

# I'm A Product

## Every Church Should Have Royal Rangers

By Jonathan Trower, NTD Rangers Commander

I think every Assemblies of God church should have an active Royal Rangers ministry. I'll admit, though, I'm biased.

I'm a product of the Royal Rangers ministry. My family moved to a new town when I was 9 years old, and I have been involved in Royal Rangers ever since. I was from an Assemblies

of God preacher's home, so it wasn't that Royal Rangers helped lead me to Christ—though that's a very important part of the Royal Rangers mission.

For me, Royal Rangers was very much about teaching and keeping me for Christ. I had numerous men throughout my childhood to pour

of themselves into my life and those of the other boys in our outpost.

We learned how to camp and canoe, how to have fun in the warm days of summer and the bitter cold days of winter. We learned about God, and about life, from these godly men. I very much credit Royal Rangers with



An Advanced Merit Camper masters the rope bridge.

keeping me during my teenage years, and for preparing me for ministry as an adult.

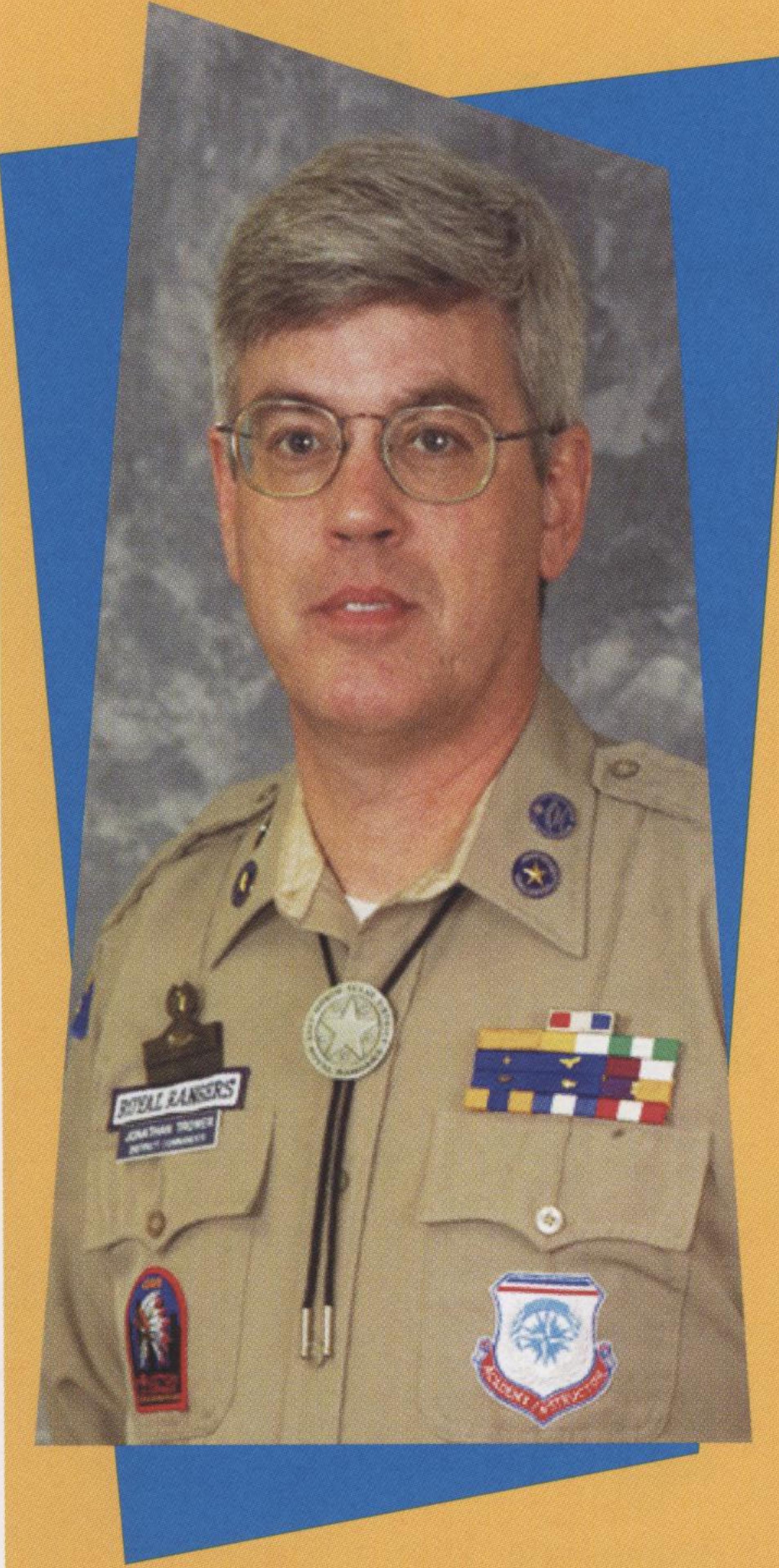
As a teenager, I led my first boy to Christ using what I had learned in Royal Rangers. As we disciple the boys in Royal Rangers, they learn how to share their faith with others. I sure did.

Some of the skills I learned in Royal Rangers led directly to me entering the teaching profession and to my current job as a professor at one of the universities in Texas. I don't know where I would be had I not entered Royal Rangers at age 9, but I'm certain I wouldn't be doing what I am doing today, in ministry or in life.

I feel every church across the North Texas district should prayerfully consider having the Royal Rangers ministry for the boys in the church and in the community. Royal Rangers has a bountiful history of attracting boys through the camping program and other activities—field days, hikes, Pinewood Derbies, lock-ins, canoe trips, and more.

While in Rangers these boys accept Christ, then bring siblings to church, and, ultimately, impact entire families.

**Royal Rangers curriculum, format and methods are changing with the times, but our mission stays the same** as it was when North Texan Johnnie Barnes launched the ministry in 1962: to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. It has worked for many churches over the years, it is working in churches today, and it can work for your church, too. **NTD**



## Dr. Jonathan Trower Named NTD Rangers Commander

Jonathan Trower is the new NTD Royal Rangers Commander. He was named to the ministry post in February, after filling a variety of roles in the district and national ministry, including South Central Regional Commander for the past several years. He succeeds Paul Patterson, district commander since 1994, who resigned in January.

Dr. Trower lives in Waco, Texas, and attends Praise Temple Assembly of God. He is an associate professor of

information systems at Baylor University and coordinator of graduate programs for his department.

Involved in Royal Rangers since 1969, he earned his Gold Medal of Achievement. (GMA). He has been active in the ministry in three districts, Southern Missouri, Minnesota, and North Texas.

Leadership positions he has filled include: regional training coordinator, district training coordinator, divisional commander, sectional commander, and sectional training coordinator. He will continue in his appointment as the region coordinator and as a member of the Royal Rangers National Executive Committee.

Trower also has been an active leader in his local church and was involved with an urban Rangers group in Waco. His wife Debbie is a licensed Assemblies of God minister who has been involved with Missionettes and Youth over the years.

They have three children: David, Christopher and Marie. Both sons have received their GMA during their years in Royal Rangers, and Marie earned the Missionettes Gold Medal. Christopher recently was named the 2005-06 National Ranger of the Year for this region.

Outside of Rangers, Trower serves on the board of directors of The Freeman Center, a residential substance abuse treatment facility in Waco. **NTD**