



JUNGLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE KAWTHOOLEI

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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FBR Director Dave Eubank Message to the Medics

“Where God leads, never give up. We all make mistakes. Keep asking God to help and then get up and try again . We can all pray and try. God will take care of the rest.”





Letters from the **DIRECTORS**



TOH Director

Toh Win is the JSMK Director. He is responsible for all medical and administrative duties associated with the medical campus. He works as an advanced medic, teacher, and translator for foreign doctors that educate at JSMK. He ensures the campus runs smoothly, overseeing solar power supplies, water, food, housing, satellite communication, the elementary school, and other logistical and infrastructural needs.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

- 1 Corinthians 12:14

God creation is amazing especially human body. We have many parts in our body that do amazing things that we cannot understand. As the parts of our body working together make the works of the body happen. For example, if no eyes or no legs our body is in trouble. Still can do some works but cannot function in all parts. The work of JSMK is not one person doing the job. It is the team who doing the job. Every year there are many challenges that we must go through, but each year we did it, and “we did it again” in the

year of 2022. God is leading us, and we walk and work together side by side. We know Burma Army is trying to destroy us (ethnic minority) with their power, but we are not broken because our God is bigger than their power. We still can do the work in our own area. We still can help our people; we still have friends and supports. This is because of our almighty God who is leading us and bless us. So, “we did it again”.

Thank you everyone who praying for us and help keep this work going.

May God bless you all.

Toh Win



DR. JOHN International Director

John Shaw is the International Medical Director for JSMK. He is an American family physician with an additional master's degree in Tropical Infectious Disease. He teaches at JSMK four to five months per year and has been with FBR since 2006.

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 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 far beyond counting. And we thank our supporters, who fund and pray for all we do.

Dr. John Shaw

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line and a curved flourish.

JUNGLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE KAWTHOOLEI

FBR's JSMK is a small hospital, clinic, and medic training facility located in a remote site of eastern Burma. JSMK primarily provides training for rural medics and treats patients from villages in the surrounding mountains.



A man holds his son as he receives treatment from the medics at JSMK.

Medic Training

JSMK's 14-month course prepares health workers to treat illnesses and injuries among remote rural people, civilians, and soldiers affected by Burma's civil war. Trainees are from other marginalized populations in Burma and mostly ethnic Karen. The curriculum is shaped by patient care experiences, students learn to manage the problems and diseases encountered in Karen State. An eight-week course, Foundations, covers English, medical mathematics, science basics, and clinical methods (history taking and physical examination). If students pass the Foundations examination, they progress to Clinical Care where a full curriculum of management is taught. Lessons are based on presenting problems such as diarrhea, cough, edema, skin complaints, etc. Teams of students rotate weekly through in-patient and out-patient responsibilities and are supervised by JSMK staff. Second-year students are given additional patient care responsibilities and also have the choice to attend classes. Visiting doctors and nurses provide additional lectures and teaching sessions in the clinic. JSMK staff spend most of their time treating patients and supervising new students.



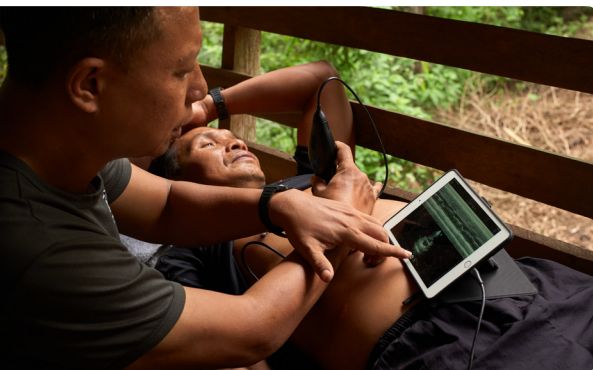
*Top: Students learn how to use ultrasound.
Middle and Below: Students discuss lessons
one-on-one in the classroom*

Hospital and Clinic

The average patient walks approximately four days to get to JSMK. Sicker patients arrive by ‘bambulance’: a hammock strung on a bamboo pole carried by loved ones. Some of these patients have late-stage tumors, congenital heart disease, hydrocephalus, and gynecologic problems. JSMK manages surgical emergencies such as ectopic pregnancy. JSMK has 12 beds which are often full. While we cannot provide a comprehensive referral service at this time, we do try to love and assist patients who come as best we can.

Surgical Services

In 2021 Dr. John was able to perform numerous surgeries such as vasectomies, molar pregnancy D&C, and suturing of large machete lacerations. In 2022, a team of surgeons from Singapore served at JSMK for a month. The surgeons completed 17 operations that included hernias, hydroceles, lymph node biopsies, and a palliative gastro-jejunostomy for advanced stomach cancer with outlet obstruction. The team provided training with the ultrasound SonoSim program and introduced a new inventory system called Airtable.



Top: A patient arrives by raft in a “bambulance”. Bottom Left: A medic performs an ultrasound. Bottom Right: A baby at the clinic for treatment. Far Right: A medic examines a patient’s eye.

Ancillary Service

Despite its remote, off-grid location, JSMK offers a variety of ancillary and diagnostic services, including, Ultrasonography, X-Rays, simple laboratory testing for hematocrit, urinalysis, pregnancy testing, blood typing and crossmatching, sedimentation rate, and rapid diagnostic testing for malaria, HIV, and Hepatitis B.

MICROSCOPY: test malaria, tuberculosis, white cell count, hemoglobin (qualitative), manual counting of white blood cells and platelets, and gram stain EKG.

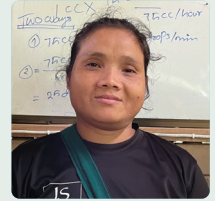


SENIOR STAFF

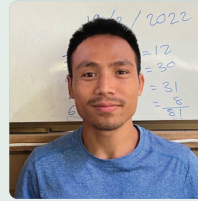
There are a total of eight senior staff members at JSMK. They not only serve as medical professionals, but also serve as instructors for the students. These individuals live in the community surrounding the clinic. The community around the clinic includes a school and community church.



Hser Eh Htoo



Per Saw Paw



Poe Eh



Silver Horn



Eh Be



Main Kyaw




Poe Di



Serapu

12 YEARS
IN OPERATION 

 **25** **STUDENTS**

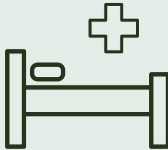
 **8** **SECOND YEAR**
STUDENTS

2+5

MEDICS
GRADUATED

19 **JUNIOR**
STAFF 

TREATMENT NUMBERS

361  **INPATIENT**
DEPARTMENT

JSMK *BY THE*
NUMBERS

3 FACILITIES
MANAGERS



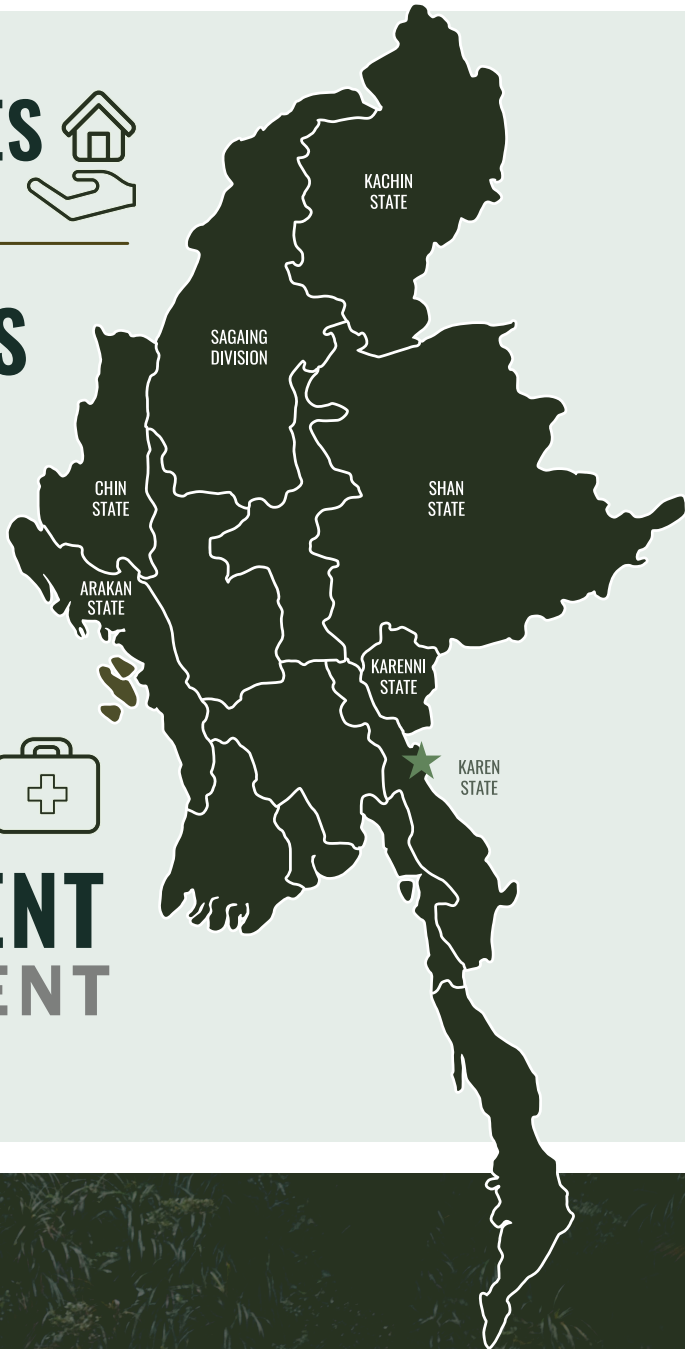
3 INTERNS



8 SENIOR
STAFF



2909
OUTPATIENT
DEPARTMENT



MY NAME IS NAW SHA PAW HTOO

A JSMK Student Story

My name is Naw Sha Paw Htoo from Karenni State. The coup started on Feb 1st, 2021, and the whole country of Burma became unstable. Starting on May 25, the villagers were running because there were more activities of the Burma Army. The Burma Army uses jet fighters for shooting, dropping bombs and shelling mortars as they want. Because of this many people have become displaced, many houses burnt down and destroyed, many got wounded and died. The number of IDPs is increasing, thousand to thousands. The IDPs are hiding in the jungle and faced with many difficulties including health problems. Some of them die from common diseases that are treatable. When I look at this, I want to help them as I can, but I do not know

how because I have no medical background. Because of this I want to attend JSMK to get medic training so I can help my people. And I heard in JSMK they train good medics, so I want to come

When I joined JSMK I felt like it was a big blessing for me. I learned many things: medic skills, diseases, medicine, teamwork, unity, and love. This is because I have good teachers. I have learned about patient suffering, how to behave with each patient. This I learned from the teachers because they set a good example. So, I want to say that I have learned more than what I hoped for. This is the time for me to pay all back to my teachers by doing what they have taught me: never stop learning, put God first, keep helping my people and never surrender. God bless you all.





Many HEROES

A Patient Care Story

Tropical diseases are common at the Jungle School of Medicine. The most common ones tend to be malaria, dengue, leptospirosis, and tuberculosis. We also see a lot of pneumonia throughout the year, in young children and adults. Skin infections that are easily treatable with antibiotics are also frequent. However, one day, we received a patient that was different.

Naw Htoo Kuh was a 26-year-old woman who was also pregnant; she presented with six months of pain, decreased mobility of her right shoulder, and was feeling ill.

She had tried many different clinics and had so far not responded to antibiotics. Our medics saw this as an infection, did an ultrasound, and started IV antibiotics. We were all worried

that it could be a kind of cancer that infiltrated the muscle of her shoulder and were also concerned about the well-being of her unborn baby girl, now at 20 weeks. Was this a muscle infection? Was it an infiltrative cancerous process? We can do some things in the jungle but we don't have specialists in the field of dermatology or infectious disease.

She became a patient of the Chiang Mai Patient Management Team, who quickly took her under their care. Because of her pain level and the seriousness of her case, Naw Htoo Kuh was initially taken to one of the private hospitals, where they performed an MRI and muscle biopsy the same day. There were many long hours of waiting, discussions with physicians,





Naw Htoo Kuh's shoulder before and after receiving treatment.



blood work, and radiological studies. During this time, Naw Htoo Kuh developed a high fever and the pain level in her shoulder increased. The team continued to be concerned about her ability to fight this infection and also how the medications given might affect the baby. Finally, the biopsy results came in, showing a fungal infection of the shoulder; the team was grateful for a diagnosis, and especially for no cancer. This was a relief for a better prognosis for Naw Htoo Kuh and her baby.

With the help of the oncologist and the infectious disease doctor

who had been following her case, medications were given to begin to treat this rare infection. These doctors soon realized Naw Htoo Khu's care needed to be at a more specialized hospital, Suan Dok, and they personally contacted their colleagues regarding her case. The help that these doctors gave us at the private hospital was exceptional and their concern helped propel her to some of the best and brightest doctors, at Suandok, the teaching hospital in Chiang Mai. The biopsy and blood work eventually yielded a final diagnosis of pythium basidiobolomycosis,



which is a rare tropical fungal infection. There are only 28 human cases reported in the literature and most of these have been in Thailand.

The world often thinks about one hero and one person who makes all the difference. But in the case of Naw Htoo Kuh, it is a story of many people involved in her care contributing to making her healthy again. The strong medics at JSMK realized that this was a case that needed more work up and asked for referral to Chiang Mai. The Chiang Mai Patient Management

team worked tirelessly to ensure that Naw Kuh Htoo got the tests and care she needed. And the Thai doctors with their expertise, care, and medications, searching until they found the cause of her ailment and providing the necessary treatment. Through the process, the hand of God was seen many times and our teams continue to praise the Lord for working in miraculous ways.

In this case a patient's life and the life of her baby were saved because of the many hands working together to help her.

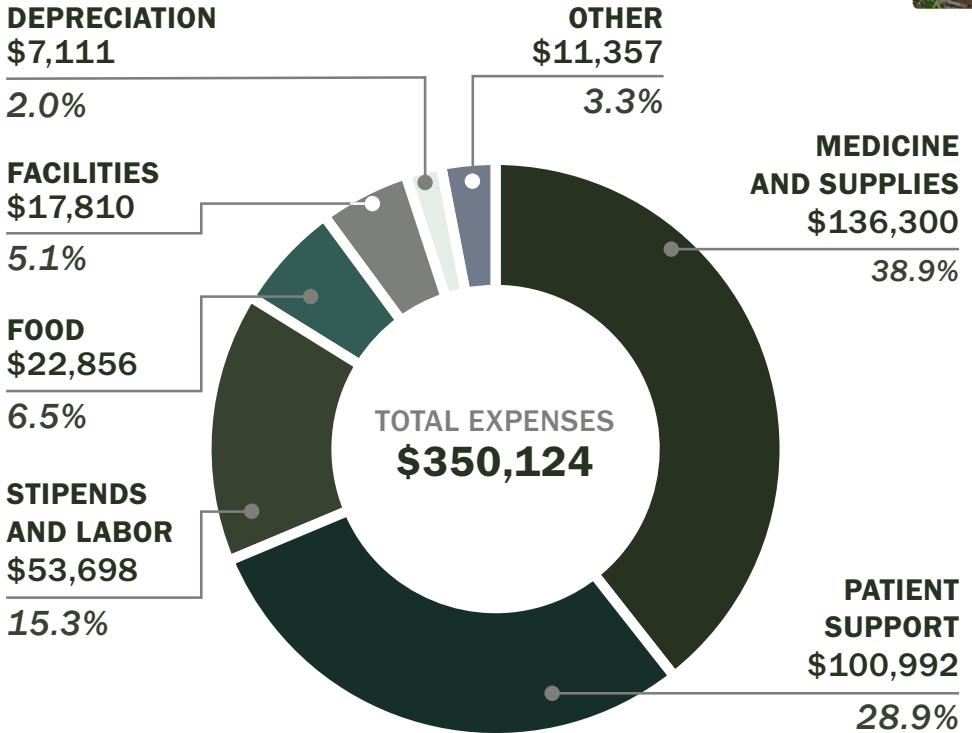


Patient Referral Program

Some patients require more care than JSMK can provide. With help from friends, other organizations, and FBR's patient care referral team (PCT), we were able to refer 40 patients to more advanced care in 2022.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

- New Outpatient Department
- New Obstetrics Room
- New Medical Teaching Classroom
- Expanded Solar Capabilities
- New Administrative Office
- New Male Staff House
- New Storage Building





JSMK is 100% funded through Free the Oppressed DBA Free Burma Rangers (FTO/ FBR) and its partners. FTO is a 501(c)(3) approved organization. Donations can be made through FTO and FBR’s websites, www.fto.org and www.freeburmarangers.org and should be designated toward “JSMK”. Check donations can be mailed to:

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

Please write “JSMK” in the memo line. Audited financial statements and IRS 990 tax returns are available on our websites. Email questions to: giving@freeburmarangers.org.



Free the Oppressed DBA Free Burma Rangers has earned a 2023 Platinum seal of Transparency from Guidestar.org and a four star rating from Charity Navigator. Please see more at: www.guidestar.org/profile/47-4648581 and www.charitynavigator.org/ein/474648581

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

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