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# AGGIE MYSTORY

## 'Love Is The Most Important Thing'

By Brian Hudgins

In the middle of a civil war, one Aggie keeps a lesson in mind every day: Love is the most important thing in the world.

David Eubank '83 is the founder of Free Burma Rangers. In a nation governed by a military regime, Eubank and the relief teams of FBR provide aid to displaced people in Burma. When a series of Burma Army offensives in 1997 forced more than 100,000 people to flee their homes, Eubank's response was to start FBR.

"We organized with the idea that no one can stop people from giving love and serving each other," he said.

During its first four years, FBR had a single relief team of seven people. Pro-democracy groups asked Eubank if he could begin to train multiple relief teams to handle the needs of individual ethnic groups that needed aid. The effort that started with seven people now includes 55 full-time teams active in a dozen areas of Burma.

To provide medical care, food and other supplies for people, the standard training for a Ranger takes two months and covers such skills as land navigation, mule packing, swimming, rappelling, lifesaving techniques, interviewing and



**David Eubank '83**, founder of the Free Burma Rangers, with his family and some team members in Burma.

counseling. Given the rugged terrain in some areas of Burma, Rangers have to be able to move day and night with heavy loads of supplies.

Eubank started to learn some of those tools during his childhood in Thailand. He is the son of missionaries. His grandfather is an Aggie. So is his father.

"Since I was a child, I only planned to be an Aggie," Eubank said. "I grew

up in a rural environment. I hunted, rode horses, swam and hiked from as early as I can remember."

Eubank received a ROTC scholarship and he started at A&M in 1979. He was in Company I-1 and became a brigade commander his senior year. Eubank served 10 years in the Army, as a recon platoon leader in Panama, a platoon leader in the 2nd Ranger battalion and then a



detachment commander in a Special Forces group. The process started in College Station.

“A&M gave me a comprehensive education and the Corps taught me how to be both a good follower and a good leader,” Eubank said. “The adversity one faces in the Corps is great preparation for any challenge. I have always thought—well, that is not as tough as fish year!”

One challenge in Burma that is near and dear to Eubank and his wife, Karen, is their ongoing effort to give children a chance at education.

“Children face the fear of being killed by Burma army troops or having their homes and schools burned,” Eubank said. “They face malnutrition and uncertainty each day.”

To provide some certainty, Karen Eubank started a portion of FBR

called the Good Life Club.

It is an overall mission that covers many miles and has carried Eubank and his family to all corners of Burma.

“FBR teaches me many things,” Eubank said. “Most of all, it teaches me that love is the most important thing in the world ... love of God and love of all people.” 🌍



Children from a burned out village participating in the Good Life Club, an outreach program of the Free Burma Rangers.