National Council

PA-OH

2 Teams: 2 Full-Time

Partner Organizations: Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization and Pa-Oh Youth Generation

ROHINGYA

2 Teams: 2 Full-Time

Partner Organization: None

** These teams are located in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. **

SHAN

14 Teams: 1 Full-Time, 13 Part-Time

Partner Organizations: Restoration Council of Shan State and Shan State Progressive Party

TA'ANG

6 Teams: 6 Part-Time

Partner Organization: Palaung State Liberation Front

HEADQUARTERS

2 headquarters teams join local teams for missions all over Burma.

From The Field

KARENNI

BY DAVE FURANK

"I'M NOT EVEN A SOLDIER, HOW CAN I LEAD?"

Albert is a battalion commander in the Karenni National Defence Force. He used to work for a Christian NGO in Loikaw. Talking to him on the front line once, he told me, "I'm not a fighter; I'm not a warrior. But we have had enough. We will not accept this regime. The villagers tell me, 'Even if they burn our villages and kill us, you don't stop.'"

But he went on: "I'm not even a soldier; how can I lead?"

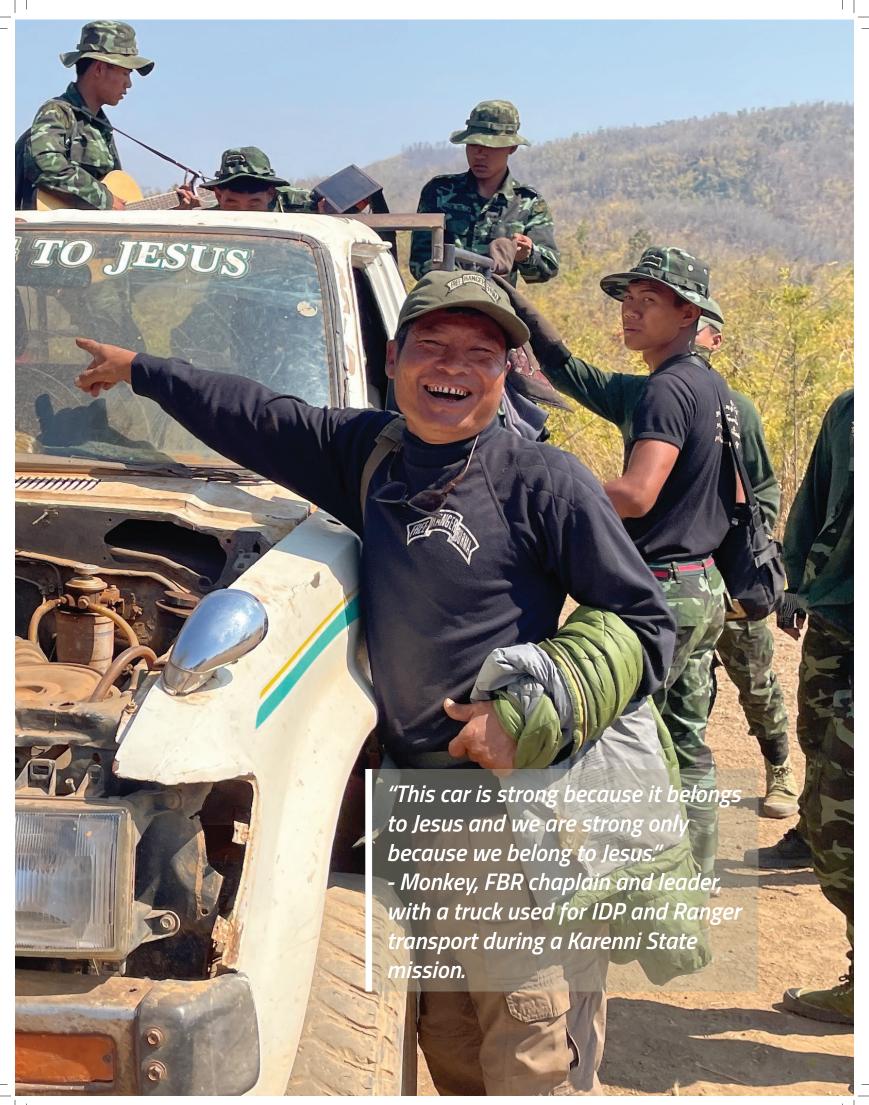
I told him, "You must keep resisting, Albert. You are educated and you are a good man. You are a leader. Keep leading. Lead in love. God will show you."

In Karenni State, major cities are completely displaced, government medical institutions are not functioning, and airstrikes and mortar attacks are daily occurrences. The Burma Army is using heavy weapons, fighter jets, and attack helicopters in an attempt to crush the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). There are nearly 250,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in this region. The functions of civil institutions including education, police, doctors and nurses, and NGOs have been disrupted. At best, the normal lives of civilians have been interrupted, while many others have been completely chased from their homes, many of which have been destroyed.

The continued advance of the Burma Army means the continued displacement and forced movement of the IDP population. As the war moves, so do the health institutions, aid organizations, and others attempting to support and care for the displaced. This forced and continuous movement has created an environment in which immediate aid and highly-responsive support are needed.

Major hospitals have been forced to relocate and reopen in rural areas far from the front line. This safe location allows for stable, consistent and long-term care to be provided to the civilian popu-





lation. However, it creates a large gap between the front line and definitive and life-saving care. Health centers are often two hours' drive from the front line. The FBR teams operate in the gap between the front-line and more advanced care. Our teams are stabilizing front-line wounded, helping IDPs plan and relocate to safety, and providing emergency supplies and medical relief.



MAW KUE MAR FBR KARENNI TEAM MEDIC

Maw Kue Mar, 23 years old, works as an FBR medic in Karenni State, Burma. Before the coup, she worked as a nurse. She says that only those on the ground truly know what is going on. It is an impossible situation for IDPs and civilians. Thousands of people have died for the cause of freedom.

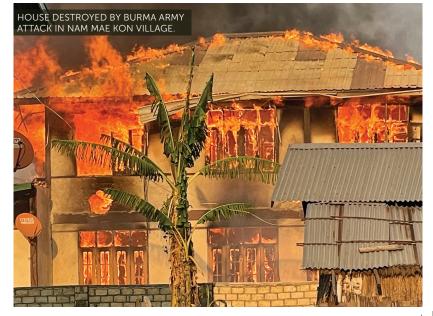
"We need encouragement. We have lost family. We have lost friends. We have lost our homes. We are fleeing. The young people fighting for freedom have lost their friends, their families, and are fighting for a future that seems lost. We have lost many things. We want to rebuild all that we lost to be better. We want to build a better education system for our children and healthcare system for all. We have to fight for, establish, and build a better government, a federal democracy."











ROHINGYA

A MOTHER WAILS IN GRIEF AS THE CHARRED REMAINS OF HER TODDLER IS SIFTED FROM THE ASHES.

She is standing in what used to be her home after yet another massive fire has ripped through the overcrowded space, destroying over 700 shelters and forcing 11,000 people to become homeless once again.

This isn't the first huge fire to destroy Rohingya refugee camps; unfortunately, these camps experience many devastating fires annually, which kill people and destroy shelters. Then, when the monsoon rains come, these same camps experience flooding and shelters are washed away.

"Our lives continue to be in limbo," one Rohingya refugee said. "In the absence of any meaningful progress towards durable solutions, an entire community is caught in the cycle of repair and loss." Since 2017, when the majority of Rohingya fled into these camps, there have been over 80 fire incidents recorded and more than 25 Rohingya peple have lost their lives in fires.

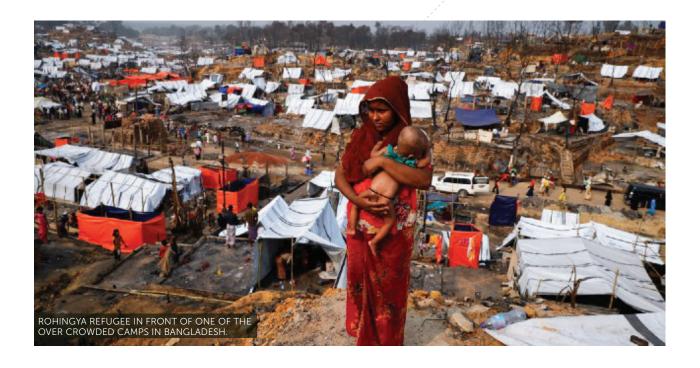
Rohingya refugees flooded across the border in 2017, with much attention from the international community and with much hope that their stay in neighboring Bangladesh would be short-lived; but,

nearly five years into this crisis, they are mostly forgotten and no major efforts to help solve the crisis of their belonging have been fruitful. They are left in camps that are surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed guards, to exist at the whim of fires, floods and diseases.

Please pray for the Rohingya and for those who have lost loved ones and shelters in the most recent fires. Pray for a viable solution for the Rohingya people, that they would have a country to belong to and freedom.

The Free Burma Rangers Rohingya teams provide reporting from the camps and help in the wake of disasters such as the fires and floods. Between July 2021 and May 2022, the teams have completed the following projects:

- 1. Installed 35 wells/water pumps.
- 2. Supported 30 widows with their own new sewing business.
- 3. Rebuilt 3 school buildings with uniforms and supplies for 210 students.
- 4. Supplied 300 families with food distribution after massive flooding and mudslides.
- 5. Installed 2 solar projects for a school and education center.
- 6. Distributed blankets and mosquito nets to 200 families after another fire in the camps.



NORTHERN BURMA: KACHIN AND NORTHERN SHAN STATES

Northern Burma has over 150,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) who have been impacted by their country's volatile and violent political scene year after year. This year, with the military overthrow of the national government, the situation only became more volatile.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) reports five times more military clashes with the Burma Army in 2021 than the previous year. At the same time, people have been fleeing from the cities to the ethnic areas, and, with help from the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), have been trained and have formed People's Defence Forces (PDFs). These have supported the EAOs in the fight against the Burma Army.







Kachin Rangers completed missions to remote IDP camps this year, encountering rugged terrain and numerous Burma Army checkpoints. On at least one occasion, the Rangers had their phones confiscated and searched. The IDP camp leaders expressed their gratitude to the teams, telling them that no one has risked what they did to get to their people. These camps have received almost no aid over the last few years; if aid was sent, it was almost always cut off and confiscated by the Burma Army.

In 2021, Kachin FBR teams completed two missions at six different IDP camps with 2,000 people, ranging from those who had recently arrived to those who have been living there for 10 years. Kachin FBR medics treated 70 patients on these missions. Food and medicine distributions, Good Life Club (GLC) programs, and junior Ranger training filled most of their time together.

None of these camps have access to adequate health-care or educational resources, and some are without electricity. Families are concerned for their children's futures. IDPs in northern Burma are still in need of medicine, food, warm clothing, and much more. It is clear that even if aid is given, the more difficult task remains; getting the aid through the Burma Army to those in need.

The IDPs shared with Kachin FBR teams how grateful they are for everyone who has helped. They said that they have no interest in politics, they just want the war to stop. They want to return to their rightful homes. They want the world to know what is happening. Kachin team leader Naw Seng states the heart of FBR in his own words: "We are trying to go to meet these IDPs. How difficult, we don't care. This is our job to go, help, give encouragement and to get the news out."







KAREN

"THE SITUATION IN KAREN STATE IS DIRE, WITH 250,000 NEWLY DISPLACED, PEOPLE UNABLE TO TEND THEIR CROPS OR TAKE CARE OF THEIR ANIMALS, AND SURVIVING ON EMERGENCY RATIONS THEY HAVE HIDDEN. NOT ONLY DO THEY NEED FOOD NOW, THIS WILL BECOME A GREATER CRISIS IF THEY CANNOT PLANT THEIR FIELDS." - DAVID EUBANK

The Burma Army is improving their road network into Karen State to further project their power, with dismounted infantry moving with bulldozers to build and repair roads. They are resupplying their camps in the area, including new camps they have built. The infantry battalions also attack from roads and camps into villages and chase the villagers deeper into the jungle. They fire machine-guns and 60mm, 81mm and 120mm heavy mortars into the jungle and villages to kill and intimidate anyone who dares to stay.

The Burma military is also conducting airstrikes into Karen State for the first time in over 20 years and, for the first time that we know of, there have been airstrikes conducted at night, which means the Burma military has increased its capability, capacity, and lethality. The jets usually come in two at a time. They drop bombs, some of which, according to the descriptions of the villagers who saw them, are cluster bombs, and they are doing gun runs with machine guns and cannons. The targets that they have hit are schools, clinics, homes, and mining operations. Men, women, and children have been wounded and killed.

PLANTING RICE UNDER FIRE

By Karen Eubank

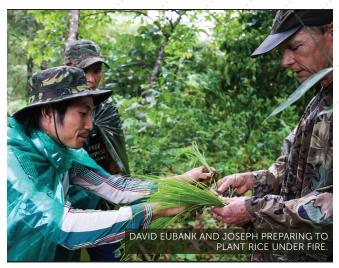
A woman came to us after a GLC program in Karen State to tell us her story. That morning, as she had tried to plant rice at her farm, the Burma Army had fired machine guns at her and she had barely escaped with her life. "Bullets were hitting the flooded paddy all around me, less than a foot on each side of me, as I ran for my life into the jungle."





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We had actually heard the guns while our GLC program was going but didn't know what was happening — unfortunately, it's not unusual to hear shooting here. She told us she was a widow with five kids and might need help to buy rice because she had given up trying to plant her own. Her name was Naw Thraw Gay and she was a strong lady, a vivacious spirit, and occasionally laughed while sharing her impossible situation. We gave her some money to buy rice, but then Dave asked, "What if we helped you? What if our team tried to plant with you?"

She laughed and said it was impossible and all her resolve was gone to go back there again. Dave said, "What if you just show us your field. You don't have to go – and we can try something. Maybe we'll get nowhere, but we can try. We'd like to help you by trying."

She shook her head, meaning 'impossible,' but agreed to show us the field. As we looked into her eyes, Dave's offer felt like a real help. Why not go into that place with her? I had said many times that we should not surrender to fear but go confidently toward the goodness God has given us, so why not put that into action in this situation? It was scary, but had the potential for a much greater good.

We followed her to her rice field, walking the line of laying our lives down but, despite the uncertainty, it felt good and right and true for us. I prayed that God would give us all his Psalm 91 covering, that her planting and harvesting would be fruitful and that in some way we could be God's instruments of change in the present reality.

Dave and a few of the team ventured into the field to start planting and, within minutes, a volley of gunfire poured from the mountain, bullets peppering all around us. The team made their way back, all unhurt. Our new friend laughed, "I told you so!" I couldn't believe it, the Burma Army aggression towards the farmers was so intense and directed. Imagine living in a house within range of arbitrary gunfire. We prayed that the Burma Army there would change their hearts or fall.

It was a pretty despairing moment realizing that this was her life - with children. Yet I was thankful we were given the opportunity to step into Naw Thraw Gay's life, to share the peril she faces, and to be an eyewitness to her life in the "valley of the shadow of death." I pray that Psalm 23 will truly be a peaceful reality in her lifetime.

NEW RICE AND NEW FRIENDS

Seven months after reporting "Planting Rice Under Fire," we returned and found friends, changed hearts and...rice!

By God's help and their courage, our widow friend, Naw Thraw Gay, and her neighbors had gone out to their fields at night and planted the rice and were not seen or shot at by the Burma Army. All the rice was planted and this is thanks to God and all of you who prayed for this widow.

Also, three Burma Army soldiers who had shot at us from their camp that day decided they didn't like what they were doing and defected. The Karen had mercy on them and took them in. They hope to return to their families or maybe even join an army that will protect the people. They are friends now.













CHIN STATE

Burma Army attacks continued to terrorize villagers in Chin State. For exampe, on 8 January 2022, the State Administrative Council (SAC), the Burma Army's rebranding of itself, burned Mualzawl Village in the Falam Township, and the next day they set fire to Webula Village. Two civilians, a father and son, were also killed and burned by the Burma Army.

The fighting between the Burma Army and the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) escalated in 2021 as support for the Civil Disobedience Moment increased. In March 2021, two thirds of the civil servants in Chin State joined the Civil Disobedience Movement. They were followed by teachers and healthcare workers and were supported by the Chin Baptist Church.

The following is another example of a report from the field:

May 2021, one child was killed by a landmine in Tedim, Chin State. Five adults were also killed by a Burma Army shelling of Mindat, Chin State. The Burma Army shot and killed a civilian, 27-year-old Go Sian Mung. He was driving home from work on his motorbike when Burma Army soldiers shot him. He is survived by his wife and two children."

From May 2021 through April 2022, the Chin Ranger teams have conducted nine missions and helped over 16,000 Chin people affected by the Burma Army's oppression, with food, shelter, and medical care. Some of those helped include refugees who have fled across the border into India. One of the biggest obstacles is getting around the Burma Army, which attempts to prevent IDPs from receiving needed help.

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FBR Training

THIS YEAR WAS A HISTORIC YEAR FOR FBR TRAINING:

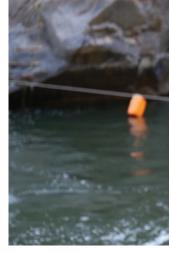
- 168 NEW RANGERS, THE LARGEST CLASS TO DATE.
- 30 ADVANCED STUDENTS.
- FOR THE FIRST
 TIME, ETHNIC
 BURMAN TEAMS.

Over 25 years ago, ethnic groups in Burma saw how our teams operated in a holistic way, providing physical and spiritual relief to the people who needed it most, as well as sharing their story around the world. Those ethnic groups, and many more since then, have asked the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) to train teams for them. Now, every year, FBR hosts an annual Servant Leadership and Relief Team Training program in Karen State, the hallmark training program that turns out Ranger teams.

This year, it ran from October 2021 to January 2022. 198 people from across Burma participated in this training, comprising 32 FBR relief teams. This was the largest graduating class in FBR history.

Besides our annual Ranger training program, FBR runs many shorter, intensive trainings all around Burma. Since the coup on 1 February 2021, FBR has had numerous requests for more training of young people in Burma. This capacity building effort has led to FBR running eight additional trainings in the past year, training over 800 students with the message to love God, love each other, and never surrender. These shorter trainings have happened in Karenni, Karen, and Kachin states.

Training this year took on a very realistic form with the constant threat of Burma Army airstrikes hitting the training site. While "standto" drills are a common part of regular training, this year they weren't just drills when the stu-















dents and staff actually had to respond to real threats as Burma Army aircraft flew over the camp.

Trainees came from all across Burma to get FBR training: the Kachin team travelled the furthest, joining Karen, Karenni, Pa-Oh, Dawai, Arakan, Burmans, Shan, Mon, and Po-Karen students. Upon graduation, students deployed immediately to front lines all around Burma, putting their new skills to use and providing help, hope, and love both at home and to all the people being oppressed by the Burmese dictators.

This was the first year that FBR trained and graduated ethnic Burman teams. Young people who previously lived in Yangon and other Burmese cities have fled to the ethnic-controlled areas and are hungry for any training that might help them inch closer to freedom in their country.

RANGERS LEARN

- Ethnic Unity
- Leadership Principles
- Map Reading and Drawing
- Compass Reading
- Land Navigation
- GPS (Global Positioning System)
- Landmine Removal
- Swimming and Lifesaving
- Solar Power and Battery Management
- SALUTE Reporting

- Human Rights Violations Recording and Reporting
- General Reporting
- Video and Photography
- Medical Training
- Five Field Training Exercises
- Physical Training
- Rope Bridge Building
- Poncho Raft
- Rappelling
- Good Life Club Training



Information

GETTING THE NEWS OUT IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF RANGER TEAMS.

To meet this objective, all Rangers are trained to identify and document human rights abuses and create reports which will get shared all over the world and disseminated to media organizations as well as other aid organizations, governments concerned about the situation and others who are interested. The teams learn to take videos and photos and conduct interviews with the people they meet, and use these to tell people's stories. Villagers, local leaders, teachers, soldiers and others who have experienced violence or oppression are given a voice through Ranger teams who stand with them and give help, hope, and love whatever the situation.

Ranger reports are catalogued, collated, photos and videos filed, translated when necessary - and shared all over the world. We desire to bring change by catalysing action in those who see our reports. We also desire to recognize the intrinsic dignity of those we serve by sharing their story, because every person counts. Their story is part of our story and so we stand against any oppressor or power who would silence them.







Aviation

WE ARE SEEING GOD OPEN DOORS IN WAYS WE COULD ONLY DREAM OF.

Kittikoon, FBR's first Karen flight instructor, completed his training and became an FAA Certified Flight Instructor in February 2021. His goal is to train Karen and other ethnic minority pilots in Burma. His dedication and hard work are an inspiration to us all.

In the spring of 2021, we upgraded the instrument panel of our Cessna 172 by installing a Garmin GPS and other modern radios and instruments. This upgrade provides an extra margin of safety for our pilots flying in the low visibility created by the "burning season" in Southeast Asia.

A primary goal of our aviation team is to train and equip local people to carry out the work. In July, another Karen trainee, Kaw Say, travelled to Texas to continue flight training for his private pilot certificate. Kaw Say manages FBR's Patient Care Department and wants to use the tool of aviation to help more people get the medical care they need. Please continue to pray for Kaw Say and other ethnic pilots who will receive training in the years to come.

Our 172 is also supporting other ministries that are involved with patient care. Several organizations reached out to us for help and in recent

months our flight team made over 10 patient transport trips otherwise impossible by road. We're grateful for this tool and our ability to help so many.

The Free Burma Rangers are uniquely positioned to provide help in different places. We are so excited to see our aviation department expanding to meet the need. We are praying for a larger aircraft with room for a flight nurse to travel onboard. This will greatly increase our ability to make medevac flights throughout the region.

Please continue to pray with us for wisdom as we expand our reach through aviation. Your prayers and support are so crucial to this mission and the future of our program.





JSMK THE JUNGLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-KAWTHOOLEI

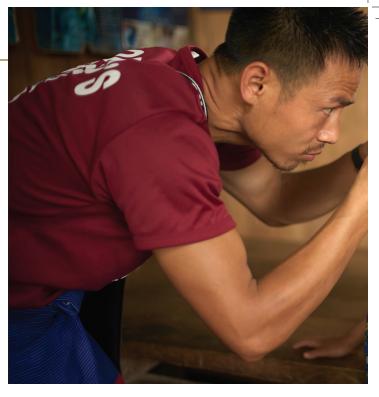
The year 2021 was a challenging year for FBR's Jungle School of Medicine (JSMK). The military coup upended life in Burma starting in February 2021, and air-raid threats disrupted life at JSMK, as in many other parts of Burma. For weeks after the nearby town of Day Pu No was bombed by Burma Army jets, the staff at JSMK left their homes and lived in the jungle. We strategized about what to do at JSMK; continue with training, move classes to the jungle, or suspend everything and send the trainees home?

By April, bomb-proof bunkers were built next to most buildings, and families were encouraged to return to the campus and resume a mostly normal existence, punctuated by occasional airstrike warnings. We taught the Medical Care Foundations curriculum from May to July. During this time, Covid restrictions started to ease and we were also able to have international physicians visit and teach at JSMK once again.

The increased fighting after the coup brought some battle-related casualties to JSMK. We cared for gunshot victims, two Karen soldiers injured by landmines, and others with shrapnel injuries. The patients arrived by 'bambulance', a hammock suspended from a length of bamboo and carried along the jungle paths to our hospital.

At Tha U Wah camp, next door to JSMK, Ranger training burgeoned as a result of the coup and consequent overwhelming interest in joining resistance groups. At one point there were over 200 Ranger trainees on-site, plus support staff and instructors, some of whom had Covid or other health care needs that JSMK helped care for.

Covid, the coup, and a surge in battle injuries tested JSMK's resiliency this year. Thanks to the leadership of our campus director, Thara Toh, the tireless work of our Karen medics, visiting international medical experts, and the support of our generous donors, JSMK is now stronger than ever. It remains steadfast in its commitment to helping the people by training local medics and caring for the sick and injured who come to the jungle hospital seeking help, hope, and love.



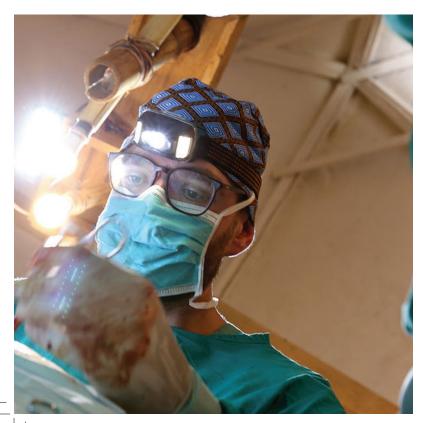












PATIENT STORY

A case in point of how FBR's Jungle School of Médiciné (JSMK) has helped the éthnic minorities during the period of intensified armed conflict since the 2021 coup is the story of a young wife and mother named Naw Paw Lah Eh (name changed). Naw Paw Lah Eh, 23 years old, is from Tha Dwee Kho Village, a farming community in Dwe Lo Township, Mutraw District, of Karen State. In the early hours of February 5, Burma Army attack jets dropped two 500 lb. bombs on her family's compound. Tall trees were snapped and uprooted, and craters three meters wide opened up between the houses. In one house, Naw Paw Lah Eh's two parents were killed by shrapnel while the other house caught fire and burned. Naw Paw Lah Eh was able to get out, but she had chunks of metal deep in her hip and back.

After local medics stabilized her, she was driven four hours over rough mountain roads and then carried the rest of the way to JSMK by 'bambulance.' Fortunately, a visiting surgeon from England was on duty. With the help of JSMK's permanent Karen medical staff, he was able to remove bomb fragments from Naw Paw Lah Eh's leg and back, and she began her recovery in the Inpatient Department (IPD). Thanks to its generous donor base, JSMK was able to provide anesthetics, antibiotics, other medications, and materials necessary for surgery and recovery. The patient's husband cared for her around the clock, and for their baby daughter, both of whom made the journey from their village.

While one of the wounds healed well, the other had a persistent infection and abscess, which is not uncommon in blast wounds caused by unclean objects. Naw Paw Lah Eh was transferred by FBR to a larger hospital with more advanced capabilities, where she will receive further treatment. She will then be able to return to her husband and baby in Tha Dwee Kho. The war is not over and there will likely be more victims, both civilian and military, who need care. In its small way, FBR's Jungle School of Medicine is supporting Burma's people in their fight for peace and freedom from oppression.

The Good Life Club

FILLING THE GAPS

During war, when families and communities must flee for their lives, education is often one of the first aspects in the normal life of a kid to go. The GLC team tries to meet teachers and families in all the places they go, learn the education situation and learn how we can support it. The following educational elements are part of the GLC program:

- Spiritual education: The GLC team will teach a spiritual lesson with a skit during most programs.
- Cultural/geographical: GLC team members come from all over the country and the world and take time to introduce themselves and their homes to the children wherever they go.
- Basic health and hygiene education: The teams provide a lesson in basic health and hygiene, teaching some basic practices and ideas to protect against preventable illness.
- Junior Ranger: When appropriate, some Rangers will separate the older kids and teach them some basic ranger skills, such as leadership, reporting, medical care, or navigation, to foster leadership and capacity-building in the communities they visit.
- School packs: Ranger teams leave resources, including sports equipment and educational supplies, with the teachers of the schools they meet on their missions.















The Good Life Club program is the component of FBR that focuses on children's needs in the conflict zones of Burma and the Middle East. The Good Life Club team is composed of men and women of different ethnicities and faiths with a desire to help children, and they provide assistance to all people regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. They believe that "good life is not just physical but emotional and spiritual as well, and is something God desires for all people everywhere. They try to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the different communities they visit.

By Karen Eubank

I've always loved flying, craning my neck to admire airplanes in the sky, but during our Karenni GLC programs this year, the families were not feeling admiration for the helicopter that flew overhead. Instead, they ran for cover to avoid being shot at. Daily, in many ethnic areas of Burma, the approaching roar of jets causes people to stop their plowing, playing, and cooking to look up, and listen for the whistle of bombs falling to make a dash for the closest trench. These trenches and bunkers became 2021's new feature in neighborhoods, churches, school yards, and clinics in Karen and Karenni states.

In 2022, the attacks continue and over 250,000 Karenni people are in hiding. Our FBR relief teams are in urban Karenni State and on February 1, 2022, recognized the coup's one year anniversary at a Good Life Club program with over 1,000 people displaced from the towns of Demoso and Loikaw.

The Rangers, who represent five different ethnic groups, share similar experiences with the multi-ethnic IDP families in this region - a testimony that they are not alone in this struggle. Some of the Rangers' families, who until recently lived peacefully in their homes, have also had to flee to IDP camps. Some of the Rangers heard about the loss of their homes and their families fleeing while they were training at our camp. After this mission to help displaced Karenni, these Rangers will return to their own displaced families.

Earlier that morning at the children's program, the families had greeted us with dignity and vitality, eager to pour out their stored-up hospitality on their new guests. The school teachers and children took the first opportunity to add their own songs and dances to our program. Then, as a Ranger shared about strength and hope found in God's love through the five-color-story bracelet, children raised their hands to enthusiastically answer questions, giving the message eager attention despite the afternoon's hot sun and dusty wind. Our drama of the David and Goliath story encouraged the children that even in their youth God was preparing them for future victories. The Karenni are in the middle of this story on several fronts. They stand in David's shoes with mere 'slingshots' aimed at their enemy's superior arsenal. Yet the very fact that we are here, in a historically military-controlled area, means that the mighty-regime-giant has been pushed back.

GLC IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As a river deepens a channel through the desert floor, our return to friends in Northeast Syria deepened the love and commitment we've shared with teachers, students, and families for the last five years. The teachers told us, "Each time you come the children feel safe and you bring peace to our hearts." In April 2021, Dadat school finished toilets and drinking water stations for more than 900 students. This is in addition to four classrooms built in 2020. These IDP and refugee families live north of Membij, with Free Syrian Army and Turkish Army elements on the front line a mile from their school.

When we arrived to distribute food packs to families from Idlib many children we met last year enthusiastically helped us make sets of potatoes, rice, beans, sugar, and cooking oil for their families in the community. Later we met other children in an IDP camp for a full day of hip-hop dancing, relays, and parachute games. At the dedication of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Raqqa, a young Christian leader told us, "Today you have helped us move from sadness to strength."







Middle East

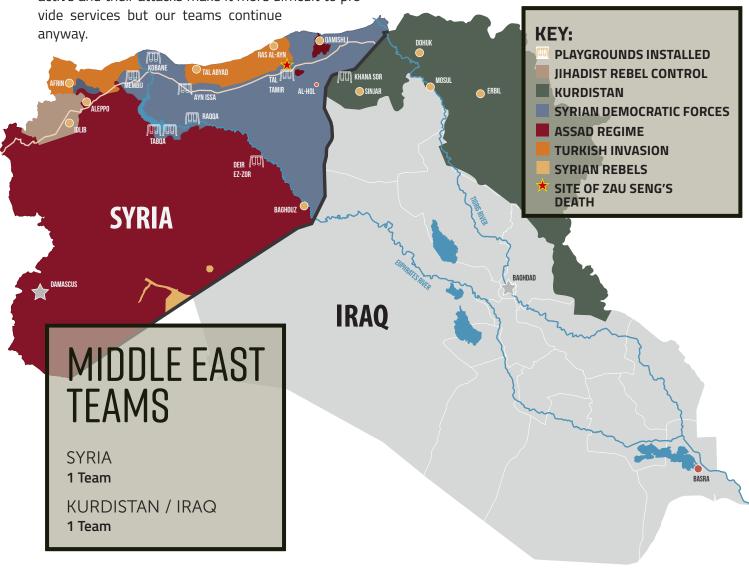
FBR was invited first to help Kurds and Yezidis under attack by ISIS in 2015 and later by the Iraqis in the Battle of Mosul; we were also invited to help in Syria. We now have a full-time team in Syria and a Kurdish and Iraqi team in Kurdistan (northern Iraq). These teams are augmented with ethnic medics, videographers and chaplains from Burma. In Northeast Syria, over 200,000 are displaced by attacks of the Turks and their proxies, the Free Syrian Army (FSA).

Many of these displaced live out in the desert with little access to any help. One of our team members from Burma, Zau Seng, was killed in 2019 during these attacks and two of our team members wounded. Our teams help provide food, water, and some shelter for these IDPs as well as share the love of Jesus. ISIS is active and their attacks make it more difficult to pro-

"When the attacks came, you did not leave us. You stayed with us and helped evacuate the wounded and helped us treat them. We thank you and God so much," said Kurdish Doctor Akif (head of hospital in Ein Issa).

In Kurdistan and Iraq, our teams provide relief, an emergency ambulance service, as well as relief missions into Syria.

Our main ministry is to be with people under attack, to pray with them, to point them to Jesus, and to help in any way we can. We are determined to stay alongside them no matter what. This means enduring machine guns, mortars and bombs and not knowing if you're going to get out alive. Other times it means singing traditional songs in Kurdish and dancing around a fire late at night. Sometimes it means praying together, asking God for His protection, leading, provision, forgiveness and for our enemies' hearts to change. It means we are together in love.



Afghanistan

THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN IN SEPTEMBER 2021 CAUSED UPHEAVAL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. WE WERE INVITED TO HELP SUPPORT A HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR IN THE PANSHIR VALLEY BUT WHEN WE ARRIVED, IT HAD ALREADY FALLEN.

We offered to help in any way we could and our team was invited by the Afghan embassy. This opportunity allowed us to build relationships and learn better how to help. During this time we met with one of the representatives, who shared his heart and spiritual journey with us, and how God helped him as Afghanistan fell into the hands of the Taliban.

We are thankful for the Tajikistan government and how they tried to help those in need. At the time, there was no credible way to account for supplies being sent cross-border but we purchased food, medical supplies and sleeping bags for the IDPs inside and were ready to go. We coordinated with the Afghan embassy for the right time to send these supplies. There were an estimated 650,000 people displaced in Afghanistan by the Taliban take-over, adding to an additional three million already displaced and over 40,000 that had already fled into Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. For American citizens and green-card holders the Sentinel Foundation did a wonderful job of coordinating with the US State Department and getting US citizens across into Tajikistan.

All during this mission we were blessed by the friend-liness of the Tajik and Afghan people and had daily opportunities to share God's love and pray with almost everyone we met. We encouraged them to call on Jesus' name no matter what their religion. Another blessing of this mission was meeting the local Christian community, which is doing quiet but very effective work. Their acts of love and sharing of the love of God through Jesus is inspiring and we are able to partner with them to help people in need on both sides of the border. The needs of the Afghan people are great and many want to leave. Please pray we know our part in how to help.









Syria

DESTROYED BY ISIS, A CHURCH REBORN: A STORY OF REDEMPTION AND HOPE FROM RAQQA, NORTHEAST SYRIA.

Raqqa was the capital of ISIS and, while they were here, ISIS destroyed this Armenian Apostolic Church, along with the other death and destruction they meted out. Now, by the help of God, caring friends around the world, the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Raqqa Civil Council and Arab, Christian and Kurdish volunteers, the church has been rebuilt and we celebrated a worship service here with Armenian Christian survivors of ISIS as well as those who helped rebuild the church. We thanked God together and prayed for people to be able to come back and worship here and we prayed for all our enemies.

I kept feeling that I was dreaming as I looked at the beautiful church that has risen from the pile of rubble. What ISIS meant for evil, God redeemed for good. There was a feeling of unity between the people here of different ethnicities and faiths. "This is not only a church for the Christians, it is a place of honor to God for all of us," said one Kurdish leader.







Chaplaincy

TEN RANGERS ASKED TO BE BAPTIZED

"Before coming to FBR, I saw the forgiveness and kindness of my Christian friends and it made me excited. When I came to FBR, I heard many things about the Christian life and how Jesus lived. I experienced God with me in the FBR test and exercise. I felt that God helps us and I want to follow His way." – Saw Muam

FBR has people of many faiths and ethnicities and all are welcome as we serve for love together. At the same time, we bear witness to who Jesus is to us and what Jesus has done for us. On January 5, 2022, 10 Rangers decided to proclaim their faith through baptism before many fellow Rangers, instructors, and community members. For some, this decision is one that will be well-received and celebrated as they return home to their communities. For others, this bold proclamation is accompanied by unknowns of how families will react to their decision to put their trust in Jesus.

Each Ranger decided to follow Jesus whatever the cost might be. Many attributed their decision to be baptized, and the growth of their faith, to the daily devotions led by the FBR staff during the past three months of training, and the environment of love and forgiveness that Free Burma Rangers try to live out. Being intentional about daily prayer is important to FBR training programs where students learn to train the physical, mental, and spiritual sides of their lives.

Nearly 100 students at FBR trainings this year made public confessions of faith: standing up, coming forward, praying publicly, or confiding in an FBR staff member about their new decision to give their lives to Christ. Jackson, a Karenni Ranger, said, "I knew that if I continued down the path I was going, I would die. So I gave my life to Jesus during FBR training. He has totally changed my heart."



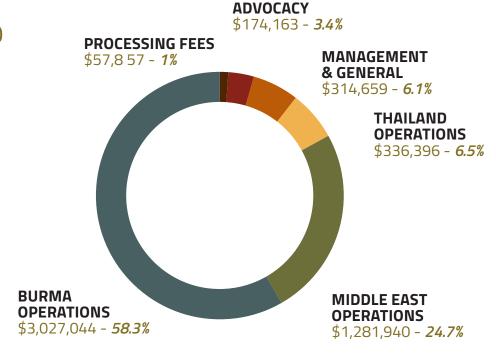


Finance 2021

REVENUE \$9,131,099 EXPENSES \$5,155,470

FBR is funded by donations from individuals, churches, and other organizations from around the world. We are encouraged, by and grateful, for all of those who give to support the work of FBR. FBR is registered in the United States as a 501(c) (3) organization called Free the Oppressed (FTO). FTO is inspired by the words of Jesus in Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

FBR uses Thai Baht, Iraqi Dinar, Myanmar Kyat, Syrian Pounds, Bangladeshi Taka and U.S. Dollar (USD) currencies in its operations. The numbers here reflect the totals in USD using the actual or average conversion rate of each currency. While 2021 was another challenging year for operations with COVID-19, it did not slow down the faithfulness of our supporters. Donations increased significantly as supporters answered the call to help the oppressed in all areas that we operate. Our message continues to be the same: to be ambassadors for lesus and to share His love. The increase in donations is allowing us to respond to the worst crisis we have seen in Burma in 30 years. We also continue to help in Syria and Kurdistan, and with Afghan refugees. Thank you for helping us bring help, hope, and love to the oppressed.











Free the Oppressed participates in several matching programs, including:

- 1. **smile.amazon.com** (donates 0.5% of your purchases when you shop using this website and designate Free the Oppressed as your charity)
- 2. www.benevity.com (used by companies including Apple, Google, and Microsoft for employee matching)
- 3. www.cybergrants.com (used by companies including Caterpillar, Nike, Nordstrom, and Walmart for employee matching)
- 4. www.yourcause.com (used by companies including ATT, Dell, AMD, Chevron, Nvidia, Samsung, and Best Buy for employee matching)

Free Burma Rangers is approved as a charity to receive donations from federal employees through the Combined Federal Campaign. See more at cfcgiving.gov, CFC#: 40763.

Free the Oppressed DBA Free Burma Rangers has earned a Gold Star seal of Transparency from Guidestar.org. Please see more at www. guidestar.org/profile/47-4648581

In Memoriam

REMEMBERING 10 FALLEN RANGERS.



ALL LO SEIN

27 MAY 2021

Killed by Burma Army fire. All Lo Sein joined FBR in 2017 when he was 19 years old. He was rescuing civilians trapped under fire by the Burma Army in Demoso, Karenni State. He put his body between the Burma Army and civilians he was helping and was killed saving them.



SAI PYIN YA

10 IUNF 2021

Killed by Burma Army proxy forces in Shan State. He joined FBR in 2008 and came to many trainings as an instructor. He was providing medical care when he was killed. He was 30 years old and married to another Ranger whom he leaves behind.



MARAN BRANG AWNG

27 AUGUST 2021

Died from unknown illness in Kachin State. He attended FBR training in 2016 and served in Kachin State selflessly. He was one of FBR's leaders among the Kachin people.



DU DU

30 AUGUST 2021

Died from a stomach illness in a hospital in Kachin State. Du Du graduated FBR training in 2007 and was a longstanding and much loved member of our Kachin team. Du Du gave his life to Jesus after the 2007 training and was baptized at Tha U Wah Camp in Karen State. He was always cheerful and always had a smile on his face.



HTOO EH

21 DECEMBER 2021

Died in December of 2021. He was killed by the Burma Army outside of Papun in Karen State defending the villagers from Burma Army attack. During Good Life Club programs he had a special bond with the children and spread joy wherever he went. We miss him and his smile so much.



SITTE KHINE

24 IANUARY 2022

Died from liver cancer. Sitte Khine, also known to his friends as Nay Tho, was an Arakan Ranger who attended FBR training in 2018. Sitte Khine accepted Jesus one month before he passed away. He was a hardworking, dedicated Ranger who served selflessly in Burma. He was loved by many.



REE DOH

24 FEBRUARY 2022

Killed by Burma Army airstrike while helping people escape fighting in That Yan Village, Western Loikaw, Karenni State. Ree Doh finished FBR training in 2019, then returned as an advanced student and instructor. Ree Doh loved Jesus and loved serving his Karenni people. He bravely risked his life multiple times to help people and do his duty.



ELIZABETH

8 MARCH 2022

Killed by Burma Army mortar attack while helping villagers flee in Sung Du La Village west of Demoso, Karenni State. The Burma Army bombed with jets and after hearing the bombs, Elizabeth went to help people flee and report on the situation. While there, the Burma Army mortared the village and shrapnel hit Elizabeth in the head. She died the next day from her wounds. Elizabeth was irreplaceable and the epitome of joy and love and light in the world.



SAW AUNG HTOO

24 MARCH 2022

Killed by Burma Army. Aung Htoo attended FBR training in 2013 and returned to Dooplaya District in Karen State. He was married with two children and served as a medic on the Dooplaya team. He was trying to escape from Burma Army advances but was unable to escape and was captured by Burma Army. His body was found the next day with many signs of torture.



JOE JOHN

13 APRII 2022

Nyein Yan Aye, known by his nickname, Joe John, was killed by Burma Army shelling on 13 April 2022 in Demoso area, Karenni State. He joined FBR in 2014 and after the coup helped FBR train over 200 Karenni students. He dedicated his life to freedom for his people. He had a smile that was contagious, and a love in his heart that led him to the most dangerous places. "This is a huge loss for us, we are so sorry for this," said the Karenni FBR team leader.



Contact us by email at: info@freeburmarangers.org

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