



## ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March - April 2020

### From the Pastor's Study...

“They Bring Hope. This Is Not Normal.”

Muhammad, a former Iraqi army soldier now fighting ISIS in Mosul, (the land of ancient Nineveh that was once visited by Jonah), asked the visiting team leader ( David Eubanks) , “What are they doing here?” He was referring to the other members of the visiting team, obviously Asiatic in appearance. When told they were from Burma, he replied, “I know Burma. They have problems too.”

He was right: Burma has been the scene of the longest running war in modern history: Since 1948, several minority groups in that country have had to fight off a Burman army, run by a military dictatorship and later by a military-backed regime headlined by no less than a former Nobel Peace Prize laureate and bloodthirsty Buddhist priests. Most of the minorities are Christians—mostly Karenni, Karen, and Chin ethnic groups that Baptists have worked with since 1813, the year Elk Creek was founded—and many thousands have perished. Yet the war continues, *for the last seventy-two years*.

The team leader mentioned above, David Eubanks is a 10-year veteran of U.S. Special Forces. A missionary kid in Thailand, he found his calling less in ministry than in the military. Still, after leaving the Army, he was asked to head up a resistance force to the Burmese military and to assist the Christians under fire there. He immediately asked his girlfriend, Karen, if she would go with him. She took the leap, and twenty-three years later they have raised their three children in the jungles of Burma and built the Free Burma Raiders. (I use the old name Burma to distinguish it from the Burma regime's preference for calling their country" Myanmar"; there is no need to bow to their choice.)

They put together medical teams and photographers to publicize the conflict, along with soldiers. Karen and the kids run Bible school-like programs for native children. Together, they have braved the totalitarian onslaught of the brutal military offensives. He describes their battle with evil by saying that even though they are weaker and “we can't make any of this right...we're with you.” No matter what.

Yet so successful have they been in Burma, that they were asked in 2017 to travel to Iraq to document and help the local resistance to ISIS during the battle of Mosul. Eubanks

found the fighting more intense, and the need at least as great, against such a brutal foe. They found enormous tragedy and need there, and his team members astounded the Christians and Muslims they served. Muhammad was one of his fighters, and he speaks for more than just the fighters in Mosul, when he mentions that he knows Burma in his broken English that suddenly becomes crystal clear, "The problems they have, and they are here, helping us? They bring hope. That is not normal."

Pam and I, on a recent Monday night, went to see "Free Burma Rangers" in a Charlottesville theater. I cannot be sure if it will appear in any more theaters, on TV on a documentary program, or on DVD/blue ray anytime soon. But if it does, you should see it. Every one of you. For two hours you will be riveted by a story that is entirely true; there is not a staged moment in it. You will observe through binoculars the Burmese army, be on the scene after a family is devastated by a mine, and get caught in a firefight with ISIS. You will see people that are desperate, and find their strength in their faith, simply because that's all they have. It will make you feel totally inadequate and will raise all sorts of questions you might never wish you had to ask yourself. That's exactly why you should see it.

## Mickey

P.S. Just learned that Sunday, March 8th, is the Global Day of Prayer for Burma. Anyone that wants more info, let me know. Be in prayer that this cause be successful and the Burmese genocide will end.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### March

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8th, 15th, | 12:00 p.m. lunch and video series led by Pastor Mickey- " <i>Entering the Passion of Jesus</i> " by Amy-Jill Levine. |
| 11th, 25th | 7:00 p.m. book study and video " The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel   |
| 22nd       | Deacon's Meeting   |
| 28th       | 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean Up  |
| 29th       | Quarterly Business Meeting   |

## **DATES TO REMEMBER - continued**

### **April**

- 2nd            9:00 a.m. Women's Ministry (Location TBD)
- 5th            Palm Sunday
- 5th            12:00 p.m. lunch and video series led by Pastor Mickey-*"Entering the Passion of Jesus"* by Amy-Jill Levine.
- 8th, 22nd    7:00 p.m. book study and video "The Case for Christ"
- 10th           6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service
- 12th           7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Services  
Easter Sunday breakfast following the 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **March**

- |                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Burghardt, Brian       | 5  |
| Losinski, Coral        | 6  |
| Evans, Donna (Duerson) | 8  |
| Chewning, Doug         | 10 |
| Schultz, Darrell       | 10 |
| Klingenberg, Bob       | 10 |
| Canova,Jo              | 12 |
| Polonsky, Stan         | 12 |

Pitcher, Kelly	14
Vaughan, Joey & Clorese	16
Troy, Cheryl	20
Shoop, Bruce	23
Ward, Mindy & Doug	26
Robertson, Pam	27
Wendt, Cheryl	29
Wendt, Howie	29

### **April**

Edmonds, Larry	04
Hupp, Janis	05
Ward, Matthew	05
Wood, Rodney	07
Tyler, Kathy	09
Mason, Phillip & Linda	10
Koslow, Lori	11
Stahl, Norman & Lee	13
DiFranco, Michele	13
Bell, Abi	19
Anderson, Sharon	25
Sherred, John	28
Vaughan, J.B.	29
Wilson, Sandra	30

## Valentine Dinner









**Visitation with Butch Weaver**





**Remember to turn your clocks ahead Tonight!!**

*Together in Christ,*

*Alana Frazier*