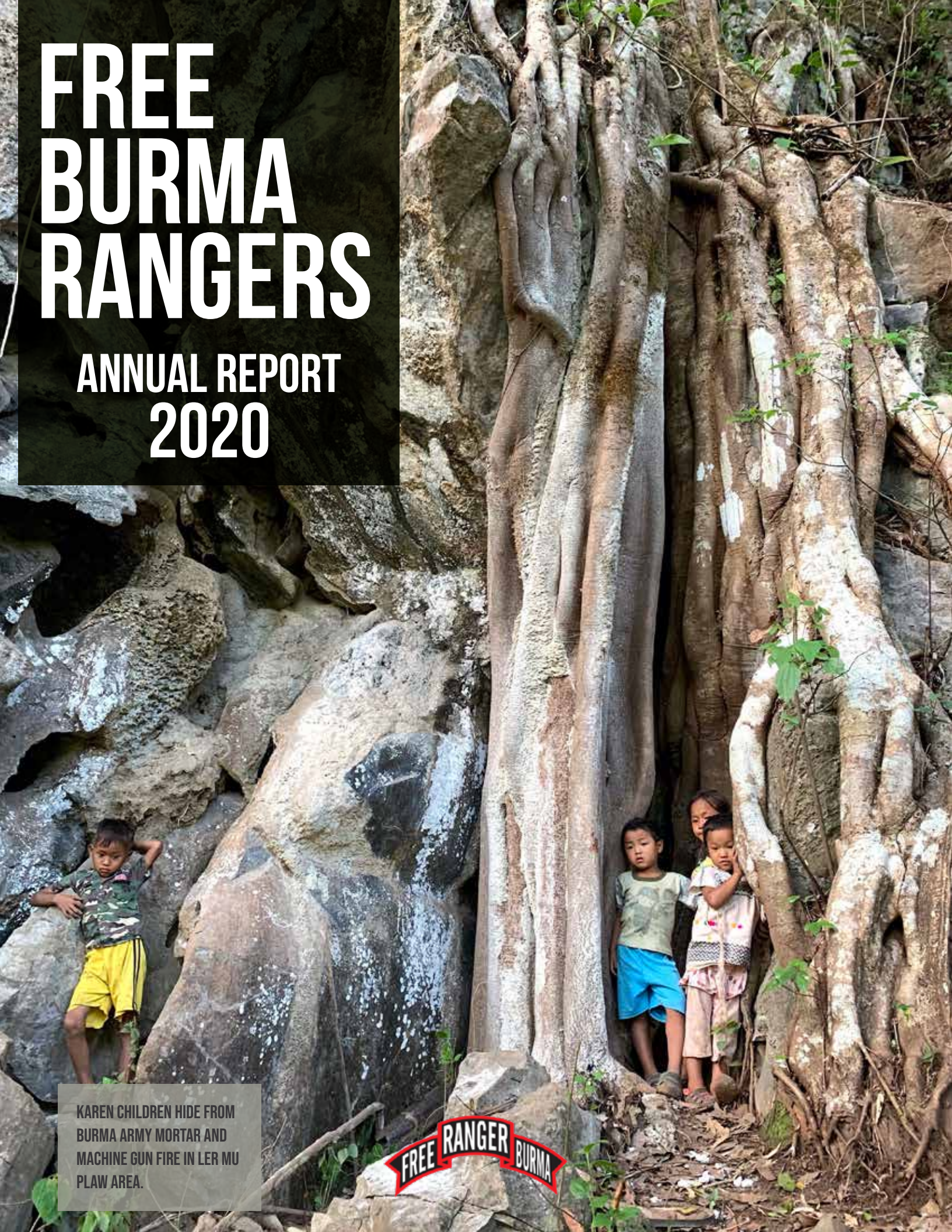


FREE BURMA RANGERS

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



KAREN CHILDREN HIDE FROM
BURMA ARMY MORTAR AND
MACHINE GUN FIRE IN LER MU
PLAW AREA.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Karen State, Burma

Eubank family prepares to move during a relief mission, June 2020.

Dear friends and family,

Thank you for all your love and support.

Our teams in Burma, Iraq and Syria are grateful for your partnership with them. In all we do we want to be ambassadors for Jesus and to share His love. FBR is open to, and has, people of different faiths and viewpoints but who are united by love to serve others. In Burma, attacks by the Burma Army against the ethnic people have increased and on 1 February 2021, the Burma military threw out the elected civilian leadership in a coup. This has resulted in the killing of hundreds of civilian men, women and children in the cities as well as increased attacks against the ethnic peoples in the mountains of Burma. Our teams are responding to give help, hope and love for people fleeing in the mountains as well as helping people who have been targeted by the regime to escape from the cities.

In Kurdistan, Iraq, our Kurdish and Iraqi team continues to help meet humanitarian needs and also provided an ambulance service during the height of COVID 19. They have helped transport many sick people and provide for their care. The team in Iraq is also helping in the rehabilitation of many of the wounded people that we rescued during the battle against ISIS. This involves continued medical care as well as job placement and in some cases buying vehicles so that the families can start a business. Iman, one of the wounded women we rescued, whom we dragged by a wire to safety in a destroyed soda factory, now has recovered and started a new life. With God's help we reunited with her and her family and she has now had multiple operations which enable her to walk again and she has given birth to twins. We bought her husband a taxi and now this family can take care of themselves.

In northeast Syria our teams are responding to the constant

attacks of Turkish forces and their proxies. We have a full-time Syrian team that provides emergency medical care along the front lines as well as conducting children's programs and food distribution for IDPs. Our team leader there, named Hamdu, is a new follower of Jesus and has recruited other people to join him. With your help we have been able to support the emerging churches of new believers in northeast Syria as well as provide support for the older orthodox churches. We are also helping to rebuild the Armenian church in Raqqa that ISIS destroyed. It is a miracle to see it almost finished and please pray with us that people can worship there again. The team rebuilding the church are Arab and Kurdish Muslims who told us, "When our mosque was destroyed the Christians gave us shelter and so we will help them rebuild their church. This city will be a place for everyone and all can worship as they feel led." We love these people and it is a joy to have friends from so many races and beliefs.

In all I do, I want to be led by Jesus who changes my heart and cleans me daily and helps me do things of lasting value. When I call on Jesus something happens. For me and many of us, He is supernaturally real and able to do what we cannot do. In whatever you're facing in life I encourage you to call on Jesus' name and see what happens. He loves us all. Please let us know how we can pray for you and we thank God we are on this team together with you.

Thank you and God bless you,

Dave, family and the Free Burma Rangers



Texas, USA

Sahale and Suu both started as freshman at Texas A&M this year. Both are on the polo team.



FREE BURMA RANGERS

Free Burma Rangers (FBR) is a multi-ethnic and multi-faith humanitarian service movement working to bring help, hope and love to people in the conflict areas of Burma, Iraq, Syria, and Sudan. Working alongside indigenous pro-democracy groups, FBR trains, supplies and coordinates Ranger teams to help provide emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing and human rights documentation.

In addition to relief and reporting, other results of the teams' actions are the development of leadership capacity, civil society and the strengthening of inter-ethnic unity. There are three requirements to be a Ranger: 1. Love – Each volunteer should be motivated by love. 2. Physical and moral courage – Volunteers must have to have the physical strength and endurance to be able to walk to crisis areas, and the moral courage to stand with those under attack. 3. Ability to read and write – Due to medical, informational and documentation requirements, literacy in at least one language is required.

Our Vision

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

Our 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.

Our Objectives

1. To inspire, train and equip people spiritually, physically, relationally and professionally 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 war zones and to improve logistics and medical evacuation.
3. To develop information networks that document, report and disseminate accounts of human rights violations and provide an early warning system.
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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Captions: At left: FBR pack horses move supplies. Facing page, top to bottom: Burma air force bombs villages in Karen State; people protest against the military regime in the cities; families hide from Burma air force bombing.



BURMA EXPLODES

On 1 February 2021 the Burma military simultaneously arrested the leaders of the opposition and dismantled the government while at the same time launching attacks into ethnic areas, many of which they had ceasefires with. With the killing of hundreds of men, women and children in the cities of Burma and with large scale attacks against the ethnics in the mountains, displacing thousands, with God's help and your help we have been able to increase our assistance to those in need.

The FBR response has been for our relief teams in 13 ethnic areas to give help, hope, and love and keep getting the news out. Even when they're out of medicine or food to give, our teams are with the people to treat their wounds and comfort them.

We were asked by Burmans for help in rescues of those who were targeted by the regime for arrest and execution. Working with local networks of friends and with God's help we have been able to help people escape. We are helping the people of the cities by sending funds for food and medicine. We are also giving spiritual, medical, information and communication training to the people in the cities to help them love God, love and help each other and not give up.

We do not know the best way to do this but call on Jesus for help and try to do all things in love and learn from each other. Thank you for praying for us and for the outpouring of love and support that you've given us that have enabled us to meet the needs. We believe that the dictators have taken a step too far and will not succeed.

We pray for their hearts to change or for them to not be able to hold power. We pray for love, justice, freedom and reconciliation for all sides and a free, federal democratic Burma. Mostly we pray that our hearts and all hearts are transformed by the loving power of Jesus.



AREAS OF OPERATION

BURMA

The Free Burma Rangers formed in Burma in 1997 and are comprised of people from different ethnic groups within Burma providing direct relief to communities most affected by the results of the government's oppression. These teams are trained to provide medical care and counseling, while documenting and reporting human rights violations. Since its formation, more than 1000 missions have been conducted to assist over 1,500,000 people. Together with other organizations working toward a free and peaceful Burma, more than 100

Free Burma Ranger relief teams bring help to people facing oppression.

In January 2021, Burma Army attacks in ethnic areas began to increase. With increased brazenness, the military conducted troop movements, shelling of civilian villages, murder and wounding of villagers, and construction - all outright violations of the the National Ceasefire Agreement. On 1 February, the military overthrew the democratically-elected national government in a coup, and at the same time upped the level of attacks in the ethnic areas to another level. For the

first time in 20 years, airstrikes were used in the Karen areas of eastern Burma, very near to the Thai border.

As of the printing of this report, the military has killed nearly 1000 protesters in the cities and more than 24,000 people are displaced in Karen State alone, by airstrikes, mortars and ground assaults. The Burma Army has also escalated attacks in Kachin and Shan states.

A parallel government, the "National Unity Government," has been formed with multiple ethnic representatives.

Actions for the International Community to Take in Burma:

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 CDM and pro-democracy political groups such as the 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 air attacks against the population.



Karen State, Burma

Above: Karen villagers protest Burma Army attacks. Below: Family checks their radio as Burma Army advances.



BURMA TEAMS

ARAKAN STATE

ARAKAN

**15 teams: 9 Full-time,
6 Part-time**

Partner Organizations: Arakan Liberation Party and Arakan Army

CHIN STATE

CHIN

**7 Teams: 4 Full-time,
3 Part-time.**

Partner Organization: Chin National Party

KACHIN STATE

KACHIN

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

Partner Organizations: Kachin Independence Organization and Kachin National Organization

KAREN STATE

KAREN

**34 Teams: 26 Full-time,
8 Part-time**

Partner Organizations: Karen National Union

KARENNI STATE

KARENNI

**9 Teams: 3 Full-time, 6
Part-time**

Partner Organizations: Karenni National Progressive Party and UKSY

ROHINGYA

ROHINGYA

1 Team: 1 Part-time

** This team is located in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. **

SAGAING DIVISION

NAGA

**5 Teams: 2 Full-time,
3 Part-time**

Partner Organizations: Naga National Council

SHAN STATE

SHAN.

**14 Teams: 1 Full-time,
13 Part-time**

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

PA-OH (IN SOUTHERN SHAN STATE)

PA-OH

1 Team: 1 Full-time

Partner Organizations: Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization.

TA'ANG (IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE)

TA'ANG

6 Teams: 6 Part-time.

Partner Organizations: Ta'ang National Liberation Army

LAHU (IN SOUTHERN SHAN STATE)

LAHU

2 Teams: 1 Fulltime

1 Parttime

Partner Organizations: None



BURMA NUMBERS

104

Teams, including 2 headquarters teams.

70

Missions with about 2000 people helped per mission.

AREAS OF OPERATION

MIDDLE EAST

We were 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 full-time teams 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 live out in the desert with little access to any help. One of our team members from Burma, Zau Seng, was killed 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 provide services but our teams continue anyway.

"When the attacks came, you did not leave us. You stayed with us and helped evacuate the wounded and help 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, and do 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. 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.



 Raqqa, Syria

Team at destroyed church in Raqqa, 2018.



 State, Country

New Raqqa church being rebuilt, March 2021.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS.

IDPS FLEE IDLIB TO NORTHEAST SYRIA. In February, our team was able to serve people newly displaced by the Syrian government's bombing of their homes, but afraid to go to Turkey.

COVID-19 HELP IN KURDISTAN. During the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak in Kurdistan, our team helped with ambulance transport and support for the COVID-19 response in Kurdistan, northern Iraq.

CHURCH RISES IN RAQQA. FBR has supported the rebuilding of an Armenian Orthodox Church that had been destroyed by ISIS in the heart of Raqqa, the former ISIS capital. With the help of an Arab sheik and Kurdish and Arab members of a new civil council, it has made progress. The exterior is nearly complete and we are now working on the interior.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT. U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham visited the people of northeast Syria and was a blessing everywhere he went. His humility, concern, deep questions and heartfelt responses earned him respect and the US reputation, which has been badly hurt, was helped.

NEW CHURCH FORMS IN IDP CAMP. An Arab nurse we met fleeing the Turkish attacks in 2019 became a Christian after he began working as a translator for us, and has now begun a church in the IDP camp where his family lives. He is also our current Syria team leader.



MIDDLE EAST NUMBERS

2

Teams in the Middle East we have an Iraqi team and a Syria, which are augmented for most missions by headquarters team members.

10,000

People helped with food packs and other relief supplies.

3

Hospitals supported for staff, construction and repair expenses, and new equipment.

4

Churches supported, for staff, construction and project support.

5,000

Children encouraged and helped through Good Life Club programs.



Meeting Hamdu, pictured above in the white shirt, and his tent church in an IDP camp in NE Syria.

New Believers, New Team Leader, and New Ambulance

We first met Hamdu on the road as people ran from the Turks and FSA during the Turkish invasion of 2019. Just a few days earlier his family had fled the area and lost their home and possessions. After he found a place for his family, he came back to the front to see how he could help, as he had some medical experience. We met and he joined us for the rest of the mission and especially helping Karen with GLC. Two weeks later he became a follower of Jesus and now has nine IDP families who want to start a church.

Recently he also helped coordinate the delivery of an ambulance to help move wounded in Ein Issa. This was an answer to prayer and we thank you all who support this mission for making this possible. Thanks for helping us help those in need.



Tel Tamr, NE Syria

Congressman Abraham with new-born baby and mother in Tel Tamr hospital.

FBR TRAINING



The FBR Servant Leadership Relief Team Training Graduated 11 New Ranger Teams in 2020.

The 2020 Free Burma Ranger Servant Leadership and Relief Team Training was conducted from Oct. to Dec. 2020. 96 people from across Burma participated in the training including 59 new basic students, making up 11 new FBR teams. 22 second year advanced students, partnering with 15 students from JSMK, made up our advanced training, going deeper into the topics they had learned in their basic training the previous year.

This year it was more difficult to get teams to the training camp due to travel restrictions within Burma, but four different ethnic groups, representing six different organizations attended training. The Naga team travelled the farthest, all the way across the country to attend the training, joining the Karen, Karenni and Arakan.

From start to finish, our ethnic headquarters leaders did an amazing job running the training, dealing with problems together, and making sure that this was one of the best trainings ever delivered. The staff that leads the training is made up of instructors and junior instructors, all who have been through FBR training and involved with FBR for many years. Most of the ethnic groups that send teams also send an instructor.

One of the major hurdles that our teams had to face this year was the death of a ranger in a training accident. Saw GayKu who came from Ler Doh area of 3rd Brigade of Karen State, tragically died in a training accident. Our teams took time off to grieve together and celebrate his life and then continued training. This was the first student in FBR history who died during a training event. Saw GayKu came to training because he wanted to serve and help his people. He will be remembered and missed by our FBR family.

Graduation took place on December 31st and part of the celebration was

recognizing four Rangers that were baptized this year during training. Two were new basic students, one was a JSMK staff, and one was a junior instructor. One ranger said, "I gave my life to Jesus after listening to the morning devotions each morning during training. I knew it was the only way."

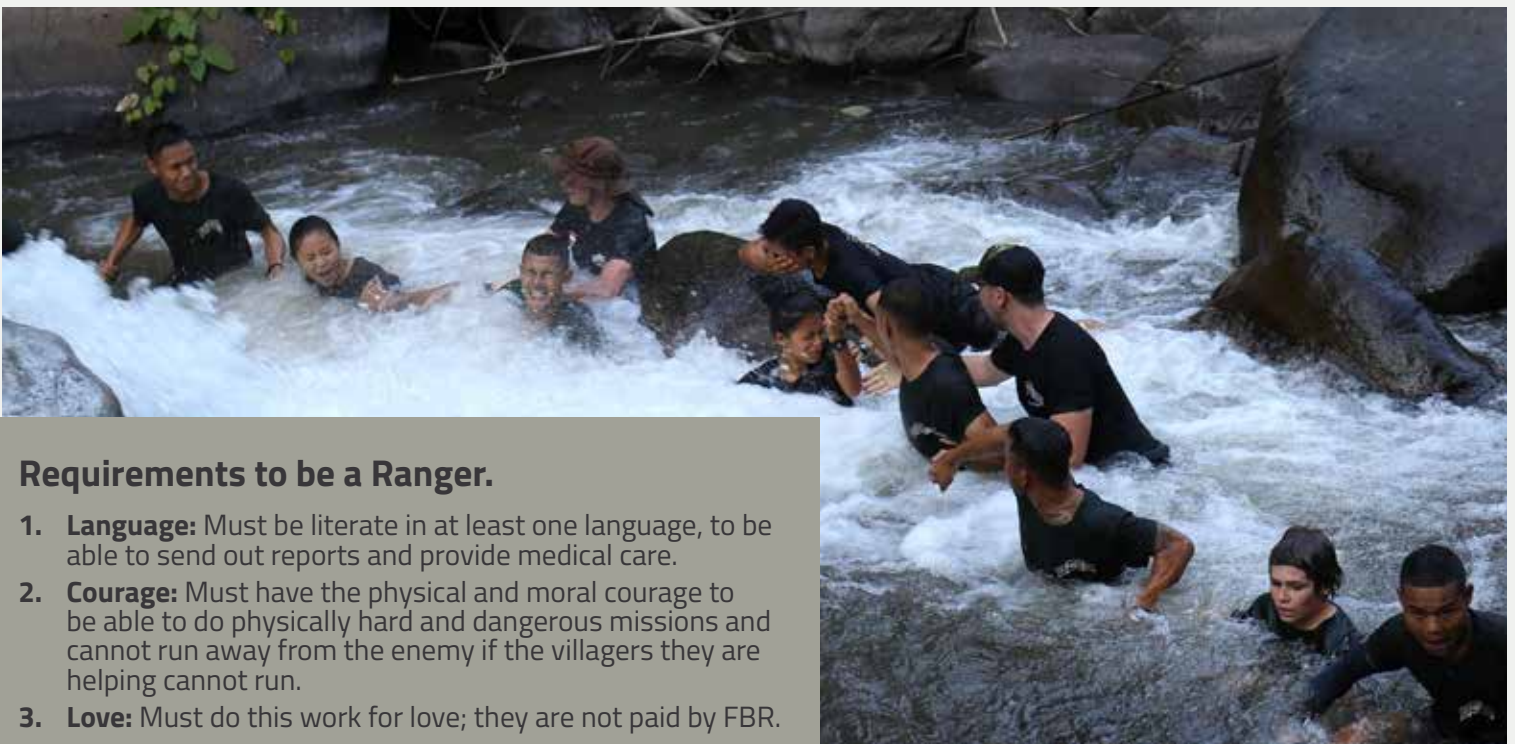
After graduation the teams divided into four groups to complete follow-on relief missions, together with instructors. They will have an opportunity to practice their new skills on a real mission but with instructors and experienced Rangers available for further coaching and feedback. Once finished with the mission, they will return to their home areas, ready to conduct missions there. They will have learned and practiced many new skills to be able to help their people in many kinds of crisis, as well as having gained new relationships across ethnic lines. Both these skills and relationships will be of vital importance as Burma and her people move into an uncertain future.

Rangers Learn:

- Ethnic Unity
- Leadership Principles
- Map Reading and Drawing
- Compass Reading
- Land Navigation
- GPS (Global Positioning System) Use
- Landmine Removal
- Swimming and Lifesaving
- Solar Power and Battery Management
- Human Rights Violations Recording and Reporting
- SALUTE Reporting
- General Reporting
- Video and Photography
- Medical Training
- Five Field Training Exercises
- Physical Training
- Rope Bridge Building
- Poncho Raft Use
- Rappelling
- Good Life Club Training



Pictures: Facing page: New Ranger teams graduate: Right, top to bottom: students practice inserting an IV; learning rappelling; team-building river-crossing.



Requirements to be a Ranger.

1. **Language:** Must be literate in at least one language, to be able to send out reports and provide medical care.
2. **Courage:** Must have the physical and moral courage to be able to do physically hard and dangerous missions and cannot run away from the enemy if the villagers they are helping cannot run.
3. **Love:** Must do this work for love; they are not paid by FBR.



FBR PROGRAMS



AVIATION

Free Burma Rangers Aviation has come a long way in recent years. From donated planes in Virginia to new aircraft design efforts in Texas, from flight training in Alaska to free hangar space in South Carolina, many hands and hearts have been involved in this effort to bring aviation help to the people of Burma. Numerous aviation experts from around the world have given advice, financial support, and motivation to our team and we are thankful for each one of you.

The local Chiang Mai flight club is a huge help. They were instrumental in bringing our Cessna 172 over from America, and they've helped us with complex paperwork and protocols

since then. Last year they were eager to help again as we transferred ownership of the plane out of their club and into Free the Oppressed. In 2021 they've helped us with the paperwork process of validating pilots through FTO. This is a very important step since it grants the organization legal freedom to allow FTO pilots to operate our aircraft in Thailand.

Our most recent success story is Kittikoon who just received his FAA flight instructor certificate. His goal is training ethnic pilots from Burma. It was inspirational to see Kit's hard work and continued determination to push through the difficulties of becoming a flight instructor. His

efforts and perseverance paid off in February 2021 when he passed his checkride. Help from friends was also an important part of this FBR Aviation milestone. The FAA examiner in Texas who gave Kit the checkride and our friend in Louisiana who loaned his Cessna 150 for training and testing were a few along the way. Now Kit is back in Thailand ready to begin our ethnic flight training program.

Our friends will continue to be part of our success through this year as well. This spring we are updating our current Cessna with the latest avionics for improved safety and efficiency. This year we will also begin training local Karen pilots in country.



 Texas, USA

Kittikoon working on his Certified Flight Instructor license.



 Chiang Mai, Thailand

FBR's new hangar completed in 2020.



From Kittikoon, FBR's Newest Flight Instructor

"I thank God for everything He has done in my life. I am ethnically Karen, growing up in the jungle and never knew anything about airplanes. I got to see and ride the plane for the first time when I was 19 years old. For my first ride in the plane, at 3,000 feet, I was told to jump out. There was a strong wind coming through the door, it was my first time riding in a plane, making it more exciting. I took off with the plane 10 times, with no landing because I was at a parachute training. I thought, maybe one day I will get to land with the plane and see what it is like. Thank God, today I landed with the plane and I landed it myself, now many times. I can now even train people how to fly. I would love to train people in Burma: Karen, Kachin, and other ethnic group so they can use aviation to save lives, bringing help, hope, love, and good news to others. Please keep us in your prayers.

CHAPLAINCY

Jesus, while speaking to His disciples about salvation, made a stunning statement in (Matt. 19:26). He said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The Free Burma Rangers are often faced with situations that seem impossible, from escaping the Burma Army with fleeing villagers to escaping ISIS with wounded civilians. However, over the past 20 years that the Free Burma Rangers have existed as a movement they have asked God's guidance, attempted to follow His leading, and experienced His power. He can and will do the same in your life as well. He invites us to ask Him into our lives to see what He can do. He asks us to step out in faith when He says "Go," keeping our eyes on Him.

The last line of the FBR motto says, "Pray with faith, act with courage, never surrender."

If we pray with faith that God is sovereign, we can act with the courage that trusts that as we try to follow Him, we will be part of His plan. And



so we can keep pushing and not surrender, even when the odds against us seem impossible.

For decades, Karen Christians have prayed with faith, acted with courage, and not given up. As Burma Army attacks have destroyed their churches and their homes, they have rebuilt over and over, and continued praying and praising. And the seeming impossible has happened – not, as we would like to see, a defeat of the Burma Army, or a liberation of the people, not yet. But in the hearts of many of the Karen

we have met and worked with, has grown a seemingly impossible capacity for grace and forgiveness. As his village was being mortared, we spoke with one man who said, "We don't hate the Burma Army, or want to attack them. We know that we are sinners too and are not perfect. We just want them to leave us in peace."

In the Middle East, where religion has sown the seeds of disastrous violence for hundreds of years, we have on our team a former Muslim who met us as he fled the Turkish attacks with his family. Even as his family lost everything, he began to step out in faith and is now coordinating our front-line response to continued attacks.

This includes support to two new churches that formed during the occupation of ISIS, when Christians who had been in hiding, stepped out in faith while in refugee camps, met each other and joined to form a community of believers. Out of the devastation of ISIS sprang a new community of faith. The seeming impossible became possible.

Above: Rangers pray before swim training; below, left to right: Wa pastor baptizes new believer; in Syria, praying with parents of boy killed by Turkish mortar.



INFORMATION

FBR reports regularly on the situation inside Burma, sending information to supporters, news media, other NGOs and governments.

Early in the morning on 1 February 2021, soldiers arrested the democratically-elected leaders of the government of Burma, declaring a state of emergency and transferring all power to the commander-in-chief of the military, Min Aung Hlaing. At the same time, phone lines were cut, cellular service around the country was disrupted, and state-run television broadcasts temporarily stopped. Information suppression has always been a primary tool of oppressors. Getting the news out is one of the primary objectives of FBR teams.

To meet this objective, each Ranger team has a dedicated individual who is trained to identify and document human rights abuses and then to report these abuses to FBR headquarters. They 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.

This year, after conducting interviews of 250 civilians, the Arakan Ranger team documented hundreds of human rights violations and brutal war crimes and their reports were published in a special FBR report called "Caught in the CrossFire," which was given to journalists, US government officials, and other organizations interested in helping, as well as being posted to our website and made available to all. In northeast Syria, Rangers were on hand to provide medical care for a young boy fatally injured by a Turkish mortar strike - and send the news of his death around the world, including to the US State Department, which issued a rebuke of the violence.

As the coup took place and catalyzed protests all over the nation, and the world, which in turn led to a bloody and violent crackdown by the military, the news spread all over the world. Cell phone footage from ordinary citizens was being broadcast in international headlines. At the same time, the Burmese military stepped up its attacks in more remote areas, further from the public eye. And this is where FBR teams came in, sending out pictures, videos and reports of villagers bombed, homes, schools and clinics destroyed, and families in hiding. The concurrency



Karen State, Burma

Ranger teams monitor the Burma Army, documenting their movements and activities.



Karen State, Burma

Rangers take photo and video of Burma Army troop movements and camps.

of the violence and the dissemination of information about it all over the country and the world, helped create a rare solidarity between the Burmans being attacked in the cities and the ethnics being attacked in the border areas.

The ultimate outcome of the coup and people's protests is yet to be determined. But thanks to the efforts of the Rangers and many others, the voice of the people is being heard around the world.

JSMK

The Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthoolei (JSMK) is a small hospital and clinic nestled in the hills of eastern Burma as part of FBR's Tha U Wah training camp in Karen State, Burma.

In March of 2020, as the world faced the expanding COVI-19 pandemic, FBR's Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthoolei prepared for the worst by altering patient flow, building up supplies and teaching village leaders how to prevent transmission and deal with symptomatic patients. To our relief, during 2020, the virus never arrived in the district surrounding our campus. Its impact was, nonetheless, substantial. Resupply became very difficult, and visits from outside support staff were sharply curtailed. Especially sick patients could no longer be referred beyond the border. During this same time, military attacks on villagers increased significantly, leading to a rise in insecurity for the region. Decreased mobility and supply along with increased insecurity have been stressful for our patients, staff and students.


I thank God that during 2020 our staff rose to the challenge of providing most of the teaching, and caring for many tough cases. The support team in a neighboring country gained a terrific doctor and we are revising the curriculum. Further developments on our campus have improved internet communication, and our support administrator is establishing online education. I hope and pray that visits and referrals may resume soon, but am proud of how the staff, their families, students and support team responded to a difficult year. In this time of COVID, love plants its hopes in a field called, "Persistence", watering them with God's faithfulness.

PATIENT STORY

Nine months pregnant, Naw Pwo Wah walked nearly 10 kilometers to the Jungle School of Medicine. She was bleeding and, after 15 previous pregnancies, knew this was an emergency.

Naw Pwo Wah stood no more than five feet tall and, with her weather-worn face, looked 10 years older than her 38 years. Silverhorn, the senior medic, said that he had delivered her 14th baby stillborn last year. Using the ultrasound, I could see that the baby's head was located in the pelvis,



 JSMK, Burma

JSMK student practices identifying specimens at JSMK campus in Karen State, Burma.



 JSMK, Burma

Visiting doctor works to diagnose a young patient and teaches students how to use ultrasound.



 JSMK, Burma

JSMK staff place IV in a young patient.

but I couldn't see where the placenta was located. My fear was that her placenta was situated at the birth canal. In the US, this would require an urgent C-section. I am not a surgeon; if she gave birth at our clinic, she would hemorrhage to death. Our clinic is capable of giving blood transfusions, but not fast enough in cases like this.

I took the necessary time with our translator to get every detail of her history correct. She had started bleeding four days prior with a large amount of blood. I examined her by ultrasound trans-abdominally and trans-vaginally. I looked at her fluid under the microscope to see if her amniotic sac had broken. Her hemoglobin was evaluated using a quality color method; it remained the same twelve hours after admission despite a steady flow of bright red blood. My students were watching and learning. I showed them my clinical decision process: take a history, do a physical exam, assess, and treat. In theory, it is a straight-forward process. In this case, under-treatment could result in death, so I decided to err on the side of caution and send the patient on the arduous journey to the nearest formal hospital.

The practice of medicine is often collaborative; no one individual has all the answers. Using the experience of others can save a life. In this case, with JSMK's internet capabilities, I was able to reach colleagues in America and Burma. Naw Pwo Wah, having hiked to our jungle hospital, benefitted from the experience of four experts on two continents and the decision was made to evacuate her.

JSMK staff and students took turns carrying Naw Pwo Wah along the mountain trails and across a river by bamboo raft to a larger village. From there, she was taken by boat to Papun where she could get surgical care and be seen by an obstetrician.

Our diagnosis was correct: placenta previa, in which the placenta blocks the birth canal. On arriving in Papun, she underwent an emergency C-Section and safely delivered. Our diagnosis and action saved two lives. Naw Pwo Wah returned later to show her beautiful baby boy.

JSMK Numbers

Clinic Numbers

324 Inpatients
2650 Outpatients

History

10 Years in Operation
166 Medics Trained

School Numbers

9 Senior Staff
12 Junior Staff
21 Students
1 Interns
1 Facilities Manager



JSMK, Burma

A visiting physician teaches new medic students in JSMK's classroom.



JSMK, Burma

JSMK students practice using an otoscope on each other.

GOOD LIFE CLUB

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. - John 10:10.



About GLC.

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.

Year in Review.

BURMA. Thank you to the many FBR teams who sought out families

in crisis throughout the north, south, east and west regions of Burma. Each of the missions in throughout the country met unique medical, political, economic, educational and spiritual needs of families and communities. The Good Life Club programs offered the message of Jesus's abundant life for body and soul in songs, dramas, and games. We thank God for the many young men and women on the FBR teams, from different ethnic groups, who provided God's love in action through medical treatment, reporting, caring for children, and testifying to God's hope and goodness even in midst of oppression.

The increasing attacks of 2020 culminated in a coup in February 2021 that revealed to the world what the ethnic people knew all along: the Burma military was in charge and

determined to control everyone in Burma.

The fear and flight that has been a part of existence for children and families living in the ethnic areas of Burma is now being experienced throughout the country, as the Burma Army shows itself ready to kill men, women and children of any ethnicity or religion.

During our GLC programs in January we met students who had migrated to open border areas to continue their studies and internships while the cities were under lockdown because of COVID. Now there is a flood of people fleeing to the border areas, seeking safety as attacks on protestors become more lethal and night time kidnappings increase. FBR teams have been helping not only families in IDP sites, but those targeted and on the

Pictures: facing page and below, right: GLC program in Syria; top right: children in Kachin State learn hygiene.

run. We thank God for His help, hope and love and continue to pray for the FBR teams and the communities they serve.

MIDDLE EAST. February 2020 in Membij, Syria, was snowy and cold as refugees from Idlib made meager canvas shelters their new homes after fleeing the bombs of Assad and the oppression of the Turks. Our Good Life Club program made 'house calls' to deliver warm boots, food packs, fellowship and prayers to these warm-hearted families.

Our fellowship has grown stronger with each visit to emerging church families in Kobani who live under the constant threat of Turkey, which has built a guarded border wall that runs almost through the city. An emerging FBR team and house-church also grew out of the Washakani IDP camp where one new believer's enthusiasm for the gospel-in-action spread to several other families who we met and prayed with in the fall.

The gospel got a beat-box delivery when a visiting hip-hop duo gave Jesus-themed GLC concerts to the kids we've come to know for the past three years at Dadat School, near Membij; at Tel-Tamr IDP sites; in Ain Issa; and in Kobani.

All these communities live in precarious front-line areas under constant threat of violence. While we were in Ain Issa, 8-year-old Hatam was killed by shrapnel from a Turkish mortar that landed amongst the herd of sheep he was tending.

We later did a program at a new IDP camp where the majority of his town, and



Everywhere we go, we try to leave a gift: both a message and thing, something the kids can get their hands on, can look at and can use to remember the message. Everywhere we go, in every country, with many different ethnic groups, religions, languages, and even ages (yes, we give these to everyone from small children to old grandmas, to teenage boys and everyone in between!), we give out the five-colored Gospel bracelet.

It's a message for everyone.

YELLOW/GOLD: The goodness of God's creation and His good plan for you, both now and in the future.

BLACK: Evil, an enemy, hate, fear - the bad things that happen to us and also that we find in our own hearts.

RED: God's love as shown through Jesus's sacrifice, the most powerful weapon against evil.

WHITE: Forgiveness that comes through love, that will wipe away the stains on our hearts.

GREEN: New life, resurrection, a fresh start given to us by God's love helping us overcome evil.

schoolmates, had already fled, and kids and parents filled a courtyard with wall-to-wall singing and dancing. Back in the mostly-deserted town of Ain Issa, the ReLoad Love playground at sunset was the venue for about 100 adults and children who waved glowsticks in the air, forgetting the gravity of their situation briefly and proclaiming that Jesus was Lord over all the evil they faced daily.

In Tel-Tamr, one grandmother who clapped along to the beat said, "I don't know why this makes me so happy, but we should do this every day!" Later in December, the new FBR ambulance with lights flashing, music playing, and a parade of children following, delivered Christmas presents throughout the town.

The gospel message is that Jesus joins us in earthly trials to help us see our temporal lives with eternal eyes. Praise elevated everyone above the weight of oppression and we pray that God's presence will bring new hope and courage for a new way through these conflicts in northeast Syria.



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 tries to meet teachers 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:

1. Spiritual education: the GLC team will teach a spiritual lesson with a skit during most programs.
2. 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.
3. Basic health and hygiene education - teach kids a little bit about their bodies and how to care for themselves in ways that can prevent illness.
4. 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.
5. School packs: Ranger teams leave resources including sports equipment and educational supplies with the teachers of the schools they meet on their missions.

Pictures: left: Karen teacher and his students doing school while hiding from Burma Army shelling; below: GLC program in Karen State.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of several mortar shells lying on a light-colored, possibly concrete, ground. The shells are dark grey or black, with some showing signs of wear or damage. One shell in the upper left is partially open, revealing its internal structure. Another shell in the lower right is also open, showing a dark interior. The shells are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others in the background.

FIELD REPORTS

Mortars From Attacks in Arakan State

On April 13, the Burma Army fired artillery into Kyauk Se Village, Arakan State, killing eight villagers (seven men, one woman) and wounding 11 more. Of those killed, the youngest was 11 years old and the oldest was 25 years old.

BURMA

Free Burma Ranger Teams Report on the Situation in Areas Across Burma

KAREN STATE

War Crimes Force Thousands to Flee

29 January, 2021

Keh Der Village Tract, Karen State, Burma

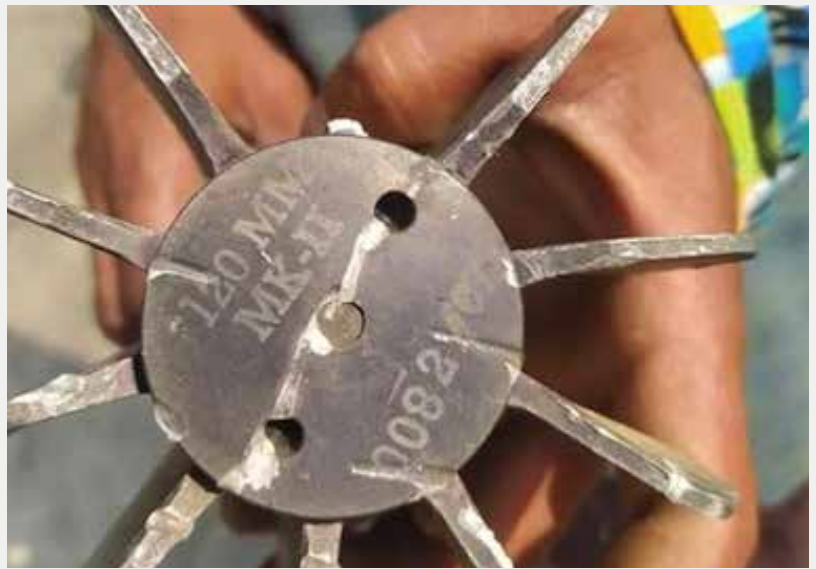
Hiding in the jungle is a 93-year-old woman who cannot walk and was carried on someone's back to the IDP site; there is an 80-year-old blind man, and a disabled 5-year-old boy. These are just some of the people forced to flee recent Burma Army attacks in Kyauk Kyi (Ler Doh) Township.

As Free Burma Rangers met with the Keh Der Village leader, who the night before had held a funeral for his elderly father, mortars began booming in the distance. The Burma Army was a kilometer away, shooting mortars, machine guns, grenade launchers and rifles. "At night we sleep in the jungle, but we came back (to the village) last night to have a funeral and bury my father," he told us. Several of the nearby villages were eerily empty: clothes were left drying on the line, water taps had been left running into overflowing buckets, doors closed, and no life except a few stray chickens, dogs and pigs searching for food – all signs of a hurried exit.

"We try to come back to feed our animals and take care of our crops during the day if there is no shelling," the village leader continued. The sound of the mortars came closer and closer, and eventually became too close for comfort, forcing the few villagers remaining from the funeral service to quickly pack what they could carry and run into the jungle.

Burma Army battalions 603, 350, 57, 92, and 75 are aggressively trying to build and reinforce a road network through these villages. Local villagers and the Karen National Union (KNU) have strongly objected to this road-building project, about which they were not consulted. This is a clear violation of the 2012 bilateral Karen National Union (KNU)-Myanmar government ceasefire, and also of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which the KNU signed in October 2015 (NCA Article 5, prohibiting post-ceasefire military expansion and reinforcements; NCA Article 9 on protection of civilians).

Since late December, the Burma Army has sent reinforcements to the already militarised Kyauk Kyi area (called "Ler Doh" by the Karen). Two hundred and fifty troops from Division 77 of the Burma Army have come to reinforce the battalions already in the area.



 **Chin State, Burma**

Mortar fragments from Burma Army bombing that killed seven people and wounded eight.



 **Chin State, Burma**

A woman injured in the Burma Army bombing of Wohmah Village on March 17.



 **Arakan State, Burma**

Villagers mourning the dead after the attacks of 13 April in Kyauk Se Village, Arakan State.

Especially since 2018, increased Burma Army militarisation of the area has included killing civilians and forcibly displacing several communities. Since December 2020, violations of the ceasefire and NCA have increased. A local Karen civilian told FBR that, "They do as they like; there is no ceasefire here."

The ceasefire is one of the head, not the heart. It is not led by love or a desire for reconciliation but is a technique to manipulate the ethnic groups into compliance. There are some in the Burma Army, including retired General Aung Min, who were sincere in their attempts to find peace, but they don't control the process.

Despite the ceasefire, the Burma Army has been indiscriminately shooting into the jungle on either side of the road, and firing shells into the jungle, farms and villages, to scare people away as the soldiers try to work on the road.

Since December and as of April, Burma Army attacks in KNU Mutraw and Nyaunglebin (called "Kler Lwe Htoo" by the Karen) districts have displaced well over 24,000 people – but this is not yet an all-out military offensive. The purpose of Burma Army aggression seems so far to have been resupply and build-up of its camps, extending militarisation through developing a network of roads. Although this is not a military offensive on the scale of those experienced in this area in 1997, 2006, or 2010, the

Burma Army's recent aggression is unprecedented since the ceasefire of 2012.

The KNU and its defense arm, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), have told the Burma Army that they will resist these ceasefire violations and attacks against civilians. Therefore the KNU/KNLA defence forces are engaging the Burma Army everywhere they can, in order to protect the villagers and attempt to prevent the Burma Army from occupying more Karen lands.

The Burma Army has not only violated the ceasefire, but regularly violates the Geneva Conventions. This includes Convention IV, which the Burmese government signed on 25 August 1992, protecting civilians in times of conflict. The government has refused to sign Geneva Convention Additional Protocol I, which includes prohibition of "indiscriminate attacks (on civilians)" (Protocol I, Article 51, Section 4). Regardless of whether or not they have signed the additional protocol, recent attacks in northern Karen State and eastern Bago Region indicate that the Burma Army is guilty of war crimes.

The Burma Army has blocked aid from reaching this area, with local villagers, community support groups and NGOs being prevented from travelling in or to the affected area. Please pray that Burma Army leaders change their mind and give permission, or that another way to move the food opens up.



 Chin State, Burma

Some of the 3,150 in Sami IDP camp, newly displaced by Burma Army bombings.



 Chin State, Burma

Chin Rangers provide medical care to newly displaced IDPs.

The villagers need all the help they can get. Their biggest need is for basic protection: for the Burma Army to stop its deadly aggression against civilians.

"We don't need the help of NGOs for our livelihood; we are farmers, we can take care of ourselves and provide for ourselves," said Saw [redacted] the village tract leader. "What we really need is for the Burma Army to go, leave this area, so we can farm and live peacefully. If the Burma Army goes back, we can expand our rice fields. But as long as they're here we live in fear. Our children cannot go to school. We can't farm. Right now we will use what food we have from our farms, and what we can find in the jungle, but soon we will need more. We also need more tarps and material for shelters, because now we're living outside in the jungle."

Thank you, God Bless you,
Free Burma Rangers
Karen State Burma

WESTERN BURMA

15 Civilians Killed by Burma Army Artillery and Airstrikes in Western Burma
16 April 2020
Arakan and Chin States

On April 13, the Burma Army fired artillery into Kyauk Se Village, Arakan State, killing eight villagers (seven males, one female) and wounding 11 more. Of those killed, the youngest was 11 years old and the oldest was 25 years old. The youngest wounded villager was three years old while the oldest was 51.

At the time of the shelling, there was no active fighting between the Burma Army and ethnic armed organizations (EOs) or between EOs. The shelling was unprovoked and locals believe it to be racially motivated. Ten months ago, the Burma government shut off internet in northern Arakan State and parts of Chin State, adding to the ongoing tension between civilians and the Burma government.

Artillery and air attacks against villagers are becoming more common in not just northern Arakan State but also in southwestern Chin State. Around 3 p.m. on April 7, the Myanmar Air Force fired airstrikes into Nanchaungwah Village. Seven people were killed in the strike, eight more were wounded, and seven houses were burnt. Those wounded were taken to Paletwah Hospital. One villager expressed that the strike might have been mis-targeted since nearby Nanchaung Village had experienced fighting while Nanchaungwah Village had not.



Chin State, Burma

A woman in Sami IDP camp, displaced by Burma Army attacks in Chin State, in March and April.



Chin State, Burma

Impact of Burma Army heavy weaponry in Paletwa City on April 22; three people were killed in this attack, one woman and two children.

NORTHERN BURMA

Kachin Rangers Help IDPs in Kachin State
24 May 2020
Kachin State, Burma

It has been 10 years that the internally displaced people (IDPs) have been unable to return to their homes. It is still not safe since there are military installations near villages. Abandoned villages are at risk because of the planting of landmines. The old houses are now overgrown with bushes and are rickety and need repairs. The IDPs have no money and face difficulties in paying for the construction of the houses.

Valuable household things including rice mills were taken away by the Burma Army. Things in the church were destroyed, according to the villagers. No one is allowed to

enter the village. It is marked as a restricted area and the Burma Army has said anyone seen in the village would be shot. Burma Army IB (276) is stationed there.

In Kachin State, there are over 100,000 IDPs. In the area of this mission, there are 25 IDP camps, totaling 37,321 people from 740 villages of 7,315 households. The Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) is primarily responsible for the IDPs' food. Salt, oil and rice are distributed to IDPs, with each one receiving a liter of oil, six large cans and six small cans of rice monthly.

IDP houses are donated by the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) and the Metta Foundation. School stationery and supplies are donated by Health Poverty Action (HPA), KBC and the Kachin Independence Organization's Department of Education. The IDP houses need to be repaired or rebuilt. The kitchens are leaking, so the people are worried about the upcoming rainy season.

IDPs fear that COVID-19 will infect their communities easily due to their circumstances. They want masks and awareness-raising about protection against the virus in the camps. They are also worried about food shortages as rice is distributed to them once in a month. They want it to be distributed in advance for two months.

From March 16-30, the Kachin Ranger team conducted encouragement, medical care and food distribution activities for the IDPs. The GLC program was done in nine IDP camps. 1,815 students between the ages of five and 18 participated in the program. GLC T-shirts were given out. 150 GLC T-shirts were given out to children, and soap, lentils, oil, dried fish, garlic and potatoes were distributed to families in Dumbung Camp.

The Rangers performed a drama for COVID-19 awareness and good hygiene.

After the GLC program and games, snacks and tea were fed to the children. Sports equipment like volleyball with net, football, cane-ball with net and racket with net was distributed in the camps.

On this mission, the Kachin team served 489 patients, gave medical care to 571 people and extracted teeth of 82 people.

The FBR team showed love and encouragement to the IDPs. The IDPs expressed their gratitude to FBR for this mission. They look forward to more future missions.



Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

Rohingya Rangers coordinated construction of 15 water pumps in the refugee camps.



Kachin State, Burma

Kachin Rangers preparing a food distribution for some of the 100,000 IDPs in Kachin State.



Shan State, Burma

Shan Ranger team provides medical relief to IDPs.

MIDDLE EAST

Northeast Syria: Hope and Hop

7 December, 2020

Thank you, dear team and family, for your prayers on this recent mission to Syria. Jesus' name was proclaimed and well received.

Uncertain Crossing

After a week of waiting for permissions we decided that if by Sunday, 13 October, at sunset, we did not have permission we would take that as a sign to go help somewhere else. At 4:00am Sunday morning we loaded up vehicles and drove to the Syrian/Iraqi border on the Tigris River in Kurdistan, Iraq, arriving there at 9:00am. At the crossing site we were told we did not have permission but we waited with our column of eight vehicles and 20-person relief team. We parked on the side of the road to wait. After a few hours the border guards and officials, who are our friends, came out to us. They seemed a little embarrassed and said, "We are sorry you don't have permission but please don't just sit there. We will feel bad for you to waste your time."

We told them, "No problem, we prayed to God and we decided together we would stay here till sunset and if we got no permission then we will go back and go to help in Armenia." They looked at us quizzically and went back to their offices. As the sun was setting, close to 6:00pm, I got a call on my phone saying that we had permission and we could cross. We thanked God and our Kurdish government friends, loaded our vehicles and drove across the pontoon bridge over the Tigris.

Because it was so late, there was no official to greet us on the other side. The woman who is in charge of passport control on the Syrian side for the Kurds there (SDF) had gone home and was not happy about having to return, as it was her daughter's birthday and she'd had to drive an hour back from her home. We apologized many times. When she asked the purpose of our visit, we told her about our




 near Manbij, Syria

A woman and her children who fled bombing in Idlib receive relief supplies in NE Syria.


humanitarian work and she said she knew about us already and that we did good work. We said that we were following Jesus here and she said, "Jesus. I'm a Muslim but my favorite prophet is Jesus because every time I pray to him I feel peace no matter what's happening. I love Jesus."

Then she smiled and asked, "Do you want to come to my



 **near Manbij, Syria** Relief supplies delivered to families newly arrived to SDF areas in northeast Syria, fleeing bombing in Idlib.



 **near Manbij, Syria** On Feb. 8, in the middle of a snowstorm, our team delivered a two-week supply of food to the 21 families who fled Idlib.

daughter's birthday?" We said yes and went - it was a big celebration until about 10:30pm with our new friends and family and we gave them Bibles in Arabic and Kurdish. We prayed with them and then continued our journey. It was a wonderful start to our mission!

Hip Hop GLC

We stayed the first night with our farmer friends who take care of our donkey - we call their place "The Donkey House." The next morning we did our first Good Life Club program of the mission with the families there. This program included Lane and Cary, a husband-wife musical duo called "Trampolines," and their super-energetic brand of Jesus hip hop. All the children, parents and grandparents started dancing! "We have never done this type of singing and dancing but we love it and we feel God's love in it," said one

of the Kurdish fathers.

From the donkey house we went to Tel Tamar and gave medical training to the Christian forces defending the town there. The Tel Tamar area is on the Khabur River, once a Christian area. First ISIS and then the Turkish forces and their proxies, the Free Syrian Army, had driven many out. We did an impromptu GLC program with hip hop dance program here, with the IDP children singing and jumping. "We need this kind of joy and movement of exercise in our lives, thank you so much! It makes us happy; it gives us energy and it helps us not notice our troubles for a while. We can feel God," said a smiling grandmother.

Lane and Cary helped us lead GLC throughout this mission and everyone loved it, from the most conservative communities we visit, where women in full hijab danced to the beat, to spontaneous park concerts. Through the music, the name of Jesus was proclaimed and well-received.

Attack and the Killing of a Child

Later we drove on to the town of Ain Issa which means "Eyes of Jesus." It is on the east-west M4 highway, which marks the front line between the SDF and Turkish forces to the north. Turkey and the FSA had advanced 30 kilometers south from the Turkish-Syrian border and now launch mortar and artillery attacks across the highway. Most people have fled but the SDF maintains a small hospital that we support there to help those who remain.

At 9:30am on 16 Oct. 2020, morning activity in the town of Ain Issa was interrupted by explosions to the north

as mortar rounds from Turkish forces came in. Within the next 15 minutes, four 120mm mortars fell along the same trajectory, striking into an abandoned IDP camp on the north edge of Ain Issa town. The families had already fled so there were no casualties from these strikes, but shrapnel hit our ambulance as we moved to help. Fifteen minutes later a sixth 120mm mortar landed to the east of Ain Issa, closer in and parallel to the hospital. This strike landed in the midst of a herd of sheep being watched by an eight-year-old boy named Hatam as he rode the family donkey. The mortar explosion decapitated the donkey and cut off its legs. Hatam lost almost all of one leg, low down by his foot, and was lacerated with shrapnel, one piece penetrating deep into his chest cavity. Hatam was rushed to Ain Issa hospital where the FBR team assisted the hospital staff in stabilizing him before he was evacuated to



Ain Issa, Syria

FBR team and Ein Issa hospital staff treat, Hatam, 8 years old, struck by a Turkish mortar.



Ain Issa, Syria

Hatam's mother arrived at the hospital crying with anguish and we tried to comfort and pray with her.



Northeast Syria

Reload Love playground in Syria.

Raqa. As he was being treated, his mother arrived at the hospital, screaming in anguish and we tried to comfort and pray with her. She told us his name was Hatam Hassan. We felt he would live. He seemed to be stable with a good pulse and airway when we evacuated him, but he died later of his wounds.

Hatam was the 11th child killed by Turkish forces in the Ain Issa area that year. Later we met again with the mother and father of Hatam.

With tears in his eyes, Zedan, the father, squeezed my hand and asked: "Why did this happen to our son? This is evil and our hearts are broken. We cry. We fled the fighting in Syria and became refugees in Lebanon. Then we heard that it was safe to come back to the Ein Issa area. So, we came back. I am a farmer and we have four sons. The oldest son, Hatam, was responsible for care of the sheep and the animals. He was eight years old and he loved his pet donkey very much. We also have a fine horse that he and all the children like to ride.

"Is this God's will? I feel so bad. My wife and I are very sad and at a loss. If I tell you the story will it get out? Will it go around the world and will people care? Will it make a difference? We know who is behind the attacks and it is the Turks. Why do they hate us and why do they hate little boys? Why did they kill my son? Someone please stop them. Please stop them. We are farmers and we want to live in peace with the land and people. We put our hope in God."

Karen, Pete, and I held hands with and prayed with the father and mother. Karen gave toys to Hamood and for his brothers. We shared about our hope and comfort in Jesus and helped them financially. We also promised to help them with new horses and donkeys because we also love animals and they need them to survive.

The killing of Hatam is a great evil and tragedy but in the midst of this God has brought our families and team together and we will stand together. All of us are the same. We are all mortal people and one day we will die. But, until that day we are family together in love, in suffering, and in joy. We will help each other as much as we can.

New Believers, Churches in Kobane and School on a Front Line

After attacks died down in Ain Issa we continued on to Kobane and the two new churches we support there. These churches were started by Muslims who had fled ISIS and became Christians after being sheltered by churches in Turkey. "We met Jesus," they told us. We did more GLC programs with them and also visited the local hospital we support. We then went west across the Euphrates River to Manbij, the western-most area held by the SDF. To the west and north the Turks and Free Syrian Army shell the outskirts of Manbij weekly. In one area near this frontline is the little school of Dadat and we are close

to the people there and helped them build a new building, and we are helping them now with new toilets. While there, we did another well-received GLC program. We met with the leaders of Manbij and are working with them for more support for the hospital there.

Later, we got word that Ain Issa was under attack again so we prayed and decided to go back to help.

The attacks slowed so we did more GLC programs, including one with over 600 children who fled last year's Turkish invasion and were now in an IDP camp at an abandoned U.S. Army base in the desert. The people were crowded in small tents with no sign they could ever go home. Men came up to me crying tears of frustration. "Why did America betray us? Why did you use us to fight ISIS and then abandon us and allow the Turks to invade and kill our friends and chase us from our homes? When can we go home? We do not want to die here."

I got on my knees and asked forgiveness for what my country did and prayed for them. I said we would keep praying and tell their story. We also prayed for the Turks and FSA to stop their attacks here and pull back so people can go home. When I got up the men began to hug me as tears rolled down their faces. Then the GLC team started their hip hop program and suddenly all the children began to smile, sing and dance. We were singing praises to Jesus with them and we felt His spirit. The feeling of love was so overpowering that I choked up. God's love swept through the camp and we were all affected and smiled and felt free. After the program was over, we gave out gospel bracelets and clothes. We left as new friends and with hope.



Tel Tamr, Syria

Children displaced by Turkish attacks at a GLC program in Tel Tamr.



Tel Tamr, Syria

Providing medical training for Christian defense forces.



Dadat, Syria

Good Life Club at school in Dadat.



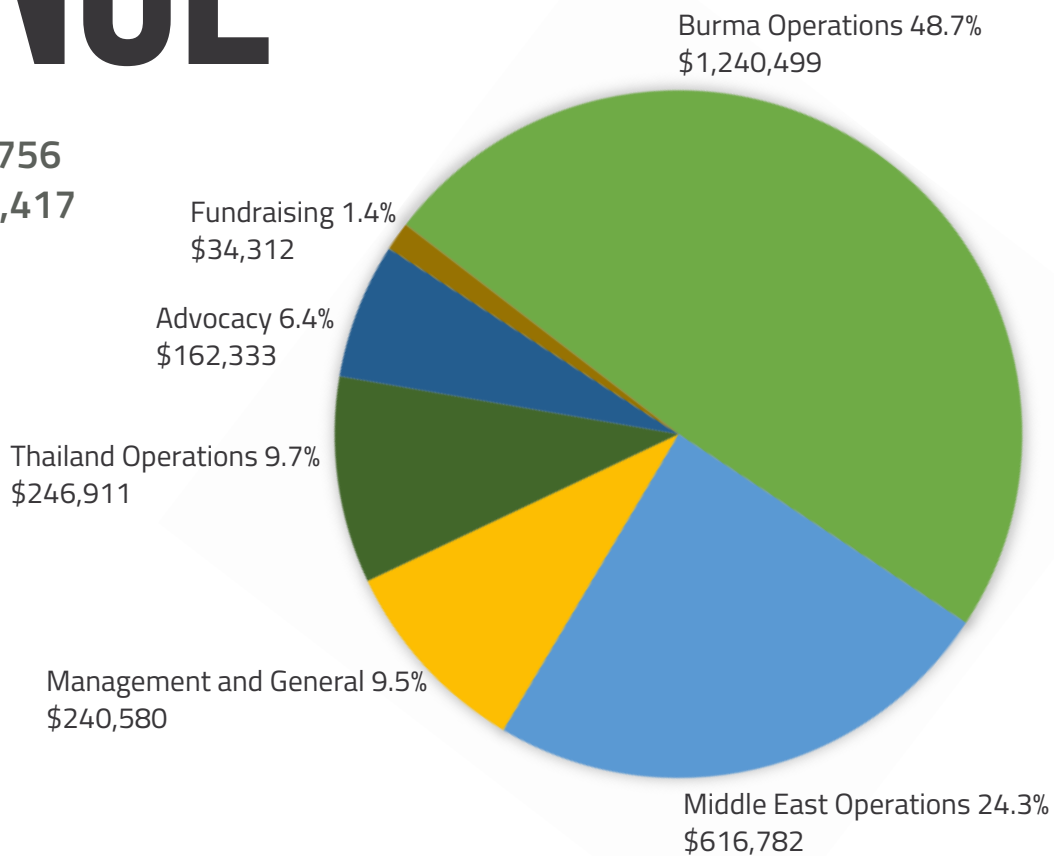
FINANCE

2020 REVENUE: 3,963,756

2020 EXPENSES: 2,541,417

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, and U.S. Dollars (USD) currencies in its operations. The numbers here reflect the totals in USD using the actual or average conversion rate of each currency. While 2020 was a challenging year for operations with COVID-19, it did not slow down the faithfulness of our supporters. Donations increased throughout the year as our message continued to spread to be ambassadors for Jesus and to share His love. The increase in donations will allow us to ramp up our missions in 2021 and beyond, bringing help, hope, and love to the oppressed around the world.



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



Saw Maung La Htoo

We are very sad to tell you all that we lost one of our brothers on May 19. Saw Maung La Htoo was 30 years old and was killed when his musket misfired while he was hunting for food for his family. This was in-between missions as a way to help his family as his township is now under attack by the Burma Army. This is a tragic loss of a kind friend, husband, father, and teammate, an expert woodsman, and one of our top FBR team leaders.

He led his team to help people under oppression in one of the most attacked areas of Karen State. He was always smiling even when doing pushups and made us all laugh with his jokes. He had a way of respecting everyone but not letting anyone take themselves too seriously. He left behind a wife and two children; one is three months old.

One of his Ranger classmates, Klo Law La Say said, "He was a great ranger and always took responsibility for all the situation in his township. We relied him and he never let us down. He loved his wife and children very much and they loved him. We loved him too and miss him very much."



Saw Gay Ku

Saw Gay Ku died in a training accident on September 26, 2020. He wanted to become a Ranger because he wanted to help and serve his Karen people. This is what his family had to say after the death: "It is the feeling of our family about what happened to my younger brother Saw Gay Ku, we are full of sorrow in the same way we know that you all [FBR] will feel like us, as our family. We just would like to clarify that everything happened in the reason and it was the limitation of my brother's life and we are writing this letter to help you not to keep this as your burden because we understand we all have the same feelings.

Our family would like to thank you all whatever you have done to him and we would like to wish you all to have good health and to be safe from all evils.

Our family decided to send him to the training to be useful for his people but we have to accept whatever happened even we feel very sad in the same way as you all. Finally our family and all friends we would like you to honour him as a person who sacrificed his life for his people."



Saw Baw Mu

Baw Mu was a tiny Ranger with a huge heart. Everyone who met him remembered him. He always had a cheeky grin on his face and loved being a ranger and helping his people. Baw Mu had such a gentle, loving spirit. He made everyone he met smile, and he was truly a great Ranger. It always felt like he cared deeply for you, even if you just met him. He died due to complications with epilepsy.

BawMu completed his basic ranger training in 2018 and then returned to advanced training which he completed in 2019.



A DREAM THAT WOULDN'T DIE



"I want to be a nurse, that was my mother's dream for me," said 16-year-old Naw Neela Oo, whose name means "Sapphire." But now the dream is gone with my mother's death. Our mother was killed by the Burma Army on July 16, 2020, at our village of Po La Hta. Now my mother and her dream and my dream are all gone." A tear rolled down her face. "I miss my mother so much,

we all miss our mother."

Her mother had been gunned down by the Burma Army in her home on 16 July 2020. We reported on this murder last year but I had not met the family yet. This was now January 2021 and Naw Neela Oo had come with her father and two younger brothers to our Good Life Club (GLC) and medical program in the jungle. The Burma Army has increased attacks this year and many newly displaced people were with us to receive help, hope and love.

After the GLC program was over, Naw Neela Oo, her father and two brothers, aged nine and 12, came to speak with us. Her father described how difficult it was to be without his wife and how his daughter had to leave school to take care of the boys while he tried to find food for the family.

With the poise of a much older woman, Naw Neela Oo said, "My mother wanted me to be a nurse, that was her dream for me. Why did the Burma soldiers kill her? We found her body with two gunshots in the back of her head and one in her back. The Burma Army murdered her. What am I to do? My mother's dream was for me to be a nurse and that's what I wanted to do but now it's impossible. To help our family survive I have to take care of my brothers. I'll do my best to help my father and my brothers and I will never forget my mother."

We listened, prayed with and talked with her, her father and her brothers and promised we would help. Her father said, "Please take my daughter, I give her to you to give her a chance. She has a dream and my wife had a dream. I give you my daughter so she has a chance for that dream to come true."

We came up with a plan to help her father and brothers and enable her to finish high school in a school near our camp. Then we will enroll her in our Jungle School of Medicine so that she can study to be a medic and in the future a nurse.

She smiled and said "Yes I would like that very much. I am so happy. It is like a dream, thank you so much."

We prayed together and we thanked God that in the midst of tragedy something good could happen.

Contact us by email at:

info@freeburmarangers.org

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