

David Eubank
Founder of the Free Burma Rangers

“Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught” (Proverbs 3:25-26).

September 28, 2014

During the weekend services, Pastor Skip interviewed American missionary David Eubank (former 2nd Ranger Battalion, Green Beret). David and his family live in Thailand, where he has led the Free Burma Rangers (FBR), a team he founded, for twenty-one years.

Burma was originally settled centuries ago by various ethnic tribes. Later the Burman people, who were more numerous and more organized, settled there. After WWII the Burman joined with the Japanese and organized against the remaining ethnic minorities who sided with the Allied forces. After the war, the minorities expected to be emancipated, but were forgotten. To increase control, territory, and resources, the Burman dictators have sought to eliminate the ethnic minorities since 1949. This has left hundreds of thousands dead and over a million people hiding in the jungle after villages were attacked by the government’s army, which has terrorized them for the last sixty-four years. It is simply hate, greed, and fear that drive this conflict.

As the villagers are fleeing from gunfire, the Free Burma Rangers run to where the bullets are flying. They seek to find the villagers where they are hiding. Once found, they care for them, treat them, share the story of Jesus with them, then document and video their story with the hope of sharing it with the world. As David shared part of his story throughout the weekend, he raised many challenging and inspiring points. Here are a couple of highlights:

OBEDIENTLY GO! As a son of missionaries, David grew up in Thailand and came to the United States to study and serve in the Army. He returned to Thailand as a married man because God told him to. Twenty-one years later, he and his family are

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still serving the Lord there because God keeps telling them to. David doesn’t feel he has all the answers or the means to be extraordinarily used by God, but they trust the Lord to give them the words and means as they as they walk into the danger and minister to the hurting. Consequently, their lives are a catalog of God’s faithfulness: He meets them wherever they lack uses them as they go. They’ve discovered that wherever they go, God is already there to meet them with His presence, power, and resources. David’s wife, Karen, admitted how she initially felt overwhelmed by the needs of the many displaced children they first encountered. God told her that while she cannot meet the needs of even one of them, He can, and He offers them abundant life (see John 10:10). God told her, “Do what you do for your own children—just do it on a larger scale.” She has obediently done so for many years.

BE THE LAST ONE OUT! Pastor Skip asked David what instructions he gives to a five-member FBR team when they go out on a mission. His instructions are: 1) pray every step of the way, 2) help the people, record their story, and tell it to others, and 3) do not run away, but *be the last one out*. David recalled a missionary in the Sudan who told him how appreciative he was that David trained his people to be the last ones out when the enemy ravages a village because, he said, in his many years of witnessing similar terrors in his own country, when the enemy comes to a village, the first to leave are the missionaries, then the government officials, and then the enemy fully takes over. David said that being the last ones out is important—it is why God sends them into the danger in the first place—to be His presence, to share His love, and to minister to the hurting.

Adapted from Pastor Skip’s interview with David Eubank

Things to Ponder and Discussion Questions (combined)

- An old saying says that Jesus saves us not just *from* the gates of hell, but to *shake* the gates of hell. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus tells Peter something similar. How did the Eubanks’ story shake you? If not, why?
- David said that they fight to stop evil, not for themselves, but because it is wrong, and in the end, righteous ground is the only ground worth standing on. What did he mean? What ground are you standing on?
- David and Karen confessed their own doubts and struggles in the midst of their calling. He said, “Things I cannot control in life I must leave to God.” Karen challenged us to hold onto our convictions. Which of these is more difficult for you?
- David and Karen run with God’s love toward the terrorists’ bullets. If God shed His love abroad in your heart, are you all in? Is there a relationship like Skip’s story of his father or a struggle at work or in your church family that you might put it to the test? See Luke 6:27-36.
- In the middle of a sixty-five-year-old civil war based upon greed, prejudice, fear and spiritual oppression, FBR delivers the gospel. Why is conversion to new life in Christ the best weapon in a war on terror?