

FREE BURMA RANGERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



PHOTOS

Left: FBR Karen medics treat a Peshmerga soldier injured in ISIS mortar attack.

Top right: FBR training.

Bottom right: FBR team leader with Karen children at GLC program.





CHILD VICTIMS OF WAR

Young Yazidi boy in an IDP camp on Sinjar Mountain. He lost his hand and part of his arm to an exploding shell.

Dear friends,

Thank you for all of your prayers, encouragement and support that enable our 70 FBR relief teams to give help, hope, love and get the news out in Burma, Sudan and Kurdistan, Iraq. Along with going to new mission areas, we have started a new foundation, Free The Oppressed, to support our work everywhere we go (see page 19). The name, “Free The Oppressed,” 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.” I want to follow Jesus in this and share His love with all in need.

In Burma, there are good changes with the National League for Democracy and Aung San Suu Kyi winning the election and leading the new government. However, many people in the conflict areas could not vote and the military still controls an automatic 25% of the seats in Parliament due to the constitution put in place by the dictatorship in 2008. Attacks continue against the Kachin, Shan and Ta’ang in northern

Burma and against the Arakan in western Burma. Even in ceasefire areas, the Burma Army has not withdrawn its forces. Also in western Burma over 100,000 of the Rohingya minority live in concentration camps. We pray for, stand with and help those left out of this process, and those under attack and oppression.

In the midst of this continuing oppression and uncertainty in their country, Rangers from Burma feel the call of God to go help people under attack in Kurdistan, Sudan and other places in the world. We see the power of God in this and, as in Burma, we go compelled by His love to give help, hope and love in Jesus’ name. In 2015, we went to Kurdistan three times, providing medical training on the front lines, doing children’s programs in the IDP camps and getting the news out.

We stand against oppressors, be they in Burma, Kurdistan, or Sudan, and we’re also praying for the oppressors—and asking God for love for them. No one is beyond redemption: Fighting evil and grounding our actions in love are practical ways towards defeating evil and uniting for a new way forward. Psalm 77:19 says what I feel about how God leads us, “Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.” Thank you for going and praying with us.

God bless you,

Dave Eubank
Director
Free Burma Rangers



Eubank Family



Karen medic treats patients at a field clinic in Karen State.

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.



A new Ranger learns how to cross a rope bridge at basic ranger training.



JSMK medic at work.

Table of Contents

5. Situation Updates: Kurdistan and Burma

Situation updates from Burma and Kurdistan: why we go where we go.

10. Relief Teams Map: Burma

Meet Ne Kyaw, a 15-year-old Wa Ranger, and see our ranger team distribution throughout Burma.

12. Responding to Need: Training Rangers, Equipping Leaders

Multiple trainings are conducted to equip the people we serve to provide help, hope and love to people in need.

15. Updates from the Jungle School of Medicine- Kawthoolei

Learn about new activities of the staff and students at the medical school and clinic in the jungle, where patients sometimes travel days to receive treatment.

16. In the Field: Medics at Work in Burma and Kurdistan

Stories of FBR medics in action and patients lives changed.

17. Advocacy and the Good Life Club

Information movement from the field to the rest of the world, sharing stories and statistics. Read one story of GLC at work.

21. Finances

Our 2015 revenues along with announcements about our new foundation and new ways to support FBR through AmazonSmile.

23. Join the Movement

Six ways for anyone to become a part of the movement to free the oppressed.



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Objectives

- 1) To inspire, train and equip people spiritually, physically, relationally and professionally to bring positive change through acts of love and service.
- 2) To provide immediate medical assistance, shelter, food, clothing, educational materials and other humanitarian aid in war zones and to improve logistics and medical evacuation.
- 3) To develop information networks that document, report and disseminate accounts of human rights violations and provide an early warning system.
- 4) To provide prayer and counseling for victims of human rights abuses and to support programs for women and children.
- 5) To train, equip and sustain indigenous humanitarian relief teams in the field.

THE FREE BURMA RANGERS (FBR) is a multi-ethnic humanitarian service ***movement***. Ethnic pro-democracy groups send teams to FBR to be trained, supplied and sent into areas under attack or in crisis to provide emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing and human rights documentation. In addition to relief and reporting, other results of the teams' actions are the development of leadership capacity, civil society and the strengthening of inter-ethnic unity.

We are led by the words of Jesus:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." -Luke 4:18

MOVEMENT: Rangers are volunteers. They choose to work for freedom for all people of Burma, working for spiritual freedom first, to lay the foundation for political and physical freedom. They go towards the attack to help people and **they cannot run away if the people they are helping cannot escape.**

TAKING THE MOVEMENT TO NEW AREAS:

- In 2014, FBR was invited to take this model to Sudan and help the Nuban people under attack by the Sudanese Armed Forces. We trained Nuban relief teams and provided aid to those under attack.
- In 2015, FBR was invited to Kurdistan, where the Kurds are under attack from ISIS. We conducted four missions between 2015-2016, providing basic medical training, reporting and aid.



Bringing Help, Sharing Hope and Love
Karen Ranger leads a GLC program in the Nuba area of Sudan, 2014.

International Missions: Serving in Kurdistan

If our families were held or killed by ISIS, what would we do? We would try to rescue our families and hunt down the terrorists. But how do we do this in justice and with love? The evil reign of ISIS, now spreading worldwide, has made it clear how vulnerable we all are and that we need to act.

In 2015, FBR participated in hearings with members of the U.S. Congress, State Department and Pentagon about the ISIS crisis. We testified alongside a young Yazidi woman who had been captured by ISIS in August 2014 from Sinjar City; she was sold to a ISIS recruit and was held and raped for five months in Syria before escaping. She described the rapes and murders of hundreds of people. Her powerful testimony brought many to tears. She appealed for help for the more than 3,000 other girls who are still held captive.

We conducted three relief missions to the Sinjar area of Kurdistan, northern Iraq, in 2015. Our team included the Karen people from Burma, whose shared experience of historical oppression sparked a deep connection with the Kurds we met. On Sinjar Mountain, thousands of displaced Yazidis still live in tents. Below is the city of Sinjar, which has now been liberated by the Kurds with U.S. and coalition air support. The people thanked America and all those who are helping, saying, “We are fighting ISIS not just for us but for the world.”

It is right to stop ISIS and rescue the thousands of girls and women held as sex slaves. A Yazidi mother told us, “When we get our homes back from ISIS it will mean nothing if our children are dead.”

It is right to stop their global acts of murder and terror. The longer we wait, the more ISIS gains in perceived

legitimacy, reinforcements, and preparation.

We need a two-part strategy: One, to set the oppressed free and defeat ISIS; two, to share love and mercy and open a way for change.

The first part means that the international community immediately conducts the political, diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, and military actions needed to set people free and defeat ISIS.

The second part means we respect ethnic and religious tensions and acknowledge the concerns of each nation. It means admitting wrongs, correcting the injustice that allows ISIS to grow, being willing to give freedom to ethnic groups within a regional partnership and to offer mercy and a way out for ISIS members.

We stand against ISIS and we’re also praying for the people of ISIS—and asking God for love for them. No one is beyond redemption: In Burma a regime soldier who once murdered villagers joined our team to help the same people he once attacked.

I prayed three prayers while looking at the black flag of ISIS flying outside of Mosul:

- 1) That ISIS would be stopped.
- 2) That Kurds and all peoples of this area would be free.
- 3) That the hearts of ISIS and all enemies would change to love, all in Jesus’ name.

Fighting evil and grounding our actions in love are practical ways towards defeating ISIS and uniting for a new way forward.



THE HUMAN COST OF ISIS

From 1 January 2014 through to the end of October 2015, UNAMI/OHCHR recorded **at least 55,047 civilian casualties** as a result of the non-international armed conflict in Iraq: **18,802 killed** and **36,245 wounded**.

This father's 2-year-old daughter was kidnapped by ISIS. He hasn't seen her in two years.

ISIS: The Path to Genocide in Iraq and Syria

2014

ISIS takes Fallujah in Iraq. Al Qaeda officially renounces any relationship with ISIS. ISIS takes Mosul. The assets gained from the territory ISIS has seized, including funds, oil revenues, smuggling, extortion and foreign donations, is estimated at \$2 billion.

29 June 2014

ISIS changes its name to the Islamic State (IS), declaring a Caliphate, naming Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi the Caliph and calling on all Muslims to join.

3 August 2014

IS takes Sinjar City, a major center of the Yazidi, a Kurdish religious group considered heretical by IS. Thousands are killed, more are captured, and 50,000 people are stranded on Sinjar Mountain.

8 August 2014

US authorizes and launches air strikes on IS positions and provides humanitarian air drops to help those stranded on Sinjar Mountain.

December 2014

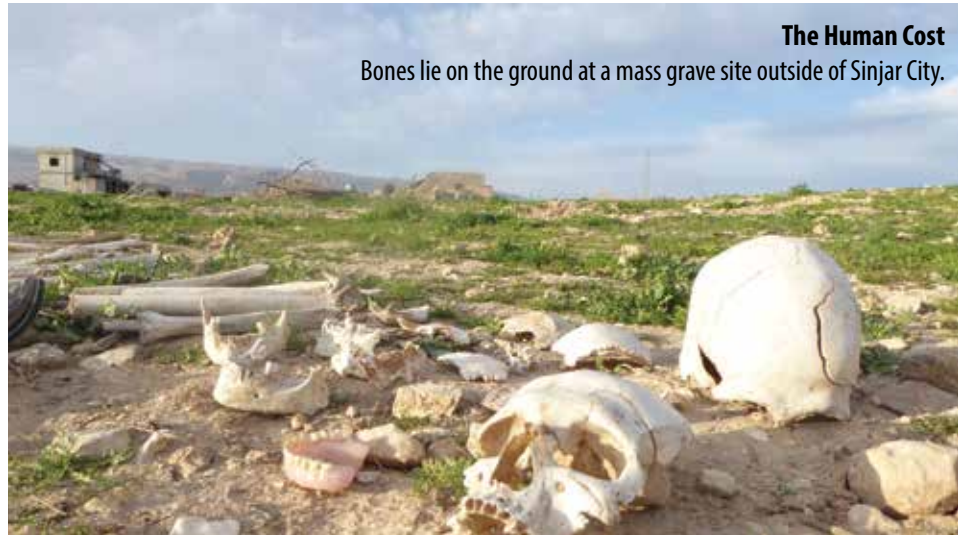
Peshmerga and coalition forces retake Mt. Sinjar, while most of Sinjar City remains under IS control.

November 2015

Peshmerga and coalition forces retake the city of Sinjar.

17 March 2016

Secretary of State John Kerry announces that the United States has determined that ISIS' actions against the Yazidi and other minority groups in Iraq and Syria constitute genocide.

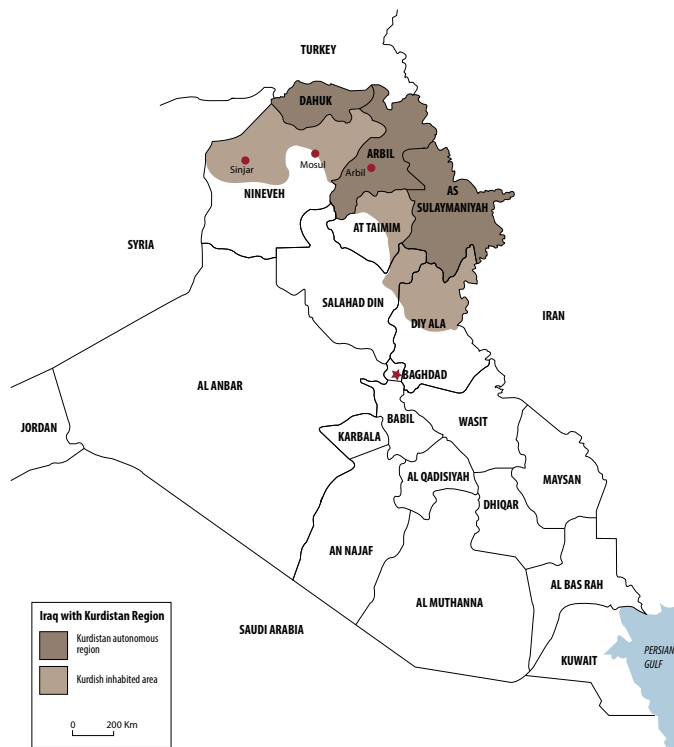


The Human Cost

Bones lie on the ground at a mass grave site outside of Sinjar City.

ISIS and the Ongoing Conflict in Kurdistan

ISIS has stormed into the forefront of international consciousness with a nearly unprecedented rapidity, largely through a campaign of extreme brutality conducted with calculated publicity. Their narrow and radical interpretation of Islam, amounting to a mandate of total domination, has alienated Muslims and non-Muslims alike, essentially putting them at war with the world - while at the same time attracting an army of recruits from both western and middle eastern countries. In addition to seizing large swaths of Iraq and Syria, they have claimed responsibility for terror attacks around the world. In March 2016, the U.S. Congress and State Department agreed that the violence against Christians and Yazidis qualified as attempted genocide - a designation governments rarely make before the end of a conflict. In 2015, with the escalation of coalition response to the ISIS threat, the groups fighting them in Syria and Iraq/Kurdistan began to win ground back. However, the war drags on and hundreds of thousands of people remain in captivity or unable to return to their homes.





Bringing help, hope and love
137 Rangers graduated in 2015

7 | 2015 Annual Report

Continuing Work Inside a Changing Burma

The situation in Burma is changing, in some cases for the better and in others for the worse. In the midst of this, FBR continues its mission of giving help, hope and love and putting a light on the situation.

In areas where there have been improvements, such as parts of Karen State, some of our teams are able to operate freely and have established some understanding with local Burma Army units that allows them to provide humanitarian assistance without interference.

FBR teams are also working at being part of a convergence and standardization of health care provision with the hope that if positive change comes to Burma, then there will be a unified and integrated approach to health care for all. We are planning for and working towards a coordinated and united effort with all concerned to provide health care and humanitarian assistance in Burma. We have offered to work with some in the leadership in the Burma Government and hope to further develop positive relationships.

Wherever we can, we try to work openly and with the understanding of the Burma Army and

government. Our hope is that one day there can be reconciliation in Burma and that we can all work together for the good of all.

Unfortunately, in areas where the Burma Army is conducting offensives such as Kachin State and Northern Shan State, the FBR teams must avoid the Burma Army as they provide relief to those in need. Last year two of our relief workers were killed by the Burma Army in Kachin State and this year in May one of our Kachin team leaders was shot as he filmed a Burma Army attack. Earlier this year two Kachin teachers were raped, tortured and then murdered by Burma Army troops and there has been no justice or accountability. Burma is in the midst of change and we want to report to you what is happening, both good and bad. We are grateful for those who have brought greater freedoms to Burma. We also want to stand with those who have not yet experienced those freedoms and are still under attack.

Burma in Early 2016: Hope and Uncertainty

The landslide victory of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) in the November 2015 elections in Burma (Myanmar) was a watershed moment. As in 1990, some two-thirds of the electorate voted for change. After decades of struggle and violent repression, it seemed that at last Burma was undergoing democratisation.

Although the 2008 constitution prohibits Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming President, her election victory ensured that U Htin Kyaw, the NLD's nominee, will assume what is nominally the country's top position, allowing 'the lady' to steer policy and government from the position "above the president" (to use her words). Things could have worked out differently and the outgoing President and his team deserve credit for overseeing these changes. Nevertheless, many serious concerns remain and Burma is far from completing its difficult transition.

Burma will likely become an example of the 'new normal politics' in Southeast Asia - a hybrid regime, with an elected executive, and entrenched elites dominant in much of politics and the economy. Despite the transition to a civilian government, the Myanmar Army retains control of three key ministries, including the General Administration Department, which runs much of the country on a day-to-day basis. Also, 'crony capitalists' - many of who are intimately connected to the military hierarchy - remain hugely influential, and will have opportunities under a newly open and expanding Myanmar economy to further increase their wealth and influence.

An important and unresolved aspect of these transitions is the future of ethnic politics in Burma. For decades, Ethnic Armed Groups (EAGs), representing minority communities that make up more than one-third of the population, have been struggling for self-determination. Most of these groups have agreed to some form of ceasefire and, in October 2015, eight signed a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) with the outgoing regime and Myanmar Army. Despite the lack of inclusiveness (about a dozen armed groups refused to sign the NCA), the NCA has so far proved more successful than some critics expected. A political dialogue was initiated in January 2016 bringing together the outgoing government, Myanmar Army, NCA signatory groups, and elements of Myanmar's civil society. Whether the new government will be willing to continue the peace process, and associated political dialogue, is yet to be seen. The NLD regards political legitimacy as coming out of participation in parliamentary politics, not as something achieved through armed struggle. In the longer term therefore, it seems unlikely that EAGs will continue to enjoy the privileged position as representatives of minority communities

that they were granted under the previous government.

Key EAGs enjoy significant legitimacy among the communities they seek to represent, although this is often contested by other stakeholders. There is a risk that an NLD-led government will undermine or ignore EAGs, preferring instead to work with co-opted ethnic elites from within or in alliance with the NLD. In this case, the NCA may prove to be a high watermark in the EAGs' political leverage, vis-a-vis the government.

On the ground the peace process has resulted in huge improvements in the standard of living for conflict-affected communities in areas where ceasefires are holding. Across southeast Burma, villages are experiencing more security and increased possibilities of movement. However, the ceasefires have allowed greater access to these areas for industries such as logging and mining, and positive benefits must be balanced against experience of and concern about land confiscation, and the incursion of still-militarized government structures into previously semi-autonomous ethnic nationality-populated areas.

In other parts of the country, including much of Kachin

and Shan states in the north and parts of Rakhine in the west, civilian populations have experienced little respite. Indeed, the Myanmar Army has launched new military campaigns against those EAGs that did not sign the NCA.

"Is this the new reality – civilian government taking partial control over areas where ceasefires have been agreed, while the Myanmar Army continues to operate with systematic violence, in areas where ceasefires have not been consolidated?"

Is this the new reality – civilian government taking partial control over areas where ceasefires have been agreed, while the Myanmar Army continues to operate with systematic violence, in areas where ceasefires have not been consolidated? If so, ethnic nationality communities across much of the country will continue to suffer from violence and exclusion, regardless of any change of government in Naypyidaw.

Another set of peace and conflict issues yet to be resolved is inter-communal violence, particularly relationships between the majority Buddhist population and Burma's Muslims. This is a problem more intractable than conflicts between the government, Myanmar Army and EAGs. As Myanmar enters a new era there are many reasons to be optimistic but also some ominous storm clouds on the horizon.

This article was written by Dr. Ashley South, an independent analyst and consultant, specialising in humanitarian, peace and conflict, and ethnic political issues in Burma/Myanmar. A version of this article was originally published as "Hope and Uncertainty in Myanmar" for the Nikkei Asian Review. That version may be found at: <http://asia.nikkei.com/Viewpoints/Viewpoints/Ashley-South-Hope-and-uncertainty-in-Myanmar>



Naga relief team members conduct a clinic in a rural village with no access to medical care.



Major flooding in Chin State.



A relief team member receives medical aid to treat his shrapnel wound.

OFFENSIVES CONTINUE IN SHAN AND KACHIN STATES

In October 2015 Burma finalized the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and in November, the NLD won the election in a landslide, giving them majorities in both houses of parliament.

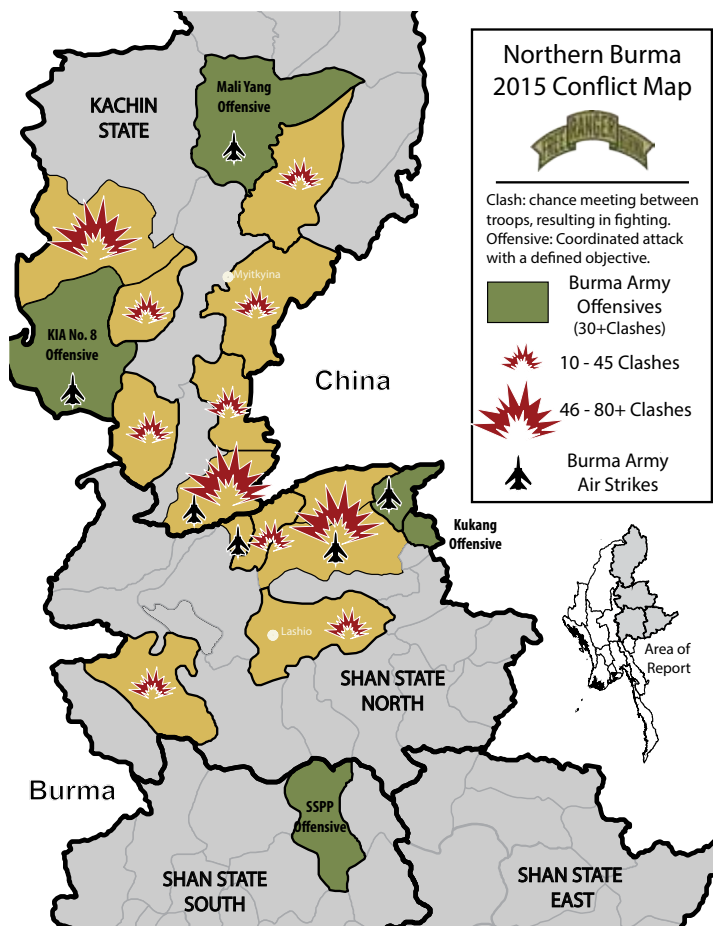
Yet, in spite of talk of peace, the Burma Army waged multiple military offensives against ethnic groups which have not signed a ceasefire agreement. The Burma Army also shot and killed two Karen people trying to cross a road in KNU controlled territory in Papun District in February and March, and in November 2015 the Burma Army shot at Karen villagers trying to cross this same road. The KNU is one of the signatories of the ceasefire. On 31 December 2015 the Burma Army attacked Restoration Council of Shan State / Shan State Army-South (RCSS/SSA-S) troops, also a signatory group to the ceasefire agreement. The Burma Army also continues to oppress civilians, support and manage the illicit drug trade and continues to occupy, expand and reinforce their military positions on historically ethnic lands.

MAJOR FLOODS: CHIN AND NAGA TEAMS RESPOND

Over 1 million people in Burma were affected by massive flooding that spread throughout the country during July and August 2015. This year's rainy season saw unusually high rainfall, exacerbated by Cyclone Komen sweeping through the region in mid-July. Flashfloods and landslides destroyed roads, fields and buildings – especially in rural villages with limited infrastructure. The ability to get aid to the region was severely diminished, as road access was cut off or limited due to high waters and landslides, even two months after the worst of the rains ceased.

Thousands across the nation were displaced because their homes were damaged or washed away. Over 100 people died due to the flooding, with the highest number of deaths occurring in Arakan State. The townships of Arakan State that struggled the most in the aftermath of the flooding were Minbya, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw and Ann Townships, where a total of 463 villages were submerged. The government has declared some of these townships, along with Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships, as disaster zones.

Two Chin FBR teams provided relief for people in the Zanniat and Falam areas of Chin State, including the Hakha region, which was one of the most devastated flood areas, and is one of the poorest regions in all of Burma. They provided aid, as well as lifting people's spirits with smiles and laughter during Good Life Club programs.



70 Burma Relief Teams in 2015

Meet a Ranger



Ne Kyaw is 15

years old, a young Wa man who had already spent time in the Burma Army before joining Shan State Army-North. When he was 13, he lived in Mandalay with his uncle, who is an officer in the Burma Army. His uncle showed him a pistol and asked if he wanted one – “You can have one if you join the Burma Army.” So

Ne Kyaw joined the Burma Army. He went to some school in the army camp and joined the troops on one mission, but never fought, staying with the supply trucks. He was given a salary of about 5000 baht a month, more than many others, because of his uncle. He says, “I bought a lot of snacks with my money.”

But, he says, “The Burma Army was not honest with the people and talked about how they wanted to control all the Shan land and take whatever they wanted.” He also saw a video documenting Burma Army soldiers attacking the Shan people, burning villages, raping women. This made him unhappy. When he heard that his father was sick with TB he returned home. After his father died he joined the SSA-N to help defend his people, and then came to FBR to learn better how to help his people. His family is Christian and at the training he listened especially to a pastor from Chin State who often read the Bible; this made him think more about his situation. So Ne Kyaw decided to be baptized, so he “could be a good follower of Jesus.” He would like to return to FBR training.



KACHIN

Partner: *Kachin Independence Organization and Kachin National Organization*

Active Since: 2008

Training Since: 2011



NAGALAND

Active Since: 2010



CHIN

Active Since: 2010

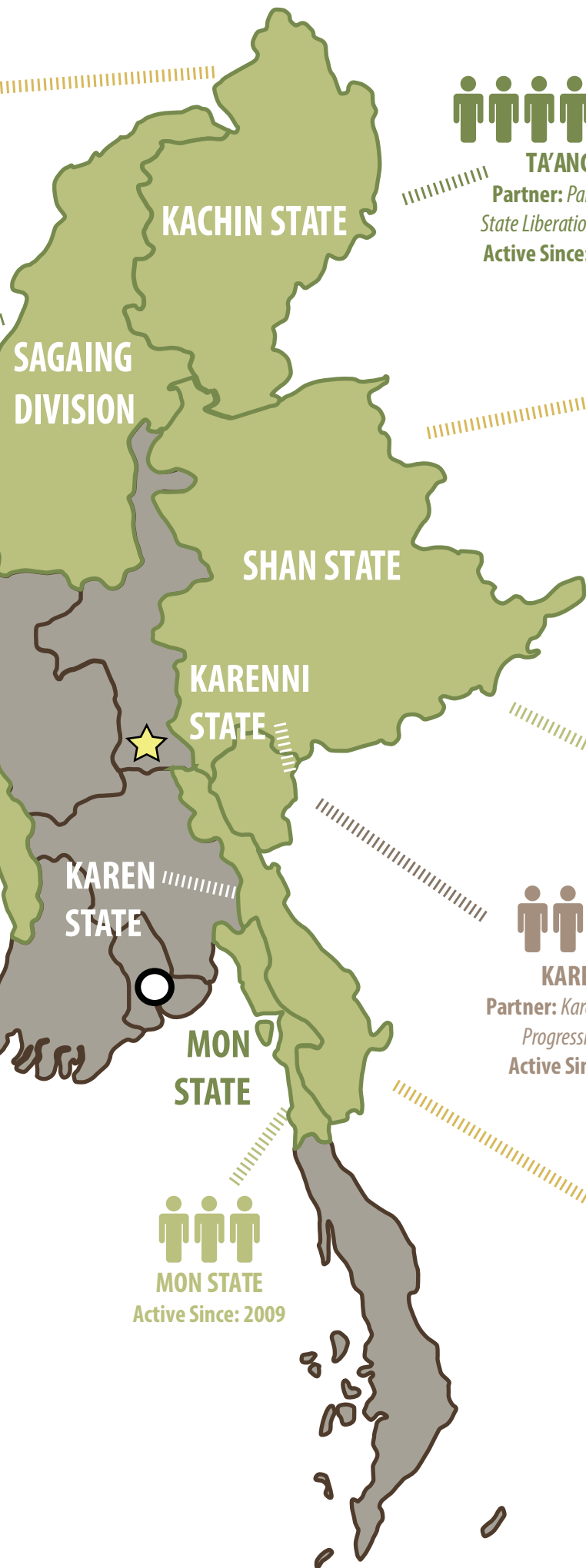


ARAKAN STATE

Partner: *Arakan Liberation Party and Arakan Army (four teams active in Kachin State)*

Active Since: 2003

 = Team of 4-6 FBR Rangers



TA'ANG

Partner: *Palaung State Liberation Front*
Active Since: 2012



HEADQUARTERS

Active Since: 1997
HQ teams work in the conflict zones all over Burma, conducting relief missions and trainings.



SHAN

Partner: *Restoration Council of the Shan State*
Active & Annual Training Since: 2004



PA'OH

Partner: *Pa'Oh National Liberation Organization*
Active Since: 2010



LAHU

Active Since: 2005



KARENNI

Partner: *Karenni National Progressive Party*
Active Since: 1999



MON STATE

Active Since: 2009



KAREN

Partner: *Karen National Union*
Active & Annual Training Since: 1999

Responding to Need: Training Rangers, Equipping Leaders

FBR's **Leadership, Ethnic Unity and Relief Team** training equips people under oppression to respond to the needs of their people with **HELP, HOPE, AND LOVE.**

Training Program Overview

The full training includes instruction in:

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

FBR also conducts many smaller and specific advanced trainings, depending on the need and availability of the organizations we work with.

Tah U Wah Camp: Training Review

Tah U Wah Camp ("White Monkey" Camp in Karen language) is FBR's primary training site. It adjoins the Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthoolei. **In 2015, FBR conducted its 12th training at Tah U Wah Camp.**

10 WEEKS OF TRAINING **31** RANGER TEAMS **137** RANGERS

On 11 December 2015, 27 new ranger teams and four advanced teams graduated from basic and advanced Ranger training. This is double the number of teams usually trained and we thank God for these eager new rangers and the support to run this. The teams trained this year were from nine different ethnic groups in Burma. Arakan, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Ta'ang, Lahu, Naga, Pa-Oh, and Shan teams all trained together and began their first mission together on 12 December 2015.

Local ethnic organizations continue to feel the need for improved capacity in helping their people and getting the news out from their areas.

137 rangers are geared up and motivated to do just that.

Ranger Requirements



Love

Each person strives to do this for the love of the people and no one is paid. They still belong to their parent organizations.



Physical and Moral Courage

They to have the endurance to be able to walk to crisis areas, and the moral courage to be with people under attack and to stand with them if they cannot flee.



Ability to read and write

Due to the medical, documentation and other skills needed, literacy in at least one language is required.

In 2015, FBR provided training to over 500 students, ranging from four-day basic first-aid trainings to months-long courses.



MARCH

Chaplain Training

APRIL

Shan Advanced Leadership, Ethnic Unity and Relief Team Training

MAY

Introductory Leadership and Relief Team training, Mergui-Tavoy District

MAY-JUNE

Basic Medic, Reporting and GPS training, Kurdistan



MAY-AUGUST, SEPTEMBER- DECEMBER

Two four-month Advanced Medic Trainings at JSMK

JUNE

Advanced Video Training

OCTOBER

Basic medic training, Kurdistan

OCTOBER- DECEMBER

Two-month basic and advanced Leadership, Ethnic Unity and Relief Team Training



Training and Equipping a New Team



Team Equipment: \$2,000

Each individual team member needs personal equipment including: a uniform, Load Carrying Equipment Set (LCES), boots, socks, backpack, hammock, blanket, tarp and flashlight. Each team of 4-5 rangers needs a solar power system to run electronic equipment, one digital camera, one video camera, one GPS and compass, reporting books, a set of maps, and one ICOM (hand-held 2-way) radio.

Concept Training: \$2,200

Concept training spans two months and is provided in a primitive camp setting. It includes physical training, classroom sessions on a variety of topics, hands-on practice in the vicinity of the camp and several short field exercises. Cost includes food and facilities maintenance.

Practical Training: \$2,000

Practical training spans one month where all teams finish training and go with their instructors on a mission to practice newly-learned material in real-time, with instructors there to provide further coaching as needed.

Basic Supplies for One Mission

1 Medicine Unit: \$1,400

One unit will treat approximately 1,000 people and is specially designed to treat the most commonly presented health problems in the areas in which our medics work.

300 GLC Shirts: \$750

These are long-sleeve hoodies which are warm in the winter and help protect from the sun in the summer. They are given primarily to the children the teams meet in the IDP sites.

Transport & Food: \$600

Cash is given to teams for transportation to move relief supplies and food to take care of the team members.



Mission Life

Missions involve hiking from village to village, and Rangers carry most of the things they need on their back.



Total In-Patients Seen:

Under 5-years old: 83

Over 5-years old: 138

Total Out-Patients Seen:

Under 5-years old: 297

Over 5-years old: 1,632

A patient arrives at JSMK via "bamboo ambulance" - this is common in this part of Karen State.

Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthoolei

The Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthoolei (JSMK) was established in 2011 to train new medics from both the FBR and other local organizations.

2015 saw a number of significant changes at JSMK. Instead of offering the normal 1-year training program for new medics, JSMK offered two 4-month advanced medic courses to increase the skills of medics who are already working in the field. The teaching consisted of two parts: practical and theory. In the morning these students attended rounds in IPD/OPD, to learn directly with each patient, and then were given classroom instruction in the afternoon.

Topics studied included a more in-depth look at common illnesses, as well as important lesser-known conditions, anatomy, more detailed physiology, and disease prevention. The lectures are based on Burma Border Guideline, the textbook "Problem-Based Medical Care 1st Edition," and case studies.

The Hemoglobin Initiative

After demonstrating that more than 75% of villagers in the area around JSMK have iron deficient anemia, widespread long term supplementation of iron and vitamins is being undertaken, alongside deworming. In mid-2015 supplementation with FBC tablets was initiated. The program included education for villagers regarding how iron supplementation will help to make each person stronger, healthier and better able to learn.

Kawthoolei Vaccine Program

In 2015, after much planning and participation with the Karen Department of Health and Welfare and other groups and donors, the Karen Vaccination Program (KVP) began vaccination of three villages near the JSMK campus. After reaching an agreement with the village, medics from JSMK visit villages and administer the vaccines. KVP has also contributed to numerous other prevention measures within these villages. Maintaining the vaccination of children in these villages and expanding to other villages is planned for 2016.



24 Graduates



2150 Total Patients

Top, left to right:

Naw Hser Nay Moo when she arrived to JSMK and then after several months of treatment in a referral hospital. She still has months of work to completely straighten her leg. (Photo: JSMK staff)

Bottom, left to right:

Karen medic, Joseph, training and treating Peshmerga soldiers defending their people from ISIS attacks.

Eliya, FBR's chief medic and from Karen State, treats an injured Assyrian Christian boy near ISIS-occupied Mosul.



In the Field: Medics at Work in Burma and Kurdistan

From Kurdistan, Iraq

As ISIS pushed into Iraq, taking with dramatic rapidity strongholds such as Mosul, they were met and stopped abruptly by strong Kurdish resistance. Men – and some women – from all walks of life volunteered to help the fight. These ‘home-guard’ received some training and are interspersed with Peshmerga ‘regulars’ all along the front lines. However, very few of them have medical training and there are few embedded medics on the front lines. In 2015, our team trained around 500 men and women in emergency medical care, ABC, MARCH, CPR, Use of Tourniquet, IV use and all practice infusions on each other, basic suture and movement of patients, bandages, immobilization, carries and litters. This is potentially life-saving knowledge as many parts of the front line are hours away from the nearest hospital. Additionally, our team performed over 700 dental procedures for IDPs and Peshmerga on the front lines.

From JSMK, Karen State, Burma

Naw Hser Nay Moo is a 9-year-old girl who recently came to JSMK with a 3-year-old compound fracture of her tibia, a bone found in the lower leg. Because her family lives in an area without access to any medical care, no one was able to set and cast her bone at the time of the injury. As she kept walking on it, her leg bent significantly at the site of the fracture until it started to heal in the shape of a ‘Z’. She was evaluated at JSMK where x-rays confirmed the deformity and she was referred to a neighboring country to straighten her leg. There, a solid team of caring organizations and individuals joined together to manage her extended care plan. An external fixator with screws and wires has been placed around her lower leg and will gradually straighten out her leg. This will take a number of months, but so far she displays a happy and resilient spirit. Please pray for her treatment and strength for her and her family as they are separated for this time.

Advocacy and Outreach

Information IN

FBR teams are trained to gather information with photos, videos and through interviews. Their on-the-ground presence is crucial to getting real-time and credible information directly from conflict and crisis zones.



Information OUT

Once the information is collected, our teams work to compile and write reports. Those reports are then packaged and sent out to friends, supporters, governments, NGOs, and media outlets.



Information in ACTION

- FBR spent three days testifying before Congress and others on Capitol Hill in September 2015, on the situations in Burma, Kurdistan and Sudan.
- In August 2015 FBR produced the Podesta Report, a special video and text report, on recent Burma Army abuses, which was sent out to the US Campaign for Burma as well as multiple members of Congress.
- FBR has provided information for human rights monitoring groups and other organizations on issues including religious persecution in Burma, the correlation between jade mining and military violence, government connections in opium production, use of chemical weapons by ISIS, and health issues and vulnerabilities in Burma.



Photos, clockwise from top left:

- FBR cameraman trains Peshmerga in videocamera use.
- FBR team interviews Kachin woman who was the only one to survive when the Burma Army captured her village and killed seven villagers who couldn't escape.
- FBR team reporting on chemical weapons attacks by ISIS near Sinjar City, northern Kurdistan.



42

Web reports distributed



14,226

Day of Prayer
magazines printed



45

Reports from the field



THE GOOD LIFE CLUB

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

Even though there are team members from many faiths in addition to Christians, all agree with the possibility of abundant life even in the midst of hardship, and individuals' ability to help share this life. The GLC is based on the words of Jesus in John 10:10: "For the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." The aim of the program is to strengthen the spirit of the people, encouraging them to persevere in building new lives together with the tools of love, truth, courage, freedom and reconciliation.



"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

SPIRITUAL TRAINING: CHAPLAIN PROGRAM UPDATE

The Chaplain Corps continues to pray for and serve our FBR teams in Burma and other locations around the world. We now have eight chaplains on our team representing six ethnicities. Our goal is to encourage everyone that FBR comes in contact with to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God and to follow Him fully. This happens through Bible study, discipleship, and spiritual training. This year we have distributed many Bibles and hymnals as well as helping to build or re-build several churches. We are praying for more opportunities in the future to provide Bible training to lay chaplains across Burma. The FBR chaplains take a key role in training FBR's GLC counselors.

One way to help the Good Life Club is to put together children's packs and mom-and-baby packs.

These packs are then delivered to mothers and children by relief teams.

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Please send standard gift size boxes with the description "household/personal goods, no commercial value" on customs form. Mark the package GLC and send via airmail to:

Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB)

PO Box 392

Chiang Mai 50000, THAILAND

USA: not to exceed 79 inches length/width/girth

MOM-AND-BABY PACKS

- Small fingernail clippers
- 2 outfits for baby including cap, mittens, shirt (not a onesie) and socks
- 1 teether
- 1 picture of you
- 1 postcard from your city or state with a Bible verse

CHILDREN'S PACKS

- Small comb and mirror
- 2 children's toothbrushes
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 small toy
- 1 picture of you
- 1 postcard from your city or state with a Bible verse



Rangers, volunteers, and Kurdish children after a GLC program on Sinjar Mountain.

FINDING YOUR NEIGHBOR ON SINJAR MOUNTAIN: *A GLC Story from Kurdistan*

“Everyone ran, it was crazy, everyone in the village. We couldn’t take anything, some families got separated... It was 2:30am when the mortars started to fall, but no one was sleeping that night so we all ran right away.” Neam is a young mother of ten children; she and her family lived in a village near Sinjar Mountain, farmers and shepherds with a centuries-old connection to this land. “There was nowhere to run but up the mountain. The enemy was all around the city.”

We had heard that some of her children had been captured so are relieved when she says, “All of my children made it. All of my children are here with me.” Then we ask if everyone in the village made it, are they all here together?

“No. They killed my brother. He was 25. He went back to get food. He had no choice, we had no food here, so he tried to go back to our home to find food and they killed him. They killed my nephew too, he was only 16.”

Tears come to her eyes and she covers her face with her scarf. A group of 15 men had gone together after the first few days to try to retrieve food but never made it. Neam’s brother and nephew were killed along with others, and several of the group were wounded. One of her children

disappears into a tent and emerges with the brother’s wedding picture. His name is Amie. It’s now been ten months since he died, sacrificing his life for his family. She says that day was the hardest day.

Sinjar Mountain, where these families have lived for nearly a year now, is bare, rocky, wind-whipped, rising suddenly from the brown and dusty plains of northwestern Kurdistan that surround it. Sinjar City spreads out across the plains at the southeastern base of the mountain, about 20 km from the Syrian border. In August 2014, ISIS took Sinjar City, the home of fifty thousand mostly Yazidi people. ISIS didn’t stop there, but tried to take the mountain, driving thousands of the city’s residents before them. They pushed to within a few kilometers of the top; then were stopped by the Kurdish Army, called the Peshmerga, and other forces. ISIS surrounded the mountain, capturing all the towns around it and leaving a swath of destruction in their wake. The majority of the more than 40,000 IDPs stuck on the mountain escaped in the first two weeks when a major coalition push broke through the ISIS lines. Some 8,000 Yazidis stayed, as they did not want to move any further from their homes or were afraid they wouldn’t survive the long walk to the Syrian border; Neam’s family was among them. But the ISIS ranks again closed around the mountain and the fighting continued; the Peshmerga and allied fighters on top of the mountain held on, but there was little help from the outside.

The thousands of people still on the mountain, including Neam and her family, struggled to survive through the dry months of the fall and then winter, when freezing rain and snow came. Many didn’t. They battled thirst, hunger and exposure. Humanitarian assistance came by air, but it was not enough and Sinjar made

international headlines as a place of desperation and misery. The Peshmerga and their allies held off ISIS and finally, in December 2014, with help from coalition air forces, were able to break the siege and push ISIS back to Sinjar City. In November 2015, the Peshmerga and others took back the city of Sinjar, pushing ISIS fighters back to a new line several kilometers outside the city. However, few families have returned as ISIS is still capable of shelling inside the city and, in early 2016, they did attack with chemical weapons. Most of the IDPs still feel more secure in their scattered tent encampments on the mountain.

In this area, firefights, airstrikes, shelling, happen on a daily basis. Kids programs do not. The people did not know what to expect as we gathered the children of one of the camps, situated on a ridge looking straight down at Sinjar City and the surrounding villages, their homes; in the distance is Syria. The families here live mostly in wall tents provided months ago by the Barzani Foundation (of Kurdistan), UNHCR, and other organizations. We find a flat spot, mostly free of rocks and thistles, and start our program. We're here for the kids and start by getting to know them; they're happy to shake our hands and say hello. A Peshmerga sergeant major with a giant handlebar mustache, a pistol and some magazines in his belt, helps translate. We teach "good morning" in English, and "friend". Sahale, Suuzanne and Peter adapt a Karen language song to say, "Yazidis lead the way" and sing with Monkey, our Karen pastor. We introduce ourselves, taking some time to explain where Burma is, sing songs, then perform the Good Samaritan drama. ISIS (or Daesh, as they are known here) is cast in the bandit role. The children in unison say, "We're not afraid of Daesh!" – then, when the Daesh attack our innocent traveler (Peter), they all, as if on cue, shoot them with air guns. In this place of many groups and parties, the lesson is that the one who helps you is your neighbor – no matter who it is.

The children aren't shy – they sing with enthusiasm, laugh at the drama and crowd around for the health care lesson. We share about God's love and give them a bracelet of colored beads representing the gospel to remind them, first, that God loves them and they can always ask Him for help and secondly, that many people around the world are praying for them.

We do three programs on Sinjar, in three different camps. The children are all young, mostly under 12 years old, and there are very few adults around. We ask if they are here with their families. The leaders say, yes, the mothers are here and fathers are all on the frontlines.

"[Nothing] can stop us from being the love of God – no oppression, no history, or distance."

Earlier we interviewed the soldiers at a checkpoint a few kilometers off the frontline and met a 12-year-old boy who was visiting his father. ISIS had captured his uncle when they

took the city, along with several thousand other hostages. They don't know if he is dead or alive. These soldiers, part of the Peshmerga, were all from Sinjar City and joined to be in the fight: "We will fight until we die to get our city back." They are Yazidi, and this alliance with the Peshmerga is new, it is a real-life Good Samaritan story.

We finish our program with a Karen song praying God's blessing on them until we meet again. Our three Karen team members, Monkey, Eliya and Ray Kaw, lead us in singing. Standing there in front of the children, they are what Jesus meant when he talked about "good neighbors" – he wasn't talking about location or identity, he was talking about action. Later in the Bible, Paul says the same thing specifically: "What can separate us from the love of God?" – and the answer is nothing – no distance, no history, no ethnicity. Neither can anything stop us from being the love of God – no oppression, no history, or distance. So we are thankful for the opportunity to be here despite many obstacles, and we pray for the vision and courage to be God's love here. We also pray that Neam, her family, and all those displaced with her can return home.



Neam and her daughter during our interview.



End of a GLC program on Sinjar Mountain.

Introducing: Free the Oppressed

Thank you so much for your love and support for the ministries of the Free Burma Rangers (FBR), Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB) and all of our other ministries in Thailand, Burma, Sudan and Kurdistan. Thank you too for your prayers, love and encouragement for our teams and families.

To support all of these ministries, in 2016 we started our own 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt foundation called Free The Oppressed (FTO). Free The Oppressed 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."

Full fiscal sponsorship is now through FTO and not Thai Christian Foundation. Make your check payable to Free The Oppressed and send it to the address below. You no longer need to designate the funds for FBR since FBR is a core part of FTO, but you may designate a specific project on the memo line of your check if you prefer.

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact Dave or Karen Eubank, or the following individuals:

Dave Eubank

FTO CEO

eubank@pobox.com

Jim Geisz

FTO Chairman

jim.geisz@rlholdings.com

Wes Price

FTO Accountant

wes@priceacct.com

Hosannah Valentine

FTO Administrator

hosannahvalentine@gmail.com

Donations can be mailed to:

Free the Oppressed

PO Box 912938

Denver, CO 80291-2938

Donations may also be made online at www.freeburmarangers.org

Walking through the city of Sinjar after it was liberated from ISIS.

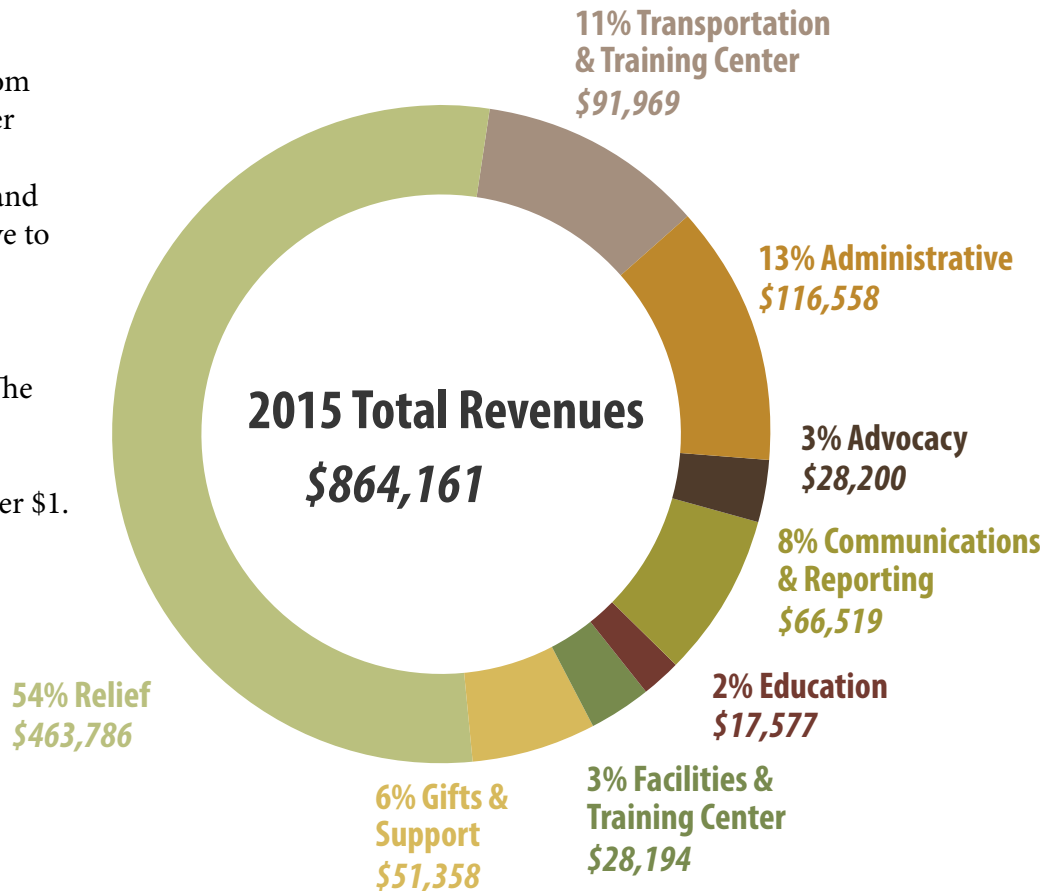


Arakan Ranger at GLC program in Karen State.

2015 FBR Financial Report

FBR is funded by donations from individuals, churches, and other organizations from all over the world. We are encouraged by and grateful for all of those who give to support the work of FBR.

FBR uses both Thai Baht and U.S. Dollars in its operations. The numbers here reflect the totals in USD using the 2015 average conversion rate of 34.25 baht per \$1.



To give a financial gift, please send your check, made payable to Free The Oppressed, to the address below. Thank you for your prayers, love, encouragement and support!

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

Our EIN is 47-4648581. Donations may also be made online at www.freeburmarangers.org.



Did you know that Amazon will donate a percentage of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to Free the Oppressed whenever you shop through AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same prices, same products, same service. Get started with these three steps:

- 1) Visit smile.amazon.com
- 2) Log-in to your Amazon account.
- 3) Search and select **Free the Oppressed** (Colorado Springs, CO) as your charity

After selecting FTO, remember to always start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Free the Oppressed!



JOIN THE MOVEMENT



ORGANIZE A RUN FOR RELIEF FOR BURMA

Races have been held in 21 different locations, in 6 different countries, on 3 continents. Offshoot events include a ski-for-relief and a climb-for-relief.

www.runforreliefburma.org



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Become a part of the team and great things can happen.

volunteers@freeburmarangers.org



LEARN MORE AND BECOME AN ADVOCATE

Advocate in your school, workplace or church, and with your government. For more information go to:

www.freeburmarangers.org



REQUEST A BOOK: RANGERS IN THE GAP

Get your copy of **Rangers in the Gap** and read the story of several Rangers. To request materials, go to:

www.freeburmarangers.org



SPONSOR AN FBR RELIEF TEAM

It costs approximately \$6200 to train and equip one team of Rangers.

info@freeburmarangers.org



PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

Join in the Global Day of Prayer for Burma every year on the 2nd Sunday of March. The next Global Day of Prayer for Burma is 12 March 2017. For more information or to order a Day of Prayer magazine, email:

info@prayforburma.org

For more information on how you can join the movement or for more information on any of these ways to get involved, please email us at: info@freeburmarangers.org



“The biggest change that happened to me in the training is that now I want to be the one that relies on God every day.”

These are the words of one of our new rangers, a Karen woman named Naw Say Nay Paw, after she was baptized in our camp. She and three other new rangers who are from four different ethnic groups, asked to be baptized after our FBR relief team training. One is a Wa boy who at 13 years old was in the Burma Army as a child soldier and then left to help his people. Another is a Lahu woman who said something changed inside her at the training and the fourth is a Karenni man who told us “I will try my best to be a better person.”

The Free Burma Rangers train people of many races and religions and have team members who are Christian, Buddhist, Animist, Muslim and no religion. We are like family with all welcome, but for many of us, we are followers of Jesus and share with all the rangers who Jesus is to us. We bear witness to how He has changed our lives and invite them to pray to Jesus and ask Him for help. Spiritual training is a foundational part of FBR training and, thanks to the witness for Jesus and example of many of the trainers and the action of God in their lives during the training, some rangers decide to be baptized after completing FBR training each year. Even though there are many different faiths, all desire to bring help, hope and love by encouraging first spiritual freedom and then, what we believe is a fruit of spiritual freedom, political freedom. Thus the aim of the FBR training is to strengthen the spirits of the Rangers, encouraging them to persevere in building a new Burma with the tools of love, truth, courage, freedom and reconciliation. For us we find the source of all these to be God and we encourage all rangers to seek Him.

For more information visit:
www.freeburmarangers.org

Contact us by email at:
info@freeburmarangers.org