



ThinkOne: CALL

Royal Rangers:
71 nations,
Six regions,
One call



by Douglas Marsh, Director
Royal Rangers International

God is calling Ranger leaders the world over to ThinkOne. If we “reach, teach, and keep” in agreement of purpose we become the answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:23: That Royal Rangers everywhere “may be brought to complete unity *to let the world know that you sent me...*” Being one will empower Royal Rangers to let the *whole* world know about Jesus. That should excite you!

In our two previous ThinkOne articles we discussed that our ministry *purpose* is evangelism, and that our ministry *distinctive* is that we are Pentecostal-Charismatic. On this occasion we look at the driving *ideal* of our leadership—our **ministry leaders are God-called and use God-methods!**

In an assessment meeting held some years ago, numerous pastors were convened to help reflect on the strengths and limitations of the Royal Rangers ministry. One pastor suggested the training process was too challenging. He exaggerated to make a point, “It is easier to become a pastor than to become a Royal Ranger leader.” One of the other members humorously quipped, “Perhaps, but being a Royal Ranger leader is a higher calling!” Everyone laughed.

No disrespect was intended toward pastors by this leader’s comments and everyone knew it. But the underlying message conveyed was serious—being a Royal Rangers leader is a high calling; it really is! We are called to minister in God’s church, and as such we should express that call in New Testament fashion.

Royal Rangers Leaders are GOD-CALLED

A call is the committed-knowledge that a particular ministry and way of life is a personal God-ordained duty and honor.

Some mischievous teenagers broke into a department store one night and changed all the price tags. The following morning customers found washing machines priced at the cost of a candy bar, and candy bars priced as computers. Pants and dresses were marked very low while toothpicks were tagged as fine furniture. The shoppers were completely confused because the values were all mixed up.

Satan has entered the world and changed all the price tags. That which is of great value has been devalued, and that with little or no value is made to look expensive. Unfortunately, the enemy has depreciated in the minds of some leaders the significance of their Royal Rangers calling to “reach, teach, and keep” students and their families for Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, in the opening of each of his letters talks about his own commissioning. Reflecting on his words¹ will help Ranger leaders understand the value of their God-call.

- ▶ I am a Royal Rangers leader “to proclaim God’s words and acts” (Romans).
- ▶ I am a Royal Rangers leader commissioned and “sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God’s plan, along with my” fellow Ranger leaders (1 Corinthians).
- ▶ I am a Royal Rangers leader “sent on a special mission by the Messiah, Jesus, planned by God himself” (2 Corinthians).
- ▶ I am a Royal Rangers leader under contract—it “does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. I am God-commissioned! Jesus Christ rescued



us from this evil world we're in by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. God's plan is that we all experience that rescue!" (Galatians).

- I am a Royal Rangers leader "under God's plan; I am a special agent of Christ Jesus" (Ephesians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader because I am a "committed servant of Christ Jesus" (Philippians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader "sent on a special assignment by Christ as part of God's master plan" (Colossians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader "together with" my fellow Ranger leaders; I am not alone in this cause (1 and 2 Thessalonians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader "under God our Savior's command" (1 Timothy).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader "carrying out God's plan laid out in the Message of Life by Jesus" (2 Timothy).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader because I "am God's slave and Christ's agent for ... getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago—and he doesn't break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself" (Titus).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader in spite of hardships; I am committed! (Philemon).

Why am I a Royal Rangers leader? Because I have been called by God himself! What an honor to be called to this cause and this lifestyle; what a responsibility.

But it's not sufficient to be called. God's call must be expressed in God's fashion.

Royal Ranger Leaders Use GOD-METHODS

We are not commissioned to accomplish *our* purposes or to fulfill them in our own manner! We are called to do God's work God's way. He calls us to be shepherds after his own heart (Jeremiah 13:5).

Fortunately, the Bible is very clear about how to live out our call. As leaders we are expected to produce *spiritual* and *numeric* growth in Royal Rangers (Acts 16:5); to be spiritual leaders who influence students to become lifelong lovers of Jesus by following us as we follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Here are the New Testament methods that work 100% of the time used:

- Grow Royal Rangers by evangelism & discipleship (Acts 2:42-43, 47): God expects Rangers to reach the spiritually lost. Then, through our activities, advancements, and other systems, we are to diligently and intentionally teach practices that promote the lifelong lifestyle of becoming more like Jesus.
- Grow Royal Rangers by worship & prayer (Acts 2:42-43): We are to encourage and promote worship and prayer in our meetings and around campfires. God richly blesses those who call on him (Romans 10:12).
- Grow Royal Rangers by multiplication (Acts 11:19-26): We are to follow the early church model—multiplication by duplication. Every outpost should pioneer other outposts, plural. This supports world evangelism by teaching students to reproduce themselves spiritually.
- Grow Royal Rangers by compassionate service (Acts 2:44-45): Students should be mobilized to serve and to sacrifice to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people as Jesus did—with compassion.
- Grow Royal Rangers by friendship (Acts 2:46): Nurturing strong friendships is biblical—God mandates it, students thrive on it. (More on this in our next edition of *RRI 360°*.)

Royal Rangers leaders are called. The call is not intended to make us feel good or look good. No! It is all about God. For that reason, wise leaders fulfill their calling God's way. As we serve with diligence, spiritual and numeric growth follows; guaranteed!

I think of what God is doing in Stuttgart, Germany. Martin Seiler and his leaders caught a vision of what God could do through them if they simply expressed their God-call with God-methods. Martin recently said, "We realized that if we isolated our outpost from the world, the world would infiltrate the outpost. So we determined to go to the world and change it!" Changing their world, they are! The outpost now numbers over 1,200, and they are helping establish groups around Germany and in other nations.

All the world-changing outposts I've had the privilege of visiting in the last years have been led by leaders convinced of their God-call, and committed to using God-methods to grow their outpost.

Let's ThinkOne: CALL. God has established Royal Rangers in 71 nations, six regions, and gives Rangers one leadership ideal, **we are God-called to reach the entire world with God-methods** (2 Chronicles 30:12).

¹ Quotations taken from *The Message* by Eugene Petersen.

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.



Royal Rangers Commit Themselves to “Unprecedented Evangelism”



Royal Rangers International (RRI) held an historic conference in Orlando, Florida, February 20-25, 2006. In Spanish, the conference was called Seminario de Actualización Latinoamericano (SAL, which means salt). The purpose was to introduce new evangelistic program resources to the national Royal Rangers leaders in the Spanish-speaking world. 105 leaders (twice as many as originally expected) from Spain, Italy, Mexico, Central & South America, and the Caribbean attended.

The conference atmosphere was charged with energy as Puerto Rican trumpet player Willie Nieves opened each morning with a concert of praise. Guest speakers included: Dick Nicholson, Assemblies of God World Missions Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean; Richard Marriot, U.S. National Commander; Martin Seiler, leader of the world’s largest Royal Rangers outpost (with just over 1,200 members located in Stuttgart, Germany); and Enrique Strochein, Assemblies of God General Superintendent of Argentina. The ministry of the Word stressed the importance of evangelism, prayer, and Holy Spirit enthusiasm, guidance and power to grow Royal Rangers.

In addition to the ample resources, instruction and motivation received, the national leaders enjoyed great fellowship. Many were so excited to be with fellow Ranger leaders from around the world that they stayed up all evening talking and interacting.

Perhaps the most exciting result of the conference was seeing the national commanders accept a challenge issued by Doug Marsh, director of RRI. Reciting the first part of the Royal Rangers pledge, “With God’s help I will do my best to serve God,...” the national leaders committed themselves “to an unprecedented effort of Ranger-evangelism.” As a group they set a goal to grow the ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean from 45,000 to over 250,000 within the next ten years!

RRI is most grateful to Pastor Saturnino Gonzalez of Iglesia El Calvario for being such a gracious host. Additionally, to the following churches for generously supporting the SAL and investing into the future of Ranger-evangelism overseas: Faith Assembly of God – Orlando, FL; Mandarin First Assembly – Jacksonville, FL; New Life Assembly – Kissimmee, FL; Victory Assembly – Lakeland, FL; Evangel Assembly of God – Wichita, KS.

There is little doubt this conference will be viewed as historic. What will follow is “unprecedented Ranger-evangelism!”



DEBUT OF RESOURCES — A new evangelistic program was introduced for the Spanish-speaking world.

Bundescamp Bible Project

Interview between Martin Seiler & Royal Rangers International

— FEBRUARY 22, 2006 —



Many of our readers are probably familiar with the now famous Bundescamp, that took place in Germany last August. The Bundescamp was the largest gathering of Royal Rangers ever held in the world. However, some may not be aware of the special Bible project that occurred during the camp.

Royal Rangers International had the privilege of interviewing Martin Seiler, who was the innovator of the Bundescamp Bible Project and also happens to lead the world's largest Royal Ranger outpost (with more than 1,200 Rangers). Martin was responsible for the program ideas for the entire Bundescamp, based on a theme of ancient Rome and the spread of early Christianity.

Martin wanted to include segments in the camp program that highlighted the importance of the Bible. He brought in a biblical archeologist named Andi Schick to make an exhibit of the Bible through the ages, featuring many ancient manuscripts. Since the camp was being held only 25 miles from Wartburg castle, where Luther first translated the Bible into German, Martin decided to have an event where all the camp participants helped in making a copy of the Bible. This was also meant to remind the Rangers of all the Christians who had carefully preserved and painstakingly hand copied God's Word through the centuries.

Another German Ranger leader named Frank Lehmann was chosen to develop a system by which 7,000 Rangers would each receive a page with part of the Bible to transcribe onto a special strip of real papyrus paper. The Luther translation of the Bible was the version chosen, of course, which is dearly loved by the German people and similar to our King James Version in English. In fact, Luther's translation was referenced by the translators of the King James Version and served as a strong influence.

The Bible project team approached the Guinness Record organization to see if they were interested in timing the event for a possible world record. Unfortunately they were not interested due to its religious nature. The unofficial record for a previous attempt at



copying the Bible was known to be about 50 minutes. The Rangers at Bundescamp did it in 15 minutes!

The papyrus strips they used have now been bound together into a special Ranger Bible, with an embossed leather cover. The finished Bible weighs a whopping 92.5 pounds and its dimensions are 32 X 20 X 15 inches. It is presently touring Germany and will be showcased at upcoming Pow Wows and other Ranger events. Royal Rangers International wishes to congratulate our fellow German Rangers on a terrific camp and a great Bible project that has inspired thousands of young people everywhere, to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ☩



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German Ranger leader carrying finished pages of the Bundescamp Bible. The pages have now been compiled into a special leather bound Ranger Bible.

www.RoyalRangersInternational.com

Stay connected to what is happening around the world by visiting the RRI website. The site is your one source for program information, reports, and details on upcoming global events. Be sure to read *RRI 360°*, the official newsletter for Royal Rangers leaders around the world, which is archived on the site. You can also read current news, like the progress of the program in Bulgaria, or the exciting Bundescamp that took place in Germany this summer (the world's largest gathering of Royal Rangers!).