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ROYAL RANGERS

— INTERNATIONAL —

Think One: EVANGELISM

*Royal Rangers:
70 nations,
Six regions,
One purpose
— Evangelism*

*by Douglas Marsh, Director
Royal Rangers International*

A pair of teen golfers sliced their drives deep into the rough and went in search of their errant golf balls. The grass was high, the trees were thick, and tempers flared as they looked in vain through the underbrush.

A kindly old man observed all this from the front porch of a nearby house. After the search had lasted nearly half an hour, he finally called to them, "I don't want to bother you fine young people, but will it be cheating if I tell you where the golf balls are?"

As Royal Rangers leaders we all look around us and see young people searching for a true friend, for real meaning in life, for a place to belong, and for hope. We must not keep silent; we have the answer.

Fulfilling the Great Commission means "reaching, teaching, and keeping boys and girls for Jesus Christ" all around us. It means reaching out, speaking up, and guiding them to forgiveness of sins and salvation. This is our purpose!

It is so gratifying to witness firsthand outpost leaders around the world who are aggressively seeking the lost. They take John 9:4 seriously, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent us. Night is coming, when no one can work." In fact, I have observed that the most effective outposts are comprised of between 40-60% unchurched young people, and they are coming to the Lord regularly.

I would like to propose three simple suggestions that will enable outposts to attract and retain young people.

SUGGESTION #1: *Get known in the church and community.* How? Advertise. Have young people pass out flyers announcing special events or open house visitation meetings. Plan and/or participate in church and community service projects. Set up displays in public places and wherever else God opens doors. Open satellite, or off-site, outposts in schools, orphanages, and city plazas. Get outside the four walls of the church and get known.

An outpost near Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, played a key role at a community-planned event early this year and saw a dramatic increase in attendance. If the Royal Rangers outpost is known in the community, it is positioned to make Jesus known.

SUGGESTION #2: *Get a reputation for excellence.* That means get known for doing things well and right regularly, and for constantly improving. How? Plan high quality weekly meetings and outpost activities. Make them fun! Fun is contagious.

I am so excited that the *Global RRI Curriculum* has been completed and is now in the hands of the regional coordinators for regional adaptation. The materials are age-appropriate, commander friendly, high quality, flexible, systematic, designed to attract the unchurched, and built to develop Christians to maturity. These materials will help leaders tremendously to gain a reputation for excellence in the meetings and outpost activities. (Further information will follow in upcoming editions of *RRI 360°* concerning the *Global RRI Curriculum*.)

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SUGGESTION #3: *Get Rangers excited about inviting their friends, relatives, and neighbors. 75-90% of all growth is produced as Rangers get excited about their outpost and personally invite others to attend regular meetings.*

To do this, it is important to involve Rangers in leadership and decision-making. Students are excited about what they are involved in shaping. What is more, teach them how to welcome and include visitors so they enjoy their first Ranger experience, and each one thereafter.

A word of caution is important at this point. The motivation behind these suggestions must be evangelism.

- Conversion is more than joining a Rangers outpost—that is just affiliation.
- Conversion is more than reciting the Rangers pledge—that is just allegiance.
- Conversion is more than observing rules—that is just discipline.
- Conversion is the remaking of the soul to desire God first.

If we apply these suggestions, in addition to other techniques, we will have success in getting children and young people to join our outposts. But unless we minister in such a way that they ultimately experience a personal encounter with the risen Savior, they have only joined a religious club.

A Royal Ranger is not one who has simply made Jesus another piece of his or her life-puzzle; Christ, rather, becomes the whole picture. Paul said, “For to me, to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21).

Author Charles Alexander once wrote, “The last thing the devil wants you to do is to win a soul to Christ. If you don’t believe it, try it. The devil will let you go to prayer meetings, he will let you talk religious subjects and do ‘many mighty deeds’ if only you will stop short of persuading men to accept Christ as Savior and openly confess Him before men.”

Experienced Royal Rangers leaders know there are many valuable methods that enable them to direct an evangelistic outpost. But these same leaders know success is not measured by their ability to master the methods, as important as they are. They never let the application of Ranger techniques become the “mighty deeds” that cause them to lose focus of their ultimate goal—evangelism.

Leaders recognize success when students repeat the question Paul asked on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:5, “Who are you, Lord?” Once the student hears the answer, “I am Jesus,” he or she will ask, “What do you want me to do?” *That* is success, because conversion took place!

Master the methods and perfect the techniques? Absolutely! But define success by one word—evangelism.

There are nearly 2 billion unsaved Ranger-aged children and young people in the world. Our mission is to “reach, teach, and keep them for Jesus Christ.” Faced with such challenging numbers, we must love God and minister in His power. A minister once put it this way, “Make sure it is God’s trumpet you are blowing—if it is only yours, it won’t wake the dead; it will simply disturb the neighbors.”

In addition to loving God, we must unconditionally love students, and build personal friendships with them. Programs like Royal Rangers can become cold and impersonal, and no program can lead a soul to Christ. God has no other plan for saving the lost outside of using you and me personally. So let’s keep close to God, keep close to students, and bring God and students close together.

It is my hope that as national commanders we will be satisfied with nothing less than leaving the deepest impact on our nations’ children and young people. Royal Rangers *must* be an evangelistic ministry. If it is to be so, it must be so in the local outpost and at every other level of our organization.

Let’s **ThinkOne: EVANGELISM**. God has established Royal Rangers in 70 nations, six regions, and calls us to one purpose, *to adequately communicate Jesus-salvation to every Ranger-age student in the world.*



Successful Short-term Ministry Defined

PART 3 of 3 —“PRACTICAL”

When packing for an overseas ministry endeavor, today’s Royal Rangers leaders will take their backpacks loaded with camping gear, laptops, and projectors. In America, Europe, parts of Asia, and in other places, anything less would be considered mediocre.

Ministry must be presented in a manner that will challenge leaders to improve their methods while meeting them where they are. In some places, cutting-edge teaching props will be flannel graph, quality flip charts, or overhead projectors. In other places, leaders will declare, “Eureka!” when their tents are made of affordable tarps. Generous leaders may be shocked when a missionary asks for a donation of used pants to make backpacks rather than cash to buy new ones. Whether we are talking about teaching methods, camping gear, or financial or material donations, we must be practical. In the context of missionary work, being practical is what can be perpetuated.

New tents are impressive. But once they are worn out, the leaders in some nations become discouraged because they have to go back to using homemade tents. New ones are scarce and/or too expensive for them. In some places, being practical means teaching how to make tents, while in other places being practical is teaching how to buy affordable, quality tents. A prudent short-term minister will ask what can be perpetuated once he returns home.

Royal Rangers is blessed to have many leaders and older teens eager to obey the Great Commission. As we cooperate to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world, we must focus on effectiveness. Short-term overseas ministry must be field-driven, accountable, and practical. Millions of unsaved youth are counting on your success!

(This was the final installment of a three-part series entitled, “Successful Short-term Overseas Ministry Defined.” If you would like to read or re-read the first two parts, visit www.RoyalRangersInternational.com and review the previous editions of RRI 360.)



Meet the RRI Director and the Team

We would like to introduce you to the RRI Staff, who work hard to serve the Royal Ranger ministry around the world.

Doug Marsh is an actively appointed Assemblies of God foreign missionary serving as the Director of Royal Rangers International. Royal Rangers is expanding around the world to equip leaders to reach and disciple children for Jesus Christ. Currently, Royal Rangers is operating in 70 nations.

Prior to accepting his current assignment in 2002, Marsh served in Costa Rica, Central America for nine years. He has trained Royal Rangers leaders throughout Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Today, over five thousand trained men are ministering to 45,000 boys each week in 21 Latin American countries.

In 1997, Marsh secured an 35-hectore Royal Rangers training and discipleship center in Costa Rica, called Camp Summit .

In his current position, Marsh is drawing from his previous experience to assist national leaders and missionaries to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world. The focus is on developing regional curriculum, training programs, strategically located training sites, and, in general, promoting the ministry. He is married and has two children.

Andrew Whitman began his life as an Assemblies of God missionary in 1994 with an internship in Albania and the next year graduated from Valley Forge Bible College with a degree in World Missions. Later, he completed a second degree in Modern Foreign Language from Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg, VA.



Doug Marsh

He served with his wife and two children as missionaries to the Republic of Macedonia from 1998 - 2004. Together they helped refugees from the Kosovo War and introduced the Royal Ranger ministry. They also assisted in spreading the Ranger ministry to Bulgaria. Whitman currently serves as the RRI Communications Coordinator.

JR Whinery came to the U.S. national Royal Rangers office from Northern California in February 2001 to assume the role of National Administrative and Office Manager. He joined the RRI staff this year as Business Manager . Whinery started in Royal Rangers at the age of seven and progressed through the program to earn his Gold Medal of Achievement.

Whinery held positions as Lt. Commander and Commander; he was on sectional and district staff. He also served for seven years at the Rangers Store in Northern California. He is married and has two children. We are very glad to have him onboard at RRI!



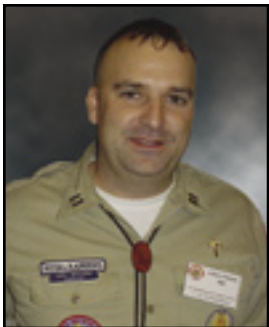
JR Whinery

Shana Atwood has lived in the Springfield area since 1994 and recently graduated from Southwest Baptist University with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Spanish. She leads praise and worship, teaches youth and children, and is an active participant in both U.S. and world missions activities.

Atwood joined the RRI staff at the beginning of 2004, as the secretary to Doug Marsh, the Director of Royal Rangers International. She assists in curriculum development, overseas training and travel, ministry promotions, and fundraising. We would like to congratulate her on her upcoming wedding!



Shana Atwood



Andrew Whitman

During the week of July 17-21, 2006, an estimated 7,500 boys and men from the U.S. and many foreign countries will travel to Eagle Rock, Missouri U.S.A. for this once-in-a-lifetime event. From the dawn of the early morning through the dark star-filled night, many exciting events will capture the attention of the campers, from the National Archery and National Pinewood Derby Championships, to racing on the BMX or Mountain Bike course, even climbing on the Rappelling Tower and hot air balloon rides.

Special services will be held each evening in the amphitheater that can accommodate up to 10,000 campers. The state-of-the-art stage complex houses a large, elevated projection screen at center stage to highlight the evening speaker or a special part of the service.

To sum it all up, begin making your plans to be at Camporama 2006 where you will experience great fun and fellowship and be personally challenged to a higher level of love and commitment to our Lord and Master Ranger, Jesus Christ!



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.ROYALRANGERS.AG.ORG.



Seminario de Actualización Latinoamericana

SAL Conference

(Seminario de Actualización Latinoamericana)

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

February 20 – 25, 2006

Royal Rangers International is organizing a unique conference in Orlando, Florida (USA) to introduce program and curriculum changes to all the of the Royal Rangers national commanders and staff from Latin America and the Caribbean (RRLAC). The goal of these changes is to standardize the Royal Ranger program throughout the region, encourage greater unity and cooperation among nations using the program, and to reinforce the spiritual essence and vision of the ministry. National Commanders will receive a high quality video or DVD in Spanish to take back to their country and use to train new leaders.

If you are involved with the Royal Ranger ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean, then you will not want to miss this important conference. Please visit www.ERLAC.com for further information.



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“BUNDESCAMP” Means Friendship



GOTHA, GERMANY — *Early-August 2005*

What an historical event!

Hello, friends! I am writing from the German Bundescamp. It is an event held every eight years and is similar to the USA Royal Rangers Camporama. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Bundescamp was the largest Royal Rangers event held anywhere in the world in this ministry's 43-year-history.
- 10,600 registered campers attended, plus some 2,000 guests visited including pastors, parents, friends, and governmental leaders.
- 360 flagpoles adorned the roadway inside the camp. Each represented one of the active Royal Rangers outposts in Germany.
- Small delegations from 13 nations attended (from the USA, Latin America, Africa, Eurasia, and, of course, Europe). These accounted for less than 100 of the campers.



- While one *international* scouting event held in Germany was more numerous, the Bundescamp was the largest *nationally* organized camping-type activity ever held in Germany. The previous record was set in 1935 when 9,000 German Scouts gathered for a Jamboree. But on the second day of the camp, Adolf Hitler recognized the event as a threat to his agenda and sent all the disappointed campers home.
- Favorable news articles and color photos were splashed all over the local newspapers.

■ The campers broke a world record! The Rangers in attendance at the Bundescamp set a new record in the *Guinness Book of World Records* by writing the entire

Bible by hand on strips of parchment paper in less than 15 minutes. (The previous record was 50 minutes.)



■ An impressive 10,000-seat amphitheater was erected to represent the Roman coliseum. With an awesome set, and appointed with a beautiful Royal Rangers emblem in the center arena, the coliseum was the camp's focal point.

■ Here are a few more facts to praise God about: The German Royal Rangers program is the second largest in the world with 12,000 members (second only to the USA). What is more, the largest outpost in the world is in Germany with just over 1,000 members. (This outpost has a goal of growing to well over 10,000!) Now, view these numbers in proper perspective. There are less than 50,000 Pentecostals/Evangelicals in the entire nation! Royal Rangers is an evangelistic ministry.



I would like to congratulate Gert Ersfeld, the National Royal Rangers Commander in Germany, for his outstanding vision and leadership. The land of the reformer, Martin Luther, is being renewed.

Doug Marsh, Director
Royal Rangers International



www.RoyalRangersInternational.com

Stay connected to what is happening around the world by visiting the RRI website. The RRI website is your one source for program information, reports, and details on upcoming global events. You can also follow links that will take you to regional Ranger websites. Be sure to check back often for new updates.