



OUR PLEDGE – “With God’s Help...”

Royal Rangers are missional leaders. Missional leaders depend on God!

BY DOUGLAS MARSH

There is an old story of a father who removed the deteriorating wooden stairs leading into the family’s basement. With the wood scraps out of the way, he was ready to start building the new steps. Fortunately it was high noon when the electricity went out. The 5-year-old son was disconcerted, nonetheless, and desperately wanted to be with his father who now stood in a dark basement.

- Standing at the door where there were once steps, the boy nervously called down into the blackness, “Dad, where are you?”
- Not wanting his son to fall, he responded calmly, “I’m right below you.”
- “Can I come down, Daddy?”
- “Yes, if you jump.”
- “But, Daddy, I can’t see you!”
- “That’s OK because *I can see you* and *I’ll catch you.*”

The son cautiously stepped up to the edge. Not knowing exactly where his dad was, he bent his knees slightly, stretched out his arms, and began leaning forward until he tipped over the side. He had no lack of trust. What a perfect picture of the Father’s dependability! As we

look into the future of Royal Rangers ministry, we do not know what tomorrow holds. But *God can see* and *He will lead us*, but we must depend on Him. And, yes, of course, the father caught his son and comforted him in his arms.

The Lord’s Prayer gives us five key words that teach us to depend on God—“Father, give us bread today” (Mt. 6: 9, 11).

“FATHER” – the Source

By crying, “Father,” we acknowledge Him as our source. Jesus described himself as the vine, and you and me as the branches. He said, “No branch can bear fruit by itself;” disconnected from Him (John 15:4-7). Picture the futility of plugging your computer’s power strip into itself. Trying to be fruitful or powerful in ministry on your own is equally futile, and, in fact, betrays a self-sufficient attitude that displeases God.

Effective ministry to Rangers starts and is sustained when we depend on our one and only Source. Jesus said, speaking of himself, “I do nothing unless I see the Father do it first” (John 5:19). The reason is because He wanted his efforts to produce eternal consequence, not just sweat. Too often we draft plans that are

not born in the prayer room where we cry out, “Father, what are you doing?”

To rely on Him is not to diminish our own ability. To the contrary, it is saying, “Lord, my strength comes from you and I’m bringing it and my creativity under your lordship. Now, Father, *please* help me direct them for your purposes.”

To serve and lead in this way renews our strength. That is why the prophet wrote, “Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31, NKJV). Working on our own priorities will sap energies, but working on God’s timeline puts wind in our sails; our human efforts are maximized by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Depend on God; He is your Source!

- NOT Royal Rangers International, as tireless as we all work to serve you!
- NOT the curriculum, as well developed as it may be.
- NOT the training program, as important as it is you avail yourself of it.
- NOT the events, as creatively as we try to plan them.



- NOT the products, as helpful as they are.
- NOTHING can replace God and His strategy nor His provision to help you reach, teach, and keep *every* lost student in your community and beyond. And make no mistake that *is* your charge! (Mt. 28:19).

When was the last time you prayed, “Father, what are the plans and purposes for the Rangers you have placed in my care, for the unsaved in my community? God will never fail to answer if you ask.

“GIVE” – the Poverty

By pleading, “Give,” we acknowledge our poverty. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:3). Only someone who knows they are poor will stretch out their hand in desperation and say, “Please, sir, can you give me alms?” Bruce Winston says, “Being ‘poor in spirit’ is the opposite of being ‘rich in pride.’ ”

Picture yourself holding a beggar’s tin cup. If it is full of dirt, who is going to drop coins into it? Too often we approach God with all the answers, a cup full of worthlessness, full of our pride, full of our own solutions. But if we approach God with a humble “poor spirit,” a clean, empty cup, God will fill our hearts with Himself, our minds with winning ideas, strategies, and heaven-authored solutions that will make us rich builders of God’s Kingdom. Depending on God requires that we empty ourselves of ourselves so we can hold more of Him.

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“US” – the Interdependence

By uttering, “Us,” we acknowledge our interdependence with one another. Leadership, and the Christian life in general, is not a solo but a team sport.

The Word calls us to:

- Care for each other (1 Corinthians 12:25).
- Help each other (Ecclesiastes 4:10).
- Pray for each other (James 5:16).
- Love each other (1 John 4:11).
- Confess our sins to each other (James 5:16).
- Grow in Christ-likeness together (Hebrews 10:25).
- And, yes, the Great Commission was issued to the corporate body; we are to link arms to evangelize the world (Mark 16:15).

Depending on God includes depending on each other. We honor God when others learn they can rely on us without question. Pastors, parents, and Rangers, in fact, entire families, are counting on you to care, to be helpful, to pray, to love, to listen, to grow, to reach the lost, just to name a few. When others can depend on your word, they will trust you and the God you represent.

Depending on God makes you dependable. As we all individually depend on God we become sources of strength for each other. If we have three chain links, one capable of holding 300 pounds, one 200 pounds, and one 100 pounds, how much can the three links hold in combination? Since a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, the answer is 100. Can you see that depending on God makes you and the entire body stronger?

“BREAD” – the Hunger

By asking for “Bread,” we acknowledge our hunger. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6). Have you ever been so hungry and thirsty that the fastest fast food restaurant seemed slow? Imagine, then, the pain the poor and homeless must feel on a regular basis. That is the kind of yearning God wants us to have for righteousness.

Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34). Righteousness is defined as actively doing the will of God. Adam was convinced to hunger for self-gratification rather than thirst for God’s will. As a result of sin, we live for the unholy trinity—me, myself, and I (James 4). A hunger for righteousness comes from God.

Nothing will make you hungry for God like getting your hands dirty in ministry. Feel that boy’s loneliness and hurt. His father just went to jail for continually beating him and his mother, who is 7 months pregnant. The courts have judged his expectant mom unfit to be a mother to him and his 3 siblings because she is on hard drugs. His parents withheld him from school for fear a teacher would see and report the obvious abuse. When you look the consequences of sin in the face you will have no clue what to do or how to respond. That is when you will start asking God just how he plans to accomplish His perfect will in that boy and his family’s life.

Sin breaks people’s lives and only the Gospel can mend them. No human plan can accomplish God’s ultimate purpose, “that none should perish” (2 Peter 3:9). In that light, we must hunger for God’s plan to develop righteousness in the lives of desperately broken children and youth.

Your example is everything. You must fight the tendency to feed what the “I” wants rather than what the great “I Am” wants. As we depend on God to satisfy our own thirst for sin-breaking righteous living, He will, 1) satisfy us, and 2) make us “springs of water welling up for eternal life” for those around us (John 4:14).

“TODAY” – the Urgency

By shouting, “Today,” we acknowledge the urgency of the hour. You and I desperately need God in the now all the time. Our attitude should be that of Jesus, “I must work while it is [today]” (John 9:4). This ministry we have been called to, to evangelize students, has life and death consequences. There is a hell to shun and a heaven to gain for every one of them. We need God’s help to remain at the top of our game 24/7 because lives are in the balance. The great news is He has a daily supply of grace if we will simply ask for it and receive it.

In conclusion, the temptation of Royal Rangers’ leadership is the devil’s invitation to lead independently of God. It’s a sinful ego thing—living for self or for God. To depend on God is to live for His glory; to be independent is to lead for my glory. Fundamentally it is not a question of whether we will depend on God or not, because we depend on him like air. The real question is whether we will acknowledge it. Our highest call in life is to rely on Him, to make Jesus look good.

Singing that old church nursery song, as simple as it is, says it well, “Little ones to him belong, they are weak but He is strong.” *We are* small in light of the perplexing problems students face today. We feel like the disciples in Matthew 15, where Jesus instructed them to feed the huge crowd of people. They asked how can we “feed such a crowd?” (v. 33). As soon as they spoke the question they acknowledged their weakness and dependence on Him, and Jesus took over and multiplied the loaves and fish. *We are* weak, but *He is* strong; He will help us guide Rangers through the challenges of the 21st century.

Our cry is, “Father, give us bread today!” Royal Rangers, when you recite Our Pledge, “**With God’s help,...**” you are making a radical commitment to *depend on God* unconditionally. Why? Because we are on a mission, a mission to reach, teach, and keep every Ranger-aged student in the world for Christ. To accomplish that, we *must* depend on Him. ☞



National Camporama Honduras Report

The National Camporama for Honduras was held in Valle de Angeles from October 13 – 15, 2006. The event was the climatic highlight of the year and the camp motto was “PREPARADOS PARA CONQUISTAR” (“Ready to Conquer”).

A total of 920 campers enjoyed the Camporama, with representatives from the United States, Nicaragua and the host country Honduras. For many children, it was a completely new experience. For others, the camp was another great moment they lived and shared in the growing Royal Ranger ministry of Honduras.

The Camporama theme recalled the history of the Spanish conquest in Latin America, and reminded the children that every Ranger should be prepared to conquer any challenge in their daily life. The camp featured a replica of Christopher Columbus’s ship the “Santa Maria,” and banners, dramas, and songs added additional emphasis and excitement to the conquering theme.

National Commander Miguel Saucedo, National Coordinator Daniel Ríos, and the Royal Rangers of Honduras thank the United States delegation for attending and for their unwavering support. The US delegation consisted of Eliseo Peralta (Deputy Commander, North Pacific Latin American District /Sectional Commander East Bay Section and Senior Commander El Golgota Church), Samuel Martínez (Oupost Commander, ICS Instructor) and Josué Peralta (Oupost Commander, ICS Instructor), each accompanied by their families. They also thank the delegation of children and parents from their sister nation, the Republic of Nicaragua, led by National Commander Carlos Guatemala. Finally and most of all, they wish to thank the Master Ranger and Conqueror, the Lord Jesus Christ, for the successful 3 days that will go down in Royal Ranger history in Honduras. ☞

EuroCamp 2007 — Keep On! *Lillehammer, Norway*

During the week of July 31 – Aug. 4, 2007, an estimated 5,000 Royal Rangers from all over Europe will travel to Lillehammer, Norway for EuroCamp. This special event takes place every 4 years and is similar to National Camporama in the USA, but instead of boys coming together from the 50 states, boys and girls will gather from 23 nations across Europe.



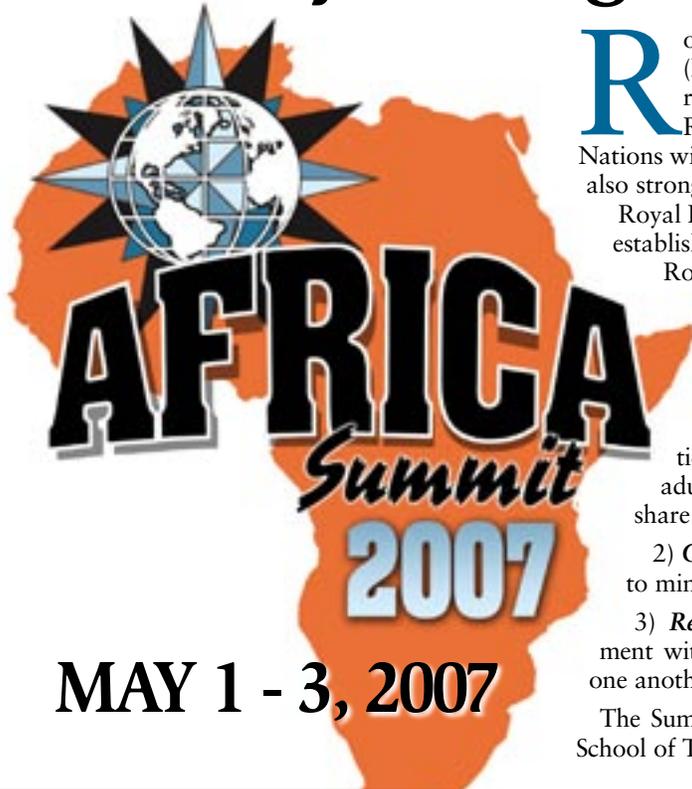
During the day, Rangers will participate in sports and compete against each other in activities designed to test their outdoor skills and use their God given talents. Many workshops and craft stations are offered that allow Rangers to exercise their

creativity through various artistic means.

Special services will be held each evening and are the spiritual highlight of the camp. Rangers will enjoy worship bands composed of their own peers, have the opportunity to express themselves through drama, and hear challenging messages from God’s word. The services are usually conducted in English, but translation is available through headsets into the many languages used throughout Europe. Historically, many young people give their hearts to the Lord, or are motivated to a deeper Christian walk during these services.

RRI staff members and Rangers from the USA will be attending as part of a special delegation to EuroCamp 2007. European Royal Rangers should visit www.RoyalRangersEurope.net to learn more and register for the camp, or contact Matthias Reinartz at pr@royal-rangers.de. Anyone working with Royal Rangers outside of Europe should contact RRI about receiving an invitation at: RRI@royalrangersinternational.com.

Royal Rangers Africa Summit



Royal Rangers International, in conjunction with The Kenya Assemblies of God (KAG) and the Africa Assemblies of God Alliance leadership, will convene a region-wide summit for nations in Africa who currently have an established Royal Rangers ministry or plan to introduce the ministry in the near future. Nations with an established (or soon to be established) Men's Ministries department are also strongly urged to attend.

Royal Rangers International (RRI) is an Assemblies of God ministry designed to help establish Royal Rangers in nations around the world, then strengthen and serve them.

Royal Rangers in Kenya has experienced God's blessing and has grown in close to 200 churches since the year 2000. KAG and RRI are partnering together to offer this summit because they believe God is prepared to expand and strengthen this great boys' ministry throughout the entire continent.

The purpose of the summit is three-fold:

1) *Share* – RRI will present Royal Rangers' vision, its adaptable evangelistic and discipleship curriculum, and its training programs designed to develop adult and youth leaders. Nations with a developed Royal Rangers ministry will share what is taking place in their countries;

2) *Contextualize* – Together we will discuss how to sharply focus Royal Rangers to minister to the deepest needs of African boys;

3) *Relate* – We will consider how RRI can support Royal Rangers development within Africa and how nations may provide mutually beneficial assistance to one another.

The Summit will take place May 1 – 3, 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, at the East Africa School of Theology campus. Contact RRI if you desire further details. ☞



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RRI Global Leaders Encounter

RRI is planning an exciting worldwide gathering of Royal Rangers July 14-18, 2010 near Springfield, Missouri, USA called the **RRI Global Leaders Encounter (GLE)**. The theme is "One Family" and attendance is limited to National Commanders, national staff members, organizational leaders, presidents, superintendents, bishops, missionaries from around the world, and special invited guests. The GLE has been scheduled immediately before the U.S. Camporama so that delegations can enjoy

both of these events on the same trip to America. Please mark your calendar. This is an opportunity you will not want to miss! In the meantime, please send any ideas you might have or topics you would like covered at the Encounter to your Regional Coordinator (or to Andy Whitman, the RRI Communications Coordinator, if your region does not yet have a Coordinator). We are eager to hear from you. All ideas received by next April will be considered. Additional information will be provided mid-2007. ☞



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 preparations for the Africa Summit, or the growing RRI staff.