



FREE RANGER BURMA

FREE BURMA RANGERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

If God is for us, who can be against us?

— Romans 8:31

This verse means a lot to us in Burma, Syria, Iraq, and Tajikistan because in each of these areas we face powerful evil. In Burma, the military is coming with a speed and a force we've never seen before. They're using jet fighters, attack helicopters, heavy mortars, and artillery, targeting primarily villagers as they flee. They're executing children and bombing churches; over two million people have been displaced in the past two years since the coup. We have lost 21 of our own Rangers since the coup, for a total of 57 men and women volunteers lost since FBR started.

In spite of the evil we see happening in Burma, we also see good. With the help of many generous people, we have been able to feed and care for hundreds of thousands of those in need in their hiding places. In our ministry of helping people with humanitarian assistance, we also have the opportunity to share about Jesus. We start and end every program with prayer and encourage people to follow Jesus. We baptized 11 of our new Rangers this last training and over 300 ethnic Wa were baptized this year.

In Syria and Iraq, ISIS is resurgent and attacks continue. Turkish forces and their jihadist proxies bomb, shell, and attack the Yezidi, Arab and Christian peoples of Northeast Syria. In spite of this, we have been able to help build a church that was destroyed by ISIS, build a new hospital to supplement one that was damaged by Turkish forces, and continue to provide food, medicine and relief supplies to thousands. Most importantly, we have been able to pray with people and to encourage them by telling them how much God loves them.

In Iraq, our teams work closely with the Kurdish government to build playgrounds and help rehabilitate those wounded in war. In Tajikistan, we work with our local Tajik Christian partners to help Afghans who fled the country and over 40 have been baptized.

In each of these places we feel very small, but we are reminded that if God is for us, who can be against us? God's love sustains us, his grace forgives us, his power helps us to forgive others and not give up. Dear reader, thank you for looking at this report, and thank all of you who help us help others. Most importantly, we want to share our gratitude to God and how he loves us, forgives us, overcomes the power of Satan, helps us forgive others, gives

us purpose and meaning, helps us to help others, and, when our time comes, takes us to heaven. Please pray with us for:

- Unity in Burma. There is a new unity that cuts across religious, social, spiritual, racial, and economic lines and is united against the regime. That's good, but the second step of unity is being for each other and for a new democratic Burma where every ethnic group is respected and has rights.
- The people of northeast Syria, to have the same unity with each other and that we have continued access to help.
- The people of Iraq and Kurdistan, for love and understanding for each other and also for freedom in every way.
- The people of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, for freedom in both countries, and that our Tajik partners could continue to help Afghans who have fled.
- The resources to continue to help people in the areas we serve.
- The hearts of the dictators, and all those who oppress others, would change.
- Finally, we thank God with you that God is for all of us, and that no one who is against us can overcome his love and his purposes.

Thanks and God bless you,
Dave, family and FBR




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Top: The Eubank family poses with teams after a successful GLC program.

Middle Left: Dr. Shannon and Peter Eubank provide dental care to a Syrian child.

Middle Right: Suuzanne Eubank stands in a crater next to a church destroyed by a Burma Army airstrike.

Bottom Left: Sahale Eubank treats a wounded man in Karenni, Burma.

Bottom Right: Peter, Sahale, and Suuzanne Eubank lead horses across a river in Burma.

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.

Who We Are

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. 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.

Objectives

- To inspire, train and equip people in conflict zones to bring positive change through acts of love and service.
- 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.
- 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.
- To provide prayer and counseling for victims of human rights abuses and to support programs for women and children.
- To train, equip and sustain indigenous humanitarian relief teams in the field.



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 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-four 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. ♦

1. The Burma Army burns Daw Nge Ku Village in Karenni, Burma.
2. FBR medics treat a wounded Karenni soldier.
3. FBR relief convoy in Baghouz, Syria, last stronghold of ISIS.
4. Dave prays for a wounded Karenni soldier.
5. A church burned and landmined by the Burma Army in Karenni, Burma.
6. Karen children hide from airstrikes in Burma.

SITUATION UPDATE: BURMA

The Spring Revolution, and birth of the new Burma

Story by Ashley South

Following the 1 February 2021 coup, Myanmar is in turmoil. The state is not fragile or failing - it has failed. But a new Burma is emerging. The previous National League for Democracy (NLD)-led government oversaw a failing peace process and stalled political transition. Aung San Suu Kyi and her party were unable or unwilling to change the political narrative in Burma by speaking on behalf of historically marginalized communities such as the Rohingya and other ethnic nationality groups.

Following the NLD's victory in the 2020 elections, the Myanmar Army seized power, destroying the country's nascent democracy. After the coup, huge numbers of people took to the streets to oppose the military takeover through the Civil Disobedience Movement. After the reviled Myanmar Army started killing civilian protesters, many young people fled to areas under the control of Ethnic Armed (or Resistance) Organizations (EAOs), which have long been battling for self-determination.

The 'Spring Revolution' has been extraordinary and

inspiring. Ethnic Burman 'Generation Z' youth - many of whom previously had little interest in politics - have joined ethnic activists to oppose the military regime. This period has seen the emergence of new forms of solidarity, and a greater appreciation among urban-based people of the suffering and aspirations of ethnic nationality groups. Among the most important developments has been the formation of People's Defence Forces (PDFs), often supported by key EAOs; some PDFs have allied themselves with the anti-junta National Unity Government.

Some observers expected the PDFs to be quickly defeated by the Myanmar Army. They have however, proved highly resilient, winning significant battlefield victories against the junta forces, often fighting in partnership with EAOs. This resistance is all the more extraordinary given very limited international support to anti-coup forces in Myanmar.

Since the coup, the illegal and illegitimate junta has killed thousands and conducted over 1000 airstrikes. According to a survey conducted by EAOs and the NUG

Opposite: Karenni children celebrate during a Good Life Club in Burma.

Far Below: A Burma Air Force jet on a firing run and helicopter strafing Karenni villagers.

Below: IDP children in Karenni State, Burma.



in mid-2022, at least 2 million people have been forcibly displaced in Myanmar since the coup. Instability and insecurity will be exacerbated in the future, as other global challenges, such as the hazards of climate change, arise. It seems unlikely that the state of Myanmar will recover, at least for many years or decades. Despite this dire scenario, there are reasons for hope.

In Chin, Kachin, Karenni, Karen areas and elsewhere, EAOs and PDFs have resisted violent incursions by the Myanmar Army, often pushing back the invading forces. This is happening in a context where EAOs such as the Karen National Union and the Kachin Independence Organization, and state-based bodies such as the

Karenni State Consultative Council (in partnership with the Karenni National Progressive Party), have long been providing essential services to conflict-affected ethnic nationality communities. For example, in 2022 an estimated 300,000 children attended some 2,000-plus schools administered by EAOs.

The education and other services provided by EAOs, often in partnership with civil society organizations, can be considered the building blocks of a new type of federalism, built from the bottom up. With the destruction of Myanmar by an illegal and illegitimate military junta, these ethnic homelands are the basis of a new federal union. ♦



SCALE OF HELP

A Thank-You from the Frontlines

We have over 140 multi-ethnic Free Burma Ranger relief teams serving in the conflict areas of Burma. We are providing assistance all over Burma and the teams are doing a wonderful job, bravely and humbly. They are not led by comfort, fear, or pride, but by love and the opportunities God gives them. This report uses the July 2022 Karenni mission as an example of how you are helping us help those in need all over Burma.

Along with our role of sharing God's love, we give material assistance to people in need. We have been able to help with treating wounded, transporting wounded for more advanced care, providing plastic tarps for shelter for those in hiding, as well as school supplies, blankets, rice, stipends for teachers, ambulances and other vehicles, wells and water projects, and the rebuilding of damaged churches. It is wonderful to be able to say, "Yes – because people around the world love you, we can help you." We had many joyous times together with people in their hiding places, singing songs, playing children's games, impromptu dances, sports events, and worshiping God together — all this within earshot of gunfire, mortars, and artillery. The attacks of the Burma Army could not quench the joy the people shared together. We were daily filled with gratitude for all of those who send support and I wanted to share a little bit about what we've been able to do and the scale of the assistance.

I'll start with medical aid: Because of your help, we were

able to supply every clinic in Karenni State with one year's supply of medicine. These resources went to over 10 FBR relief teams doing mobile medical care all over Karenni State, over 30 clinics providing relief for people in need, five hospitals, and two different mobile public health service teams. The total cost for the year was \$300,000 and, because of your help, we were able to do it all. At one point we had already used up \$100,000 and had no more money but we prayed and help came in the form of \$200,000 for medicine. We were able to purchase all the medical units and send them by truck, boat, and foot to each place of need. Also because of your help, we were able to outfit three clinics with x-ray machines and generators to power them. This is life-saving as the doctors can perform advanced surgical procedures and save many lives.

One of the lives saved was Silverhorn's, one of our top medics and a Karen uncle who helped raise our children since they were babies. Silverhorn was with us as we carried out wounded under direct fire and he was hit twice. One rifle bullet went through his back and out his hip, while shrapnel from an RPG lodged deep in his back. We ran through a hail of fire carrying him while trying to slow the loss of blood. We were able to get him to our casualty collection point, where our medics stabilized him for further transport. Silverhorn had massive internal bleeding and it looked like he might die. We had to move him further and our son, Peter, with a Karen medic attending to Silverhorn, drove him four hours at night to get to a hidden field hospital we support.

The surgeon there had fled the murderous regime and joined us in the jungle. He brought his world-class skills with him and began saving lives. He had an x-ray machine operated by generator and was able to find the

fragment deep in Silverhorn's back. In 11 hours of surgery, he removed the shell fragment and repaired a perforated spleen, as well as patching up his other wounds. Due to the x-ray and skills of the doctor, Silverhorn's life was saved. He is one of the hundreds of casualties saved by this doctor and others who are helping us in the jungle.

Sometimes, more seriously wounded need to be evacuated to neighboring countries. One was a young girl, Cherry Moo, who had a mortar fragment lodged in her chest which had injured her heart. She needed a complex surgery. We were able to transfer her by foot, vehicle, and boat to another country. Cherry Moo was taken to one of the top hospitals in the country to receive surgery and is now completely healed. What a blessing and what a miracle to be part of!

We helped purchase two new pickup trucks at \$30,000 each, to be converted into ambulances as well as retrofitting two bigger trucks to become mobile surgical stations. They must be mobile because the Burma Army will bomb any hospital that they know of. They have a generator-run air conditioning system, sterilization, and surgical suite, and are able to move to areas of need and keep hidden. This has saved hundreds of lives. We're also supporting local hospitals with medical instruments and funds to build better wards and water systems.

Many of the surgeons staffing these hospitals, like the man who operated on Silverhorn, fled the Burma military after the coup and are now in the jungle changing lives. In one case, the Burma Army had attacked a village, laid landmines, set the church on fire and left. As the church was burning, a young boy named David came in with members of the resistance to document what was happening. He was trying to video the burning church



Top: Carrying 16-year-old David, the landmine victim, from the burning church.

Middle: Ranger medic Silverhorn, shot and being treated by our team at the casualty collection point.

Bottom: Silverhorn after surgery in a jungle hospital.

Opposite Left: Longtime Ranger and FBR deputy director, Ka Paw Say, stands in a destroyed church in Karenni.

Opposite Right: FBR medics caring for an injured Ranger on the frontlines.



when he stepped on one of the Burma Army landmines. It blew his foot off. We were able to transport him to a clinic that we support. There, he was treated by a Burman surgeon. This man not only provided immediate care but later, as David began to heal, the surgeon was able to rotate the heel bone into a different position so he will not need a prosthesis. With this procedure, David is able to walk and has a new chance at life.

Support of schools: We normally don't provide much support for salaries for teachers, but because of the increased attacks and massive displacement, there are many teachers now in the jungle with no income. They teach the children in hiding places with whatever resources they can find. We were asked to supply teachers with a stipend of \$20 a month. Because of your generosity we were able to help over 400 teachers for six months. Tears came to the teachers' eyes as they thanked us.

Food: We normally give food supplies but until recently we could only meet very limited needs. On this mission, in every place we went, we were able to give rice to everyone that requested it, providing food for over 10,000 people. One sack of rice costs about \$30 and feeds a family of four for a month. In another area, a local Catholic priest asked

for a pickup truck to help move food supplies as well as sick people they were caring for. We were able to say yes and give them \$8,000 for a used pickup truck.

In one hiding place, in the middle of a children's program, a teacher asked if we had any funds for rice that they wanted to carry over the mountain to a new boarding school. I asked how much they needed and they said they needed about \$1000 to feed the students for the next three months. Because of all of your help we could say yes. We gave it to the teacher and he later sent photos of the students carrying the rice across rice fields. I want to include these details which we normally don't, just to let you know the scale of help and how you help us help others. We also tell the people we meet, "Please trust in God, not us and pray to God for what you need and it is because of God that we get assistance and it is through people who love and care about you all over the world."

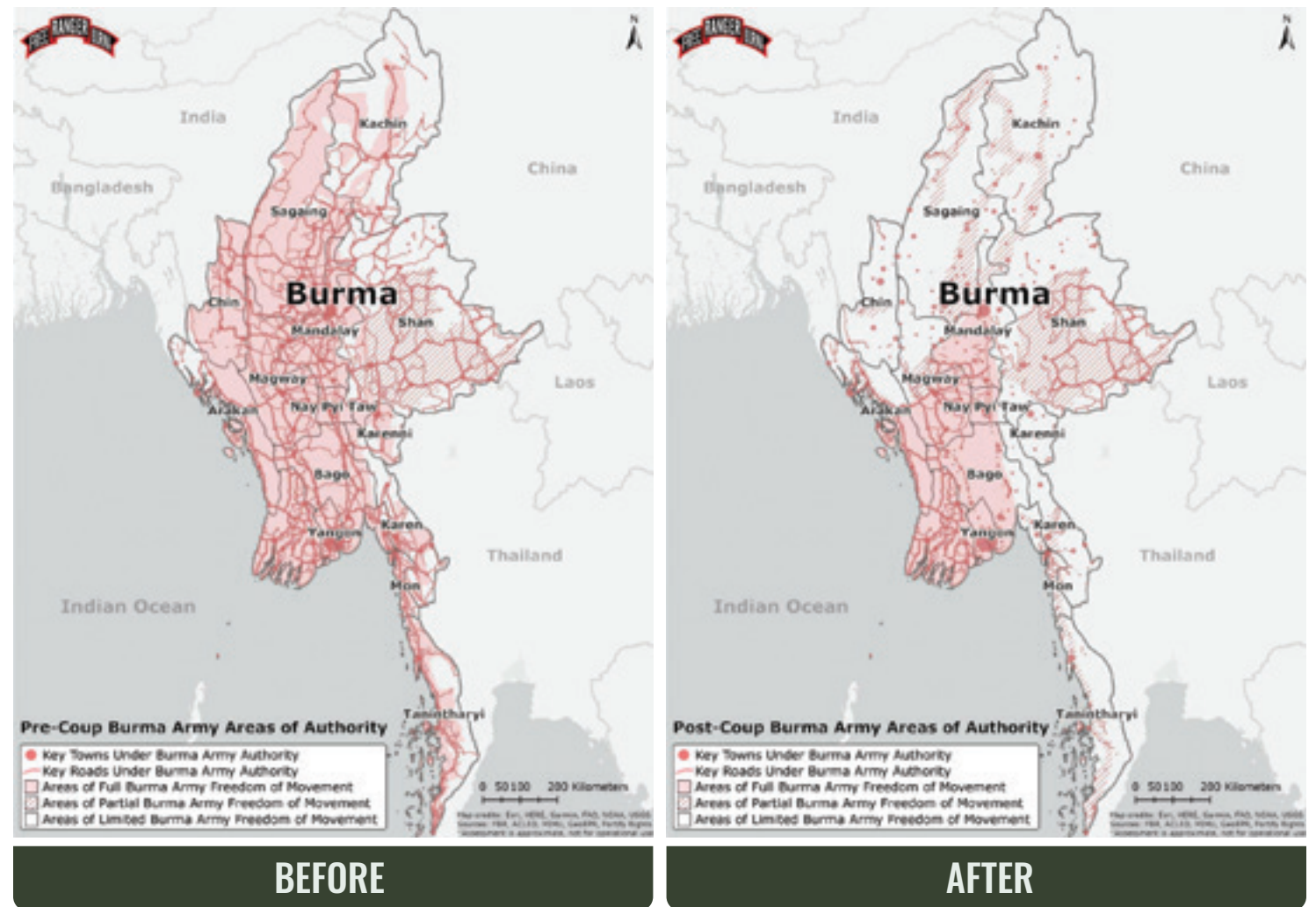
This is focused on Karenni State, but it's the same work we do in Karen, Chin, Kachin, Shan, and other areas of Burma. You're making a huge difference in these peoples' lives and we thank you for that. May God bless you all with all you need, relationally, physically, spiritually, materially, and professionally, in Jesus' name. ♦



Top Left: FBR team member clearing Burma Army landmines. Right: 16-year-old David recovering from special surgery after stepping on a landmine.

Bottom Left: Suuzanne Eubank carrying Cherry Moo, who had a mortar fragment in her chest, up the final hill. Her operation was later successful and she's safely home now.

BURMA ARMY AREAS OF AUTHORITY BEFORE AND AFTER THE COUP



2022-2023 STATS

3,000,000+ CIVILIANS DISPLACED

458,000 **PEOPLE AIDED**

140 **RANGER TEAMS**

272* **MEDICAL UNITS TO BURMA**

248 **RELIEF MISSIONS**

1 Medical unit serves about 800 - 1000 patients*

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 1,400 missions have been conducted to assist over 1,800,000 people.

The Burma Army staged a coup on 1 February 2021. Two years 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 140 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Establishment of a no-fly zone over the ethnic areas of Burma to prevent Burma military air attacks against the population.

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: National Unity Government

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

20 Teams: 20 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

2 Teams: 2 Part-Time

Partner Organization: None

NAGA

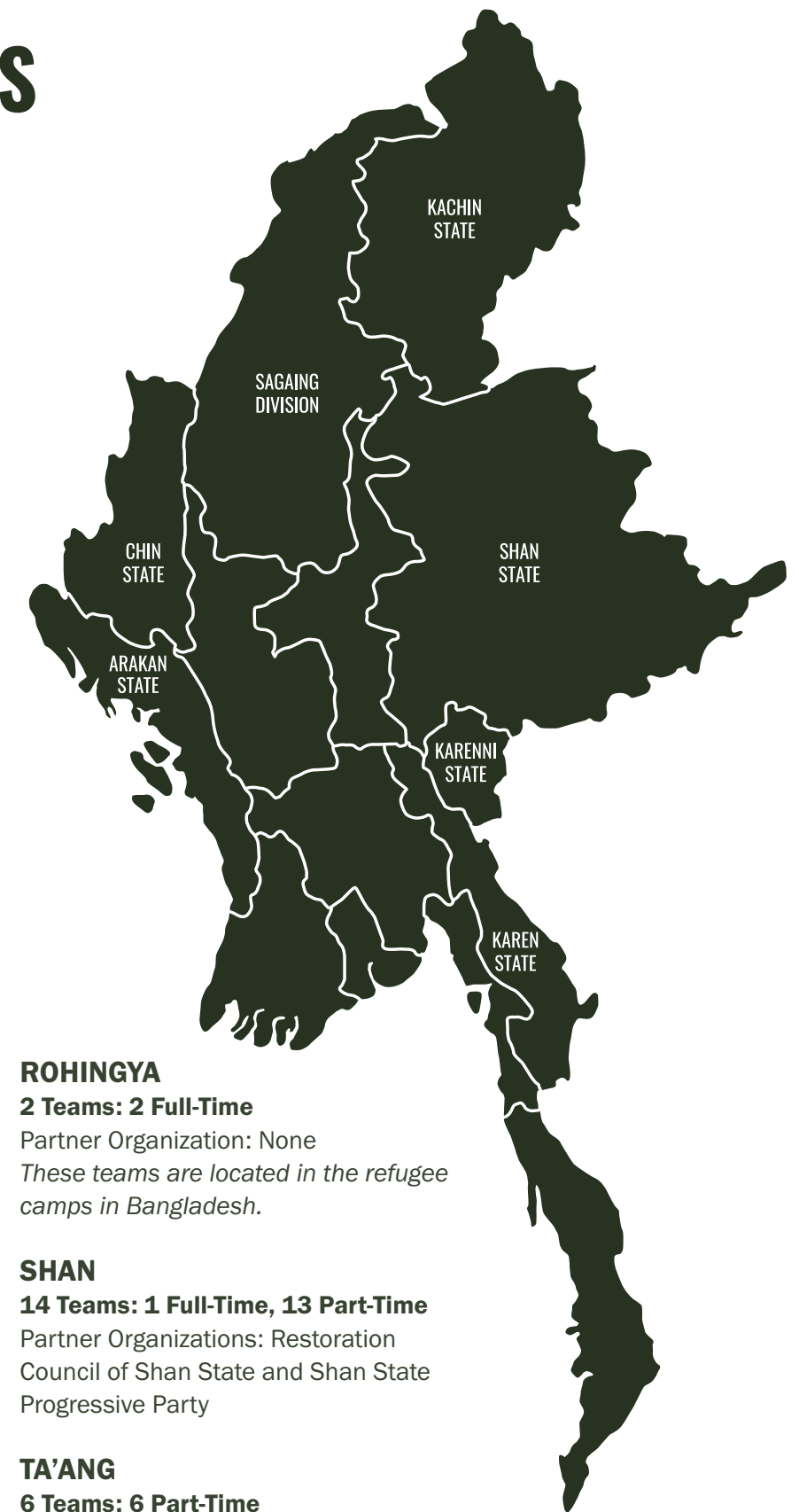
5 Teams: 5 Part-Time

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.

MIDDLE EAST

1 SYRIA team and

1 KURDISH/IRAQ team operates in the Middle East

KARENNI

Over 300,000 Karenni IDPs are in hiding and the Burma Army continues to increase the frequency of airstrikes in the region, a campaign to destroy the Karenni people. We shared in the sorrows and unspeakable horrors the Karenni people have faced this year, including carrying fellow Karenni Rangers and dear friends' bodies from the frontlines, weeping with widows who had just lost their husbands to Burma Army brutality, and retrieving the remains of two brothers who were murdered and thrown into a well by the Burma Army for a mourning sister to be able to properly bury them.

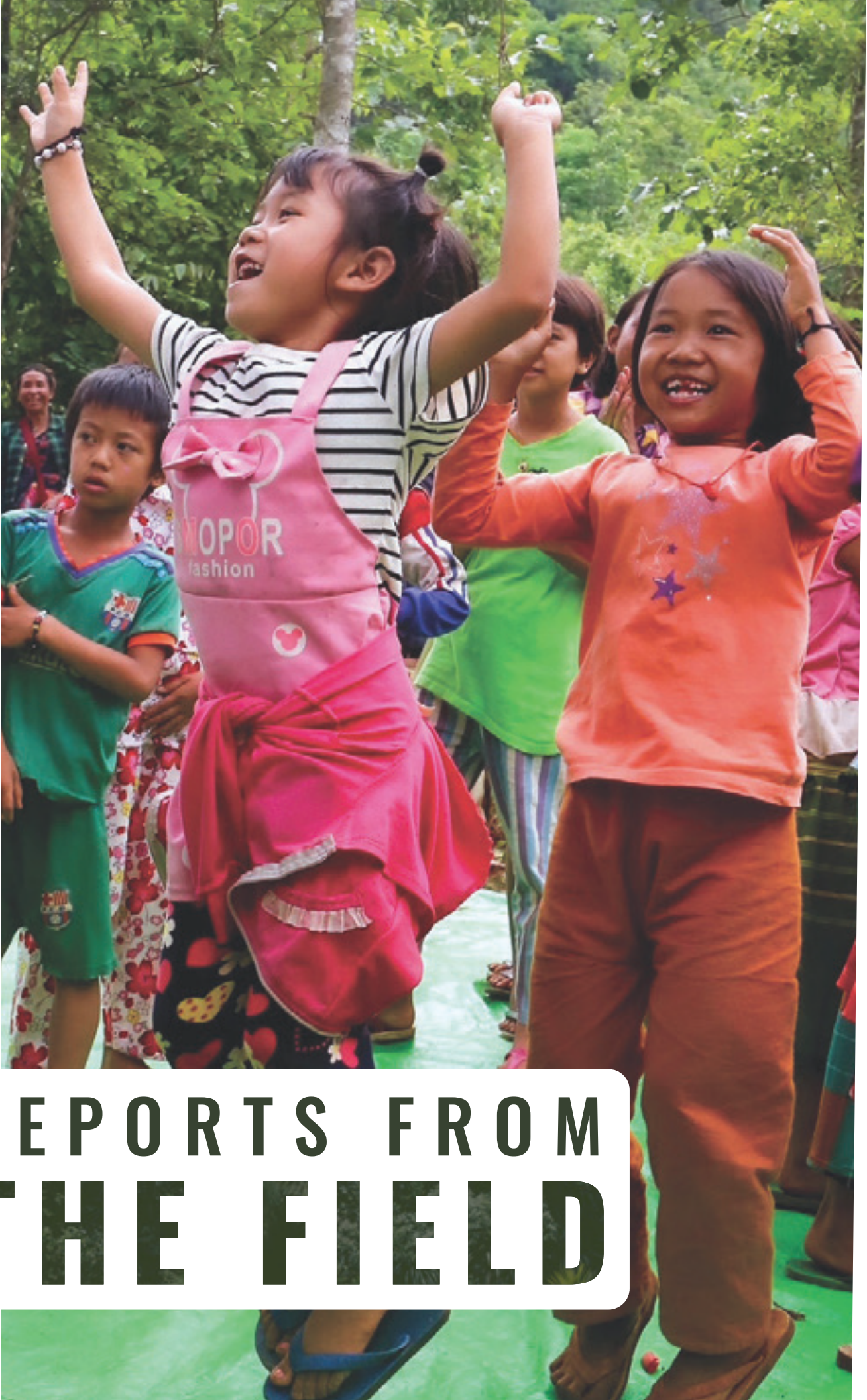
On 13 June 2022, our newest teams, composed of Karen, Karenni, Wa, Shan, Pa-Oh, Arakan, Mon, Padaung, and Burman Rangers, launched their first mission GLC program. Heavy mortaring in the area from which the villagers had fled eight months before could be heard in the pre-dawn hours and then sporadically up to the time we arrived at the IDP camp. When Dave met with the camp leaders about a program with the children they were resistant, not wanting to have any large group activity that could be seen by a drone and become a target for an attack. He agreed we'd just visit house-to-house in small groups.

When our team arrived at the site, a beautiful pine-covered mountainside, the kids were already waiting and parents were nervous but willing to visit outside. Actually, all of us (Rangers) were a bit nervous as well, feeling the

proximity of danger and uncertainty of the situation. I suggested we get started right away while it was quiet and peaceful, not knowing how long it would last, and the team dutifully jumped into the program. I opened with prayer, and, as we shared dances, skits and songs, the tension melted into warm smiles and gratitude for a reprieve from the oppression of worry as entertainment and encouragement provided a salve to the ache of anxiety.

In God's amazing equation of love, the villagers' joy multiplied our team's exuberance. The Rangers were comical, animated, and engaged while the kids and adults were howling with laughter. (Someday I'll understand the Burmese language and enjoy to the same extent). At the end, the adults were so active in their games it looked like someone might get hurt. We finished with open-mic songs and dances from both the Rangers and the villagers. Walking back to our trucks, several Rangers, in surprised voices, told me, "This is so great! I love making people happy. Everyone started off so afraid and we helped them laugh a lot. They asked us if we were tired and I said I will never be tired making you happy."

It really seemed that we viscerally felt God's perfect love casting out fear. I thank God for His presence – for both our team and the IDP families – adding so much more to the program and day than any could have expected. ♦



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



Opposite Page: IDP children jump and dance during a Good Life Club in Karenni, Burma.

Above Left: Dave holding the remains of two brothers, Francisco and Galantino, who were killed by the Burma Army.

Above Right: Two Karenni women enjoy a Good Life Club program in hiding.



SHAN

Heavy fighting this year in the northern Karenni cities of Pekon, MoBye, and Demoso caused thousands to flee across the border into Shan State. Shan State, Burma, is often designated by the north and south regions and is the country's largest ethnic state. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates there are now over 50,000 IDPs in southern Shan State alone.

Nu, a Shan relief team member, describes their visit to these people: "It was difficult to encounter the newly displaced; their sadness and loss were visible in their eyes." For some, the trauma of displacement and the encounters with the Burma Army continue to affect their daily lives. Visibly anxious villagers asked medics for medicine for their "heart palpitations," a sign of severe anxiety, and were at times even afraid to interview with the relief team, thinking their information might get into the hands of the Burma Army.

As Nu completed interviews, she noticed that most villagers expressed fear when recounting their experiences. A woman named Nang Hsa can't stand the sound of loud noises and has to fight the urge to flee to escape the sound. She had fled her village when a bomb

exploded next to her house. Her grandson was only 16 days old. After a traumatic 19-day journey, they finally arrived at the IDP camp. Almost all interviews began with smiles that quickly faded to solemn expressions and tears. When speaking with them it was difficult for Nu not to cry with them.

In total, the Shan relief team engaged with over 2,000 IDPs in four different camps during the June 2022 relief mission. The teams provided them with food, medical relief, school supplies, and other support and encouragement through Good Life Club (GLC) programs. The team first visited a Buddhist temple on the southern Shan border that was housing 660 families who had arrived just a month earlier. The team then went on to visit three other IDP camps in Shan State that were formed a year prior when fighting in northern Shan State intensified; the Ranger teams had been in contact with them since their creation. One of the camps had poor sanitation and was difficult for farming. The team is planning to improve sanitation on their next mission.

Those living as displaced people are often pulled between two things: the desire and belief that one day



Opposite Page: Shan IDP children after a GLC program. "They were so proud of their new GLC shirts." - Nu

Left: Shan IDP students completing a school assignment.

Right: Nu interviews IDPs about why they were forced to flee.

they will return home, and the reality of needing to live in an environment that is not their home. When asked about returning home, a young Shan IDP shared, "Now nobody can go back to the village because lately one IDP went back then got shot by the [Burma] army and died."

Nu says, "They miss their home but don't want to build a new home. They can't [return] so instead they invest in temporary things so they can survive the wait..."

Nu is also very concerned with the education system she has seen in the camps. It is supported solely by the villagers and small local entities. The students in this area are not receiving government assistance like children in other parts of Burma. The teachers, in most cases, are educated within the system they now teach. She believes that in order to improve the system, the quality of teachers needs to improve. To immediately address the issue she believes teaching guides and student books for all grade levels would help. "The IDPs in Shan State are destitute and are exhausted. They need support from outside of Burma." It was apparent to Nu that especially the young adults were losing hope. She interviewed students at Waan Pong School and "each student believed they had no future." With no opportunity for work, education, farming, or establishing homes or business, these young

adults are now fleeing across the border to Thailand, leaving their families in the camp.

As the team's time with the IDPs came to an end, Nu recounts the emotional goodbye. "They came to us, holding my hands and said goodbye to us. They said, 'Goodbye, thank you for helping us, please don't forget us.' As they hugged me, they started crying. They said, 'We don't have a home to go back to anymore, they took it from us.' I couldn't leave because they kept holding onto me and repeating it over and over."

In conclusion, Nu shares, "I was so touched by the people. The love between us was so deep although we had never met each other before. It wasn't just the goods that we gave them that they needed, but it was that we were there sharing the dangers with them." Another Shan volunteer said, "Yes. God opened all the ways. We had to go through and around the Burma Army, and God opened every way." The Shan are suffering, but the light of Jesus is in and amongst them through relief teams, the church, different organizations, and believers both amongst the Shan and those who travel to help them. Thank you so much for praying for the Shan and all the people of Burma in Jesus' name, not just for relief but for reconciliation in their country. ♦



The life of the people of Chin State continues to be wracked by danger and violence, even as they make every attempt to defend themselves against the Burma Army. Burma Army soldiers have been burning homes, a few at a time, in the villages near their camps. In this insecure situation, some people flee to neighboring villages, and some go back and forth. But the danger is ever-present. The people continue to resist, with what arms they have, and also by refusing to give up. Chin FBR teams are supporting as they can with food, shelter, and continued encouragement to not give up.

Below is a chronological snapshot of this year's major Burma Army and human rights abuses documented by Chin ranger teams.

In January 2022, the Burma Army burned Mualzawl and Webula villages in Falam Township, and Theizang Village in Tedim Township of Chin State. Several civilians were shot or were direct casualties of the destruction caused by the Burma Army. Included in this list are U Tin Thang (60 years old) and his father Pi Thluai Men (80 years old), eight civilians from Matupi Township near Ngalaing Village, and a young man named Mang Do Khup (29 years old). Evan Nangpi, pastor of the Siyin Baptist Church, located in Taingen Village, reported that around 200 people, most of his villagers as well as some from Hiangzing, fled to Khuasak, a village located about seven miles from Taingen.

As of March 2022 there was an exponential increase in the number of refugees who have fled to Zokhawthar, Mizoram

(in India), specifically from the township of Falam. These camps, which usually hold around 1,000 people, now hold more than 3,000 people. During this time, the Burma Army sent and stationed more of their troops at the Kalay Myo airport which lies just outside of the Falam Township. The reason for this was to fight against the People's Defense Force (PDF) who stationed themselves in a camp close to the border.

In July 2022, the Burma Army troops started moving from Falam to the Hakha highway. The village of Thlanrawn is about 13 miles from Falam. The Burma Army burned parts of Thlanrawn Village for the third time in less than a year. The first two times were in October 2021 when villagers were forced to flee to the refugee camp in Zokhawthar, just across the border in India. In Ramsey Village, the Burma Army broke into houses and on July 28th it was announced by the Chinland Defense Force's Zotung News and Information service that about 30 innocent people were arrested and detained while even more fled.

Through the month of August the Burma military burned houses in Haimual Village and villagers fled to Khaw Mawi Village near the Tio River. It was during this time that Lal Nun Puii (16 years old) and her brother, Lalruamawia (14 years old) were killed by the Burma military, specifically the Myanmar Army LIB 268 Falam. The sister and brother were from New Haimual Village in Tedim Township, Chin State. Their father, the local defense force leader, was fleeing with a small troop when he saw them get arrested. Their bodies



“ People who possess the light of life know it will scatter the darkness. ”

were found two days later. A technical team investigated and found that Lal Nun Puii had been gang raped prior to her death. In September 2022, the Burma Army burned houses down in the villages of Namunta, Zamlimphai, and Khawhmunnuam, along the Indian border. Villagers from these affected areas in Chin State have been fleeing to different IDP camps in Mizoram, India.

Despite the suffering of the Chin people, hope remains. One FBR team member described a visit to the village of Thantlang, devastated by the Burma Army: “Though the sun beat down from above, it didn't change the darkness of Thantlang. As we headed uphill toward the police station ... every single home [was] destroyed. No people. No birds. No insects. Just the absence of life... When we reached the police station, we were greeted by a scene of total annihilation... Every building was destroyed, and the open area was a moonscape of craters... [then], from all around us, young CNA soldiers emerged out of dark holes scattered about the central courtyard. Soon we were surrounded by 10 young men with haggard but joyful expressions, shaking our hands and giving bear hugs. After introductions, we prayed together. Soon the sound of jets came overhead; we left to continue our trip and the soldiers returned to their bunkers. Yet, I was left with this enduring image: they had been recharged with God's light and they weren't running back to dark holes, they were racing into the darkness of a world ravished by sin and war and death, not as people afraid of it, but as people who possess the light of life know it will scatter the darkness - both now and in eternity. No matter how dark it gets, the light is always stronger. John 1:5 says of Jesus, ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’” ♦

Opposite Page: The ruins of Thantlang, Chin State.

Top: A Chin Ranger shares a message of encouragement with displaced mothers and children.

Middle: A Chin Ranger works to help a villager in an FBR clinic.

Bottom: A pastor talks to his family on the phone after his leg is blown off by a Burma Army landmine.

KACHIN

The largest northern Burma ethnic armed organization (EAO), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), thoroughly and consistently reports the attacks and atrocities committed by the Burma Army each month in the regions of Kachin State, northern Shan State, and Sagaing Division. Likewise, the Burma Army consistently attacks its own people in these areas each month. Using military jets, attack helicopters, artillery and ground troops, the Burma Army carries out ruthless attacks from the ground and air on the ethnic-controlled regions, including civilian areas. One of the most devastating attacks occurred on October 23rd, 2022, when the Burma Army bombed an outdoor music concert in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, killing approximately 80 people in the attack and obliterating the area.

Conflict and human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burma Army continue driving up the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) across northern Burma, consequently spreading thin EAO resources. They not only try to fight and protect their people, but provide for their basic needs as well. Outside support is crucial but risky.

During April 2022, a Kachin relief team made its way

through jungle trails and around Burma Army checkpoints to bring help, hope, and love to five rural villages in the mountains of northern Burma. The team's month-long mission served villagers with medical care, food, blankets, Good Life Clubs, leadership training, and more.

During monsoon season in Kachin State, washed-out mountain roads and mudslides take lives every year. However, weather is not the only element making travel and livelihood challenging for these people. Villagers have been unable to get needed resources from neighboring towns to their remote locations due to the presence of occupying Burma Army forces and Covid-19 restrictions. "Last year, eight villagers died of illness due to lack of medicine despite the availability of health clinics [in other towns]. There are also deaths and illnesses this year, mainly due to the lack of medicine and poor transportation to hospitals," reports the Kachin relief team leader. On one mission, the team was able to treat 113 villagers and teach over 336 students about basic health care and hygiene.

Lack of medical care is not the only factor affecting children in this area. The relief team interviewed several teachers who have set up temporary schools in these

Opposite Page: FBR Kachin team traveling to visit the remote mountain villages.

Top: These children's swollen hands are due to the scarcity of water in the mountainous regions, leading to poor hygiene.

Bottom: An IDP camp leader in Kachin State, Burma.



“
I am worried about the
future of the children.
”



villages as adequate education is difficult to access. Local churches and the Kachin Independence Organization support these schools as they can; however, many teachers shared that support is inconsistent and they are still in need of many basic resources such as textbooks and paper. Basic infrastructure is also lacking. Most of these schools are built from bamboo and easily ruined. Parents mentioned the option of sending their children to larger towns for better education but do not have the means to do so.

The village teachers said new students have already been joining these temporary schools from surrounding IDP camps as fighting and displacement increase around these areas. New challenges will come with higher student numbers and no additional resources. A young pastor, Pau Hkyi Yaw Htung, from Uma Village, explained that it is difficult to reach out to non-governmental organizations and other places for help due to their lack of communication lines: there are no telephones or even electricity. The 85 families in these five villages are aware of the future impact the current difficulties may have for their children. Nhpang Naw Awn, a pastor in Ngum La Village, elaborates: "To make money, we can't go anywhere due to the bad political situation and Covid-19 disease. I am worried about the future of the children. In our mountainous area, no social assistance has come to help, so health, social, educational and economic development are lagging behind." ♦

KAREN



The Karen people have been resisting Burma military oppression for over 74 years. Even as the Burma Army attacks with a new level of viciousness, the Karen do not give up.

On 12 January 2023, a Burma military jet fighter came and dropped two bombs on the village of Lay Wah, in northern Karen State. The bombs destroyed two churches and the school, as well as other structures. A mother and her baby were instantly killed, as was another villager, the pastor of the Baptist church, and a Catholic deacon. Two women, one the wife of the deacon, were wounded.

Those killed were Naw Marina, aged two years and 11 months and her mother, Naw La Kler Paw – both of whom had large holes in the backs of their heads with their brains exposed. The Catholic deacon was named Saw Ready Htoo and had multiple fatal wounds. Pastor Saw Cha Aye was mangled terribly. Saw Blae, the villager who was helping at the church, was disintegrated by the blast and only the stumps of his legs could be found.

Four large craters grouped tightly together bore witness to the two air strikes of two bombs each that came in, right on target, at the church. There would have been more casualties but the villagers had already fled into the jungle and school was being held in the jungle at that time. If the school children had been in their classroom they all would have been killed, as that structure was completely destroyed.

We arrived at the site of destruction and death a few hours after it happened. Earlier in the day, we had been walking back from a relief mission to the north when we heard a jet fly over us and make two bombing runs in the distance. They seemed to be far away, maybe 20 miles. Then we got a message on the radio that a Burma Army aircraft had hit a village and killed civilians. We still had a long way to go to

get to this village but went as fast as we could. On the way, we passed two wounded women being taken out with their children by other villagers. One of the women told us her husband was the Catholic deacon and had just been killed in the air strike.

The villagers went on to the clinic while we continued to the destroyed village of Lay Wah. We arrived after dark. The first thing we saw at the outskirts of the village was a buffalo with half its front leg torn off, stumbling around in agony. We saw shrapnel-damaged homes and roofs blown off. As we went deeper in the village, we found the church itself, completely destroyed along with another church building and the school. Four large bomb craters were there in the center of the area, all within 20 yards of each other. Some villagers had come back and they showed us the mangled bodies of the five who had been killed. We documented this and prayed with the people and promised we would help the families and that we would help rebuild the school and church.

We prayed for the people – and we also prayed for the Burma Army, which was not easy. We prayed that their hearts would change or that they would fall. We prayed for comfort for the people and we prayed for help and an end to this war of a government against its own people. This was an evil and horrifying thing to see and it's not the first time this has happened. Just a few days before, we had been at another church and school that took a direct hit from the Burma Army, in Tho Thoo Plaw Village, Karen State.

We are committed to helping the wounded recover and those that have lost their loved ones be comforted as best we can. We are also committed to rebuilding the churches and schools we have seen destroyed. Thank you so much for being in this with us and for praying for us. ♦



Opposite Top: Villagers run from incoming Burma Army soldiers.

Left: Suuzanne Eubank picks up shrapnel in the crater left by the bombing of a church and school.

Middle: The remains of the five people killed in the attack.

Right: The remains of the school in Lay Wah.

FBR TRAINING



The 2022 Free Burma Ranger Servant Leadership and Relief Team Training was conducted from October to December 2022. 204 people from across Burma participated in the training including 133 new basic students, making up 25 new FBR teams. 47 second year students, partnering with 24 students from JSMK, took part in our advanced training, going deeper into the topics they had learned in their basic training the previous year.

Despite challenges traveling around Burma since the coup, seven different ethnic groups, representing ten different organizations, attended training. The Kachin team traveled the farthest, all the way across the country to attend, joining the Karen, Karenni, Shan, Po Karen, Arakan, and Burman teams.

At the beginning of the training the students were asked to look around at each other, at the many new faces, across many ethnic lines, and ask themselves if reconciliation within Burma is possible. At graduation three months later, they were asked the same question. They were able to say they had seen a small picture of what reconciliation in Burma could look like, by spending three months working, learning, eating, sleeping, sweating - all together. Working together across ethnic backgrounds to bring help, hope and love is one of the many skills the Rangers learn during training.

Graduation took place on December 29th and part of the celebration was recognizing 11 Rangers who were baptized this year during training. After graduation, the teams divided into four groups to complete follow-on relief missions, together with instructors. They had 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 crises, as well as having gained new relationships across ethnic lines. The skills and relationships will both be of vital importance as Burma and her people move into a challenging future. ♦

*Top: A celebratory photo after this year's graduation ceremony.
Bottom: FBR instructor embraces Dave after being baptized.
Opposite Top: Students practice land navigation.
Opposite Bottom: Rappelling, swimming, and rope bridge training at the river.*



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
- Human Rights Violations Recording and 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 be shared all over the world and disseminated to media organizations, 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 them 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. ♦



Top: A Ranger documents a GLC program in Karenni, Burma.

Bottom: Rangers on a reconnaissance mission.

AVIATION



Top: Kler Gay flies in the FBR plane with his father.

Middle: The FBR plane takes off from the airport.

Bottom: Patients travel in the FBR plane to receive care.

The mission of FBR's aviation department is to bring help, hope and love from above. Our team fulfills this mission on a regular basis through the transportation of patients, medicine, and supplies for those affected by the conflict in Burma. This past year has been marked as another year of steady, foundation-laying work for establishing medical flight operations in a neighboring country, training of ethnic and international pilots, and meeting the needs of critical care patients from Burma.

This year, FBR's aviation team grew in mechanical skill and problem-solving while working to keep our Cessna 172 aircraft flying in Thailand's humid and corrosive environment. The team moved through mechanical problems and upgraded the aircraft's avionics to increase overall performance and safety. FBR Aviation continues praying for and pursuing higher quality aircraft options while utilizing what God has currently provided. As part of this pursuit, four FBR pilots were trained and FAA-certified with new skill sets in the U.S. in 2022.

Apart from maintenance and training, the aviation team safely transported more than 15 patients and caretakers this year, aiding in life-saving medical treatment and Christ-like care. One patient story from this past year that highlights the reality of those suffering in Burma and the complexity in serving them is the story of Kler Gay. Kler Gay, an eight-year-old boy, arrived at FBR's Jungle School of Medicine (JSMK) clinic with his father last year with significantly low oxygen levels. Kler Gay's needs were urgent and beyond the scope of JSMK, so FBR arranged to fly him and his father to larger medical facilities. On January 8, 2022, with blue lips and a smile wide across his face, Kler Gay was held by his father as they were flown by FBR's Karen pilot, Kittkoon. It was their first time to fly in a plane and Kler Gay was able to experience a glimmer of joy through aviation despite his circumstances. Unfortunately, after arriving at the hospital, the doctors found heart complications which resulted in Kler Gay passing away just a couple days after his treatment.

Stories of the poor and oppressed whom FBR serves do not always end as we hope and pray. However, this does not negate the presence and power of Jesus, nor the purpose of serving them as best we can. As we all grieve the loss of this precious child, we also rejoice that he is free of suffering and that in his darkest time we were able to be with him and share the love of Christ. This reality, that Jesus never leaves us nor forsakes us, even unto death, is the reality FBR Aviation works to share with each patient, passenger and person we serve. ♦


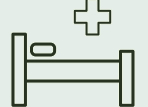

JUNGLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

It is a joy to glance over our shoulders and recognize that we have endured another year of our 'chronic emergency'. 2022 was full of mortal threats: local bombing, injuries to staff and the national crisis, alongside all the pressing health needs of our patients who continue to require of us competence and a thorough loving-kindness. When crises become repetitive, we tire of even telling the bad news. So here, in this annual report of 2022, we may simply give thanks that we remain. Our students are maturing and learning, our patients recovering and our staff and volunteers accomplishing their duties with steady focus. Our campus is intact and our intentions are finding fulfillment. Patients requiring care in a neighboring country have been so blessed by our team who works hard to meet their needs.

The waning global pandemic had less local impact although it did constrain access to supplies. But the national coup of February 2021 continues to grip Myanmar, uniting its many people groups against the military leadership that uses every tool it has to retain power by attacking its own people. At FBR's Jungle School of Medicine Kawthoolei we persist in our duties, faithful to the mothers, fathers, students and children that live at or come to our campus. In this, we imitate the One who is faithful to us, year after year, in ways beyond counting. And we thank our supporters, who fund and pray for all we do. ♦



TREATMENT NUMBERS

2909 	361 	40 
OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT	INPATIENT DEPARTMENT	PATIENTS REFERRED MANAGED FUNDED

Top Left: A villager holds his son as he is treated by JSMK medics.

Top Right: A big brother holds his sister with severe pneumonia.

Bottom Left: Students present their patients to their supervisors twice a day during clinical rounds.

Bottom Right: Dr Nay Hser provides eye care to thousands of patients each year.



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

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 be lost. 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.



*Top: Karenni children dance during GLC.
Bottom: Rangers and Karenni children enjoy running with flags.*



*Left: Karen and Peter Eubank dance for Syrian children.
Top Right: A Syrian boy celebrates during a GLC program.
Bottom Right: A Syrian girl claps along with the GLC song.*



Let the Little Children Dance!

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me,” and that was our motivation through drama and dance this fall in Syria. At GLC programs in Burma earlier this year we were introduced to a dance which we used on our Syria mission to share the gospel message at 11 GLC programs throughout northeast Syria. Throughout our trip, friends in IDP camps, border-conflict schools, two churches, an orphanage, a handicap school, friends’ houses, two front-line hospitals, and many town councils wanted to pass on their thanks to you for your ongoing prayers for God’s protection in the face of constant threats of attack from Turkish proxies and ISIS sleeper cells.

Our first visit in three years to the Deir Ezzor region was especially significant. This was the place where we helped over 25,000 people, most of whom were ISIS, who fled fighting at Baghouz, the town where ISIS had made their last stand in 2019. Although many conservative Islam communities there still hold sympathies for ISIS ideologies (and harbor sleeper cells), we were welcomed by civic and school leaders who have persevered in the democratic

administration of this region. We held two GLC programs in their schools and were surprised by the orderly and polite students we met, and the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus.

This area is still in conflict and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)/ Self Administration’s commitment to stabilizing and improving these communities is inspiring. What had, in 2019, been a huge ISIS tent-city embedded with explosives and munitions, as well as human death and destruction, was transformed into beautiful olive orchards and productive farmland along the banks of the Euphrates River. We retraced our steps from that scene of chaos and desperation just three years ago and then visited a memorial overlooking the new pastoral scene, thanking God for His mission of mercy during that time.

In every visit, we shared encouragement that the people of northeast Syria are not alone, that Jesus is with them, building faith, hope, and love into their communities, and that he invites us to come to Him as children for all we need. We are thankful, for you, friends all over the world, who hold them in your hearts and prayers. ♦

MIDDLE EAST



Far Left: A church rebuilt by FBR in Raqqa that had been destroyed by ISIS.

Middle Left: FBR is interviewed by the media at the site of an airstrike.

Middle Right: Syrian boys wave during a Good Life Club program.

Far Right: An FBR volunteer preforms dentistry at a clinic.

“ I learned to ask God for everything. And then after you ask God, you may ask your friends for help and see what happens. But trust God.

— Abdul Sattar, a teacher at a frontline school near Manbij in northeast Syria.

Because of these prayers, a school building and new toilets have been built at his school, which continues to be within range of enemy machine gun and mortar fire. In spite of the frequent attacks, Abdul Sattar, the teachers, parents, and the children keep the school open. Since the Turkish invasion of 2019, their school in Dadat, north of Manbij, has become a front line with the proxy forces of the Turks and the Turks themselves just across the Sajur River to the north. In spite of all the attacks, displacement, constant motion, and loss of his own home, Abdul Sattar has helped rebuild the school, add the new building, build toilets, start a well, and helped to put a roof on another new school that also was forced to flee. And, with the help of friends, he was able to buy a small apartment for his family in the city after his own home was taken by the Syrian

Army. These are all miracles of God and God's people helping.

These are the kind of miracles we see in northeast Syria. There is a new hope here, one that shines more broadly than I've ever seen it. In spite of the attempts by ISIS to destroy all of Syria, the Kurds, Arabs, and Christians, in a coalition called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have defeated them. ISIS still exists in pockets and has the ability to daily launch terrorist attacks and ambushes, but they control no terrain. And they have become visibly weaker than they were before.

Adding to the deadly challenge of fighting ISIS, the Turks and their proxies have launched multiple invasions into northern Syria in 2016, 2018, and 2019, displacing hundreds of thousands of Kurds, Arabs, Yezidis, and Christians. On top of this, the US broke its promise to stand with the Syrian Kurds and in 2019, at midnight on 9 October, left their positions along the Syrian-Turkish border. By four in the afternoon, the Turkish military and their proxies had invaded, driving hundreds of thousands of people before them. In spite of these terrible things, the SDF has not given up. They are protecting what they have and caring for the displaced people in abandoned schools, camps, and in shared homes.

We were surprised with new hope when we went down to Deir Ezzoir along the Euphrates River. Here we were told by the local Arab leader that 90% or more are still supporting ISIS.

Even so, in this area there is governance by the Syrian

Democratic Forces, which has made inroads in trying to form an equitable, democratic, just society. Even though ISIS sleeper cells try to launch attacks in this area and, just across the Euphrates to the west are Assad's forces, Russians, and Iranians, the SDF governance is growing. The fact that we could drive the entire distance from Raqqa to Baghouz (which was the last stronghold of ISIS and is on the border of Iraq and Syria) and not come under attack was amazing. Even though ISIS has over 90% support in this area, the people here seem to be attempting to try and work with the SDF. And even though many Kurds and Arabs don't trust each other very much, there is enough trust to work together. This is a new beginning. To me, it's a great hope, not only for northeast Syria, but all of Syria. This attempt at community-based governance, democracy, the upholding of women's and children's rights, and freedom of religion needs support. This is an area where Christians, Arabs, Muslims, Yezidis and others can live together in peace and justice.

This attempt at a just and free society is not present in other parts of Syria, and is not present in many parts of the Middle East. Against this emergent freedom, many forces have been arrayed.

To the south and the west, the Syrian Army wants to crush any independent movement not under Assad's direct control. They are supported by the Russians, who use airplanes and heavy artillery to attack and kill anyone who opposes. The Assad regime is also supported by the Iranian government directly as well as Iranian militias that attack

anyone opposing Assad. Another enemy is ISIS, which is still in the area, able to ambush, kill, and harass.

And then in the north, there are the Turks. Turkey is attacking regularly with jet aircraft, drones, and heavy artillery, killing men, women, and children in the SDF-controlled area of northeast Syria. They not only attack directly using their air force and artillery, they support a variety of jihadi proxy forces that still occupy large swaths of northeast Syria. During the week of 9-26 November 2022, the Turkish air force conducted over 40 airstrikes. These strikes by Turkish war planes killed over 40 people, including 11 civilians whose funeral we attended on 20 November.

Destruction Driven by Fear

This is evil and none of this is productive. It's all about destruction, degradation and attack. I think that the most common, strongest motive for why countries are involved in northeast Syria is fear. Why is Iran involved? They have to cross all the way over Iraq to get involved. Again, I think it's fear. They're afraid of Israel. They're afraid of other powers. They're afraid of the world coming in on them, because they know they have a government and a tyranny that is not loved, not only around the world, it's not loved by their own people. And I believe one of the reasons they want to stir up fighting in Syria, and attack Israel, among other places, is because they want an enemy that they can project and focus their people on so they can retain their grip on power, and make people in Iran really think this



Iranian military is needed to protect Iran, when, actually, this form of government is not needed. It's the worst thing Iran can experience.

Why does Assad lash out against everybody who opposes him in Syria, including northeast Syria? Because of fear, because he wants to retain his power. He's not directly fighting the Kurds right now, or the SDF, but the threat is there, once the other forces against him are eliminated. He's already told the Kurds and the SDF they must comply and come into his fold. Why are the Russians involved? I think fear again. They want a port in the Mediterranean, they want more projection of power to defend Russia. They want some kind of ally. Why is Turkey involved? Well, Turkey has over 20 million Kurds that have been repressed for centuries. They're afraid of them. And what they see with the SDF is Kurds with power; they're afraid of that. So these are all fear.

In spite of this, the Syrian Democratic Forces operating under the self-administration of northeast Syria are still forging ahead with health care, schools, agriculture projects, roads, and the beginnings of a participatory political system. There needs to be a lot of improvement, but this effort to change has no chance if no one will defend it. The forces around northeast Syria are not just, not pro-democratic, not pro-women, and not pro-children. They are a collection of dictators, extremists, terrorists, and hate-fueled factions.

Supporting the SDF from the outside is a US-led coalition. But in talking to the local people here, they do not feel they can trust the US or the coalition. They feel they are being used. It is hard to assure them otherwise. Why did the US come in? It doesn't seem that we suddenly decided we want to help the Kurds and other minorities here such as the Christians. In fact, they've labeled some Kurdish parties as terrorist parties. It seems to the people here that the US-led coalition came because they were afraid of ISIS. They did not seem to come out of love.

Down in Deir Ezzoir, along the Euphrates, we were in a meeting of over 70 local sheiks. One of the sheiks came up to me after the meeting and said, "Thank you for coming and we appreciate you being here. But why

do the Americans launch all these raids against us and fly helicopters at night and scare our children? We're not ISIS. Why do you treat us like we're all ISIS? Are we guilty just because we are here? We're not innocent until proven guilty. We're just guilty. That really hurts us. It's not right either. Please tell your government to stop that."

And then talking to the Kurds, they said to us numerous times, "Yes, America is helping us. We're really grateful. Please help us more. But we feel you're really just using us. You don't really care about us. You betrayed us multiple times, allowing the Turks to invade Afrin and saying nothing, breaking your promise and pulling your troops out of northeast Syria in 2019 and allowing those attacks to happen. And we feel you just want our oil, or you just want to stop ISIS, you don't really care about us as people. So yes, we're glad you're here. But you don't seem like friends."

We are also close with the Christians, who are the smallest group here. Different Christians said to us, "No one really cares about us. We are the smallest group; most of the Christians around here have fled. However, we can work with the SDF and we can compromise together. The SDF is the only way forward. And we hope America cares about its fellow Christians, because we are a small minority here in Syria."

As an American I am grateful that the US and the coalition are here. This not only saves many lives and blocks major invasions, but also gives a chance for a new society to grow up together. The most powerful force in the world is love and if the US and coalition and all of us are led by love there will be a greater impact for good in Syria, the Middle East, and the world. One of the fruits of that will be the inability of groups like ISIS to have much support. Some of the reasons ISIS has any support is because there's corruption, there's inequality and a feeling that there's no real faith in God.

ISIS responds to all three with faith in a real God, with equality for everyone who believes, and a stated goal of no corruption and justice. Of course, ISIS is evil and violates all those things. But they have an appeal, just like the Taliban did in Afghanistan. They give hope, however false, that there's something new and different.



We need to give a different hope. We need to give a hope grounded in love and actions of love. Actions of love do not preclude the use of force to stop attacks, but whatever is based on love will be lasting. I pray we continue to support freedom in northeast Syria, and we work on faith in the living God of love.

So my appeal to all these countries is, you don't need to be afraid of the SDF. You don't have to be afraid of northeast Syria, they can be your friends, we can compromise together. The United States can act as a real friend, not just use the people of northeast Syria, but cooperate and work with them. Friendship has so much more power, and so much more benefit, tactically and strategically, economically, diplomatically, relationally, and for security.

As we see new lights, and new clinics and new schools coming up in northeast Syria, we pray that they'll get the support they need to continue and grow. In Tabqa, across the Euphrates from Raqqa, I met a young boy who told me in great English, "I want to be a biologist and study in Japan, even though it sounds very unlikely and seems impossible. I will work hard to do it."

It's children like this who are the hope of northeast and all of Syria. They need help to fulfill their dreams. Otherwise, they could easily fall under the oppression of Assad's regime, under a resurgence of ISIS or under an onslaught of Turkish and proxy forces. Thank you for praying for another way that is of love and truth and reconciliation. ♦

Top Left: FBR volunteers in Syria.

Top Right: FBR volunteers at a playground built with the help of Reload Love.



This hospital has been named after our fallen team-member and friend, Zau Seng. Below, Dave Eubank shares some memories of Zau and the significance of this hospital:

During the Turkish and Free Syrian Army invasion of October 2019, when Zau Seng was killed, we became very close to Dr. Hassan and all the hospital staff in Tell-Tamer. Together we helped treat over 700 wounded people, and the bond of love between us grew and grew. When the hospital itself was hit and damaged, we were asked to help build a new hospital. We prayed and even though we did not feel this is our normal mission, because of the unique circumstance and our relationship with the people in the hospital and Zau's dying there, we said yes and we prayed for the funds. We thank God the funds did come in and we were able to build this hospital which they've named after Zau.

When I think about Zau, who was my brother in Christ and Free Burma Rangers, and all we went through together, and how many times he risked his life to save other people including me, and then watching him be killed right next to me in Syria, it always makes me sad at the loss but glad that he's in heaven and glad that I and others got to spend so much time with him here on this earth. We pray for his young wife, Lu Nu, and his daughter, and pray for comfort for them. One comfort that we see is the building of this hospital in Tell-Tamer, Syria. I pray that it is a place of healing for all who enter it and a reminder of Zau and other people's love and sacrifice. The Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Zau exemplified that and we pray that the hospital is also a living symbol and a place of healing and help and hope.

CHAPLAINCY

*Below: Members of FBR celebrate with newly baptized rangers.
Far Below: FBR chaplains baptize a new ranger.*



I have a darkness in my heart that I cannot get rid of,” shared a student with one of the chaplains during training. “It is a burden I have carried since before I can remember.”

“Do you want to be free of this burden? Only Jesus can remove this burden from you,” the chaplain responded.

“I am not sure He can take this burden. It is too deep. I am not sure I even want to give it to up,” replied the student.

“Pray,” the chaplain replied. “Ask Jesus to give you the courage. Only He can do this.”

Over the next few weeks this student progressively shared more about the burden he was carrying. He hated ethnically Burman people. He had watched over his 25+ years of life the atrocities committed against his Karen people by the Burma Army. He listened as racism was perpetuated in his school and community.

This man was now teammates and bunkmates in training with ethnically Burman people and being taught to do everything in love - to even love your enemies. Before each meal he stood and recited the Ranger Motto while carrying this hatred in his heart.

“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.”

God had brought this student to a crossroads. He could no longer carry his burden and carry the weight of loving his team. God had brought him to a crossroads. And then light shined into the darkness.

“Last night I gave my burden to Jesus!” exclaimed the student one morning. “I can’t believe He actually took it from me! It was so much easier than I ever thought. My heart feels so light and free!”

The situation in Burma is dark. Each day millions of people are being oppressed and driven to despair. Hope remains. There are many other examples of the light of Jesus Christ shining in the darkness. We know from the gospel of John that when Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5).

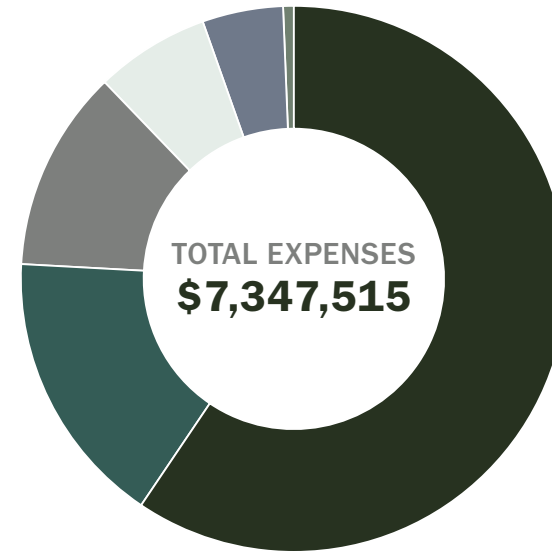
What’s Ahead?

The chaplaincy has been a longstanding, integral part of the FBR team. The men who have served and continue to serve over the years have helped us keep our eyes focused on Jesus, love each other despite our differences, and forgive even our enemies. It became apparent that as our team grows, so too must the chaplaincy.

What changes? At the heart level, nothing changes. Jesus will help us to chart a course over time. Gospel-centered activities are central to what everyone does in FBR regardless of department. As followers of Jesus we are all called to build up one another through God’s Word, prayer, and Jesus’ love (Eph 4) and to share the good news of Jesus Christ (Mt 28:19-20). The Chaplain Department wants to support and encourage everyone to follow obediently and boldly in faith where Jesus leads. The department will center its activities on three things: caring for people by pointing to Jesus Christ; encouraging Gospel connections into all areas of life; training, preparing, and building up followers of Jesus who disciple others to follow Jesus. Pray for our steps in 2023 and beyond! ♦



FINANCE



TOTAL REVENUE \$6,354,273

Free Burma Rangers (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. Free Burma Rangers 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 many currencies including Thai Baht, Iraqi Dinar, Myanmar Kyat, Syrian Pounds, and U.S. Dollars (USD) in its operations. The numbers here reflect the totals in USD using the actual or average conversion rate of each currency. During 2022 we witnessed some of the worst fighting we have seen in Burma, and we are thankful for our faithful supporters who continue to answer the call to help the oppressed wherever God calls us. Our message continues to be the same, to be ambassadors for Jesus and to share His love. The increase in expenses in 2022 was due to the overwhelming humanitarian crisis caused by the Burma Army coup and was funded out of our surplus from the prior year. We also continue to help in Syria, Kurdistan, and with Afghan refugees. Thank you for helping us bring help, hope, and love to the oppressed.

- **BURMA OPERATIONS**
\$4,367,915 - 59.5%
- **MIDDLE EAST OPERATIONS**
\$1,206,213 - 16.4%
- **THAILAND OPERATIONS**
\$877,535 - 11.9%
- **MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL**
\$497,660 - 6.8%
- **ADVOCACY**
\$351,685 - 4.8%
- **DONATION PROCESSING FEES**
\$46,507 - 0.6%



Free the Oppressed participates in several matching programs, including:

1. www.benevity.com (used by companies including Apple, Google, and Microsoft for employee matching)
2. www.cybergrants.com (used by companies including Caterpillar, Nike, Nordstrom, and Walmart for employee matching)
3. 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 2023 Platinum seal of Transparency from Guidestar.org. Please see more at www.guidestar.org/profile/47-4648581

FBR/FTO is committed to integrity and is a member of the ECFA. Read more at www.ecfa.org.

Donations can be made online at www.freeburmarangers.org or through the mail at:

Free the Oppressed
PO Box 912938
Denver, CO 80291-2938

Audited financial statements and IRS 990 tax returns are available on our website. Email questions to giving@freeburmarangers.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Sitte Khine 24 JANUARY 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 hard-working, dedicated Ranger who served selflessly in Burma. He was loved by many.



Ree Doh 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Killed by a 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.



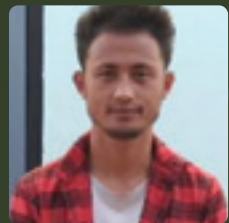
Elizabeth 8 MARCH 2022

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 Doolaya District in Karen State. He was married with two children and served as a medic on the Doolaya 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.



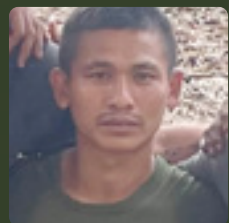
Joe John 13 APRIL 2022

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.



Hsi Hsi 4 JUNE 2022

Hsi Hsi was loved by all and looked forward to being married one day. He was a great influence on the other students and was a leader during the training. Shortly after the training while on mission he became sick. The medics treated his symptoms of high fever, vomiting and pain but he became weaker and weaker. He was carried to a nearby village and died in the night. He was always so strong and so cheerful and so able; he gave his life fully to others. We cannot believe he's gone.



Nay Zaw Oo 4 JULY 2022

Two Burma Army jets flew over Mutraw District in Karen State, and dropped three bombs, hitting a clinic, a rice house, and a training classroom. Nay Zaw Oo, an Arakan Ranger, was hit in the back and leg and died from his wounds. Nay Zaw Oo was an incredible Ranger. He dedicated his life to helping other people, putting his own life on the line so others can be free and safe. He dreamed of seeing freedom in Burma, and – on the 4th of July – he was freed from his earthly body. May he rest in peace. He will be missed.

57 rangers have given their lives for others. This past year, 14 were killed as they gave help, hope, and love to people in need.



Shay Reh 8 JULY 2022

Shay Reh was a new Ranger and was always cheerful and smiling. He was a favorite of the students. I was told, "He was the funniest guy on our team; how can we smile and laugh anymore? It's going to be hard." After the mission, he did an arduous mission back to help his Karenni people under heavy attack. He was consistently at the front, helping evacuate wounded and take care of people up to the moment he was killed by a Burma Army mortar attack on 8 July. He will be greatly missed and we are very sorry.



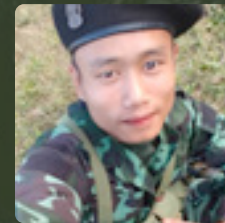
Saw Hser K'Paw 5 JANUARY 2023

Saw Hser K' Paw Moo served with us for 5 years as a Good Life Club leader and video man. He was a friend to all he knew and he loved life. We remember him as one of the best children's program leaders and he was always kind and very funny. His team in training was the most outstanding team and won the top awards. He was killed by the Burma Army on January 5, 2023. His loss is huge for us all here and we will do our best to honor his memory and help his family.



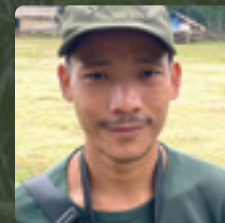
Saw Baw Boe 9 JANUARY 2023

Saw Baw Boe is one of our original rangers and has been with us for over 20 years. He was killed on 9 January 2023 in western Karen State as he filmed a Burma Army offensive. He was tireless and cheerful and was very talented. He served in the jungle, helping his people, as well as in the highest political levels and ceasefire negotiations with the Burma military. He was one of the most trusted people in Burma and is irreplaceable. Most of all, he was a friend and brother to us.



Vittorio 20 JANUARY 2023

Vittorio acted bravely and selflessly up to the point of his death. He was killed helping others escape through intense fire of the Burma Army. His life inspires us, and his death makes us sad, but we thank God that he is now in heaven, with Jesus. Vittorio set an example of love, service, and sacrifice for all of us, and we thank God for him. Our team was able to meet Vittorio's parents and awarded him the FBR Medal of Honor.



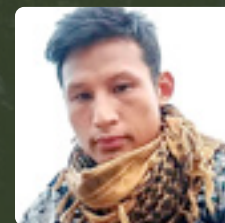
Thant Zaw Htwe 11 APRIL 2023

Thant Zaw Htwe was killed by a Burma Army landmine on 11 April 2023. He was a leading member of the Good Life Club program and one of the kindest, most humble, and hard-working rangers we ever served with. On the last mission we spent with him, his constant smile brightened each day while his love gave joy to children in hiding. After every children's program, he would walk around and pick up trash and spent extra time comforting families. He was the first to be ready for any mission and one of the last to leave a dangerous area. He will be missed.



Francisco Jarja 18 MAY 2023

Francisco was very interested in helping people and bringing wounded to safety so he decided to join the Free Burma Rangers. During training, he was always cheerful and made us laugh. He was a very hard worker. He helped lead children's programs and document the situation in Burma. Francisco was a bright light of love to the displaced. He was killed by a drone weapon in the battle of Tani Larle on the eastern side of Demoso, Karenni State. He is very missed by all of us who knew him, and we will do our best to help his family.



Saw Traw Sher 21 MAY 2023

Saw Traw Sher joined FBR in 2015 and served for over eight years until his death. He distinguished himself in the relief team training as an eager, able, and hard-working ranger. He returned to his area of Thaton District to help his people and serve FBR. There he proved to be a highly competent relief provider and security lead. He was calm under all kinds of pressure and was very brave, even under fire. He was killed when he was hit by a 40mm grenade fired from a Burma Army M79 grenade launcher. His actions helped slow the advance of the Burma Army but he lost his life in doing so.



FREE RANGER BURMA





FBR GLC counselor with Karenni children.

Contact us by email at:
info@freeburmarangers.org

For more information visit us online:
www.freeburmarangers.org

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