



## Changing the World - One Boy at a Time

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You hear a lot today about "spiritual formation", the process of making disciples. I recently received a letter from a National Men's Ministries organization that stated, "Only one out of eighteen men who profess faith in Christ understand how to live a Christian life. The rest have not been discipled about how to be godly men, husbands, and fathers." One of the main reasons for this problem, I believe, is that we wait too late before starting to disciple these men. Several studies have shown that people form their spiritual beliefs by the age of thirteen. Yet we as churches, continue to focus most of our time and resources on those individuals older than that. This is why Royal Rangers is such an important part of the ministry of any church. Royal Rangers realizes that children are important to God.

So many times leaders get caught up in the day-to-day activities of life and all the work that go in to Royal Rangers, we often forget the

impact that we do make on the lives of these boys. We get so caught up in ourselves with what we are doing; we forget that after all - it really is all about Him anyway. I am always overwhelmed at the goodness of God. He will send things your way just when you need them so that you can be encouraged and renewed in you commitment to do His work.



Two things happened just last week that reminded me once again the important role we play in shaping the lives of the boys we work with. A young man came by my office because he wanted to say thank you for all that Royal Rangers had done to keep him in church. In 1990 he and his brother were the National Rangers of the year. He said that because of Rangers he is still in the church today.

Then this past weekend, I was asked to give the devotion at a Christmas party. After speaking a woman came up to me and said that she wanted to thank me for the work I did in Royal Rangers. She went on to tell me how that her husband left her when their children were young. The Royal Rangers leaders stepped in and became fathers to her children. She was so appreciative for the help they had been to her.

The boys in our outpost will tell you that you can get a devotion from just about anything. You should hear some of the things they see God in. We'll be doing something and they will say, that is just like Jesus when He did this or when

He said that. After all, that is what discipleship is really all about, making God a part of your everyday life.

II Thessalonians 3:13 tells us, "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good." You are making a difference in the lives of boys. You are changing the world, one boy at a time.