



— OUR PLEDGE —

“With God’s Help, I Will Do My Best to Serve...”

Royal Rangers are missional leaders. Missional leaders are servants!

PART TWO-B in a series of four articles | BY DOUGLAS MARSH

PART TWO-B: “I Will Do My Best to Serve...”

Continued from last issue of RRI 360° —

Gear-up with Vision

The primary focus and vision of servant leaders is on the individual. They are forward-looking. They see today’s student as a custom project in the Master Ranger’s hands, tomorrow’s godly Christian in the making. Servant leaders see themselves as tools, helping Rangers attain a larger vision of purpose than they might otherwise be able to attain.

I remember attending Outpost 6 in Springfield, Missouri as a 12-year-old Trailblazer. My commander was David North. I confided that I had been called to become a Royal Rangers missionary. He caught a vision for me. It might have been easy for him to smile at me outwardly and inwardly think, “Well, here is another boy with a pipe dream. Ha, ha, ha! Good luck, kid.” Not a chance! He listened, spoke words of encouragement,

and dared to tell others I’d someday become a Royal Rangers missionary. The rest, as they say, is history. I’m glad David did not grow faint, second-guess the impact of his ministry in Rangers, and lose his vision for me (and many others).

Visionary Royal Rangers leaders have faith in God’s ability to work in boys’ lives. They can sense the unknowable, know students’ potential, and help them see the possibilities. Since servant leaders can “see” where Rangers are headed, they serve them better with clear purpose, direction, and dignity. Their ability to see the unseen potential in people leads them to speak blessings into their lives that emboldens them to accomplish goals as self-fulfilling prophecies.

Servant leaders have a vision for others as a means of influence. They ask, “How can I help this Ranger become the man or woman God intends for him or her to be?” They aren’t students being run through an impersonal mechanical system, they are unique individual

you have caught a vision for—a vision to evangelize, equip, and empower them to become the next generation of Christ-like men and women and lifelong servant leaders.

When we dream a God-vision for students, we influence them; we serve them with excellence.

Gear-up with Trust

The surest sign of a trustworthy leader is in keeping his or her word; that is, their words and actions are consistent. A leader’s word is the measure of his or her character. People do not trust in someone who does not keep their word because to do so is to trust a lie.

While secular leaders are concerned first with how they lead, servant leaders are concerned first with how they live. Ranger leaders know boys and girls are imitating them.

Not only is trust built with integrity but it is also fostered by showing personal concern and love for others. The adage is true: “People



don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Leadership influence is determined by relationship. The reality is leaders only have the influence others permit them to have (unless, of course, they chose to lead by fear and intimidation, which is manipulative leadership!). Servant leaders are radically committed to leading with love, to leading relationally.

Build friendships! Tear down walls that hinder closeness from growing between you and those you are called to influence. Learn to relate! Go ahead ordering a Dulce de Leche Frappuccino® Blended Crème at your local Starbucks® it is not really that hard. Get an Expedition Ranger to teach you, and she will love you for asking.

The most valued characteristic of a person, in any venue of life, has been shown to be trustworthiness. The old adage is true: "You cannot make a good deal with a bad person." Without trust, there is no foundation for leadership or relationship.

The outcome of distrust is discord and disharmony. Trust is built on truth; people extend trust to you to the limit of truth and no more. Servant leaders know that building trust builds influence and enables them to serve with excellence.

The net result of trust is relationships are deepened, common goals are attained, and Rangers, like their leaders, embody dependability. What is more, your moral, ethical, and spiritual standards build security into the lives of those around you and enhance their well-being. When we are trustworthy, we influence others; we serve with excellence.

Gear-up with Empowerment

Empowerment is power sharing. Servant leaders share influence with others. They don't view leadership as acquiring and hoarding position or privilege but as fulfilling their responsibility to serve people.

Jesus empowered and released the people He led so they could achieve greater accomplishments than the ones He himself performed (John 14:12). This means you are willing to create the conditions and supply the resources that others need to succeed without being threatened by their resulting growth and success in service.

Veteran missionary George Davis has been my personal friend and mentor for many years. He was an empowering leader for me and for others for decades. His life is characterized by having produced dozens of capable leaders who have gone on to accomplish great things in the Kingdom. He was fond of naming popular sports stars and asking if you knew who their personal trainer was; of course, hardly anyone knows that. He believed that was a primary role of every leader—to mentor next generation leaders without fanfare. George taught me that empowerment involves listening, making

people feel significant, placing emphasis on teamwork, and valuing love and equality.

Empowerment is achieved by mentoring students (which is training them to meet expectations), by developing their skills, and by building their God-confidence. Then you release them for ministry and service. This builds Rangers, like you, into lifelong servant leaders. Suddenly, you are no longer leading a few students you are leading a movement!

Empowerment allows you to influence an ever-greater number of people and serve them with excellence. In turn, they influence a greater number of people and serve them with excellence. Empowerment begets service, ultimately permeating the entire outpost and beyond.

Gear-up with Service



The most valued characteristic of a person, in any venue of life, has been shown to be trustworthiness. The old adage is true: "You cannot make a good deal with a bad person."

Servitude and service are different. Servitude is involuntary. Service is voluntary.

Rangers are passionate about being servant leaders because sin results in servitude. But Jesus' sacrifice lifts us from servitude to sin to service to God and His purposes. We were not drafted; we enlisted to serve students first as a way to influence them. Our service then opens the door allowing us to lead them, to influence them to be Christ-followers! We serve first, lead second (1 John 4:19).

I'm a father of two and love it. One of the memories every parent has is when his child brings him or her a picture he's drawn or a flower she's picked and says, "This is for you just because I love you." Wow! Life in that moment can't get better. One of the greatest gifts we give our heavenly Father is our service to people He loves and died for.

We serve by getting involved in students'

lives. We give time, energy, and finances. We are genuine and authentic; we create a place for boys to belong. We listen and lead with compassion.

Experienced leaders know that if they win someone to themselves they can win them to the Lord. Concisely, that is what Royal Rangers is about—giving mentors the tools to win boys and girls to themselves by serving them so they can win them to the Lord. The net result is our combined service as Royal Rangers leaders introduces millions of students to freedom from servitude to sin to a life of service to the Master Ranger.

Conclusion

Is practicing servant leadership easy? Not at all! In fact, if you lead as a servant, people will at times treat you like one. Someone has said, "Being pressed into service often means being pressed out of shape."

But the outcome of living our service pledge is well worth it:

- Rangers will follow because they identify with and commit themselves to strong leaders who love them and have their best interests at heart.
- Rangers will expend greater personal effort to grow in the Lord, in leadership, in advancements, and in service because of your example.
- Rangers will be self-motivated, meaning leaders have to expend less energy "rallying the troops."
- Rangers will join the leaders' cause to evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christ-like men and women and lifelong servant leaders. This transforms leaders from leaders-of-followers to leaders-of-leaders; this is where growth turns from addition to multiplication.

Ancient Greek sculptors were in the habit of tearing the nails from their thumbs in order to detect with the quick of their flesh even a minute rough spot. If any flaw could be discovered even by this extreme measure, the marble was not smooth enough for them. They were dominated by a desire for excellence regardless of the sacrifice. As Royal Rangers leaders, let us pay the price to be true to our service pledge so that God can use us as tools to craft the next generation of men.

Royal Rangers, when you recite our pledge, "With God's help, I will do my BEST to SERVE God, my church, and my fellowman...", you are making a radical commitment to be an exceptional servant leader. Why? Because we are on a mission to reach, teach, and keep every Ranger-aged student in the world for Christ. To accomplish that, we must serve because service is our chief means of influencing students for eternity.

More RRI Africa Summit Results



Patrick Kawe, the national commander of Kenya, working with RRI to train 115 new leaders (including 8 women) in Ghana in November, 2008.

In the last issue of RRI 360°, we reported on the first ever RRI Africa Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. We are still seeing the effects of this incredible conference, which was orchestrated by God. As a direct result of the summit, Patrick Kawe of Kenya traveled to Malawi and held a Ranger Basics course for over 40 new leaders in October. Also, RRI is able to send a team to the nation of Ghana to train 115 new leaders in November, and the nation of Madagascar is rapidly moving ahead with their plans to introduce Royal Rangers in 2008.

Walter Edem Atsutsey, the national Commander of Ghana, sent us this testimony about the Africa Summit's impact:

"WE HAVE BEEN EDUCATING LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION AT VARIOUS GATHERING AND MOUNTING STANDS FOR ROYAL RANGERS PRODUCTS SINCE WE RETURNED FROM THE KENYA SUMMIT. ABOUT 95% DID NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND WHAT ROYAL RANGERS IS ALL ABOUT. THEY ONLY KNEW US AS PERFORMING DRILLS AND MARCHING DURING LOCAL MEN MINISTRY DAY CELEBRATIONS.

HOWEVER, AFTER LISTENING TO US EXPLAINING OUR MISSION AND THE KIND OF MATERIALS WE USE AND TEACHINGS WE GIVE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR PERCEPTION ABOUT US HAS CHANGED COMPLETELY. MOST OF THEM CAME TO CONFESS THIS TO US AND EVEN PLEDGE EITHER TO JOIN AS COMMANDERS OR SUPPORT THE MINISTRY. THIS IS A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO US.

THE RANGERS AND COMMANDERS ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW CURRICULUM AND PRODUCTS. THEY WISH THEY COULD HAVE THEM EARLY. WE WANT TO THANK GOD FOR YOUR LIFE FOR COMING OUT WITH THE PRODUCTS."

RRI has been invited back to Malawi in March 2008 to train 150 leaders and to Ghana in October 2008 to take their leaders to the next level in the Royal Ranger ministry. We feel that it is definitely God's time for the Royal Ranger ministry in Africa. A similar type of conference is planned for Asia in 2008 and we believe that God is going to do great things in that region as well. Please remember to pray for our fellow Rangers around the world and ask God to use them in powerful new ways to reach their children for Christ.

Ghana 2007 NTC Report

By Team Leader Bill Stokes, TN District

The NTC held in Ghana was quite a bit different than what we get in the States because many things we take for granted are not available in other countries. Wherever we went we would mention Royal Rangers and what we were doing, as this is great way to witness to the people we were dealing with. Most of them thanked us for what we were doing and wished us well. But the important thing is we were able to plant seeds about JESUS, THE MASTER RANGER and GOD'S KINGDOM. Only God knows in what way we touched those lives as Royal Ranger commanders.

Patrick Kawe from Kenya, Tony Thomas from Minnesota, and the staff members from Ghana did a fantastic job of setting up a model campsite and getting the grounds cleaned for the trainees that came. Some trainees had to travel two or three days by public transportation to get to the camp. You could feel the excitement in the air as men (and women) were introduced to their patrols. Many tribes were represented in this camp, and tribal differences are many, but they all had two important things in common. First of all, JESUS. Secondly, but not the least, they had a desire to reach the boys and girls of their country for JESUS. I was truly excited to see all that took place and I'm excited to see what our MASTER RANGER is going to do here!

A Lesson from Butterflies

BY JEFF O'DONNELL

Jeff O'Donnell is Royal Ranger commander from Florida who has helped with Royal Ranger seminars and events in Macedonia and has also been involved in ministry in India. He has shared this powerful true story with many people around the world.

One day during my lunch break, I took a walk, as I often do, to spend time in prayer; to be alone with the Lord and away from the noise of the busy phosphate plant where I work. This was a particularly hot summer day, so I walked over to some eucalyptus trees to sit in the shade. It's a favorite spot of mine and I even keep a metal bucket there to sit on.

While I sat there praying, I looked across the road to a field of tall grass and saw a beautiful monarch butterfly. As my eyes became fixed on the butterfly, I could not help but wonder why it was flapping its wings so hard and yet not going anywhere. Then

I saw what had happened: a spider had crawled up one of the tall blades of grass and, while spinning a web, had jumped over the butterfly. The spider jumped back across, spinning another strand - back and forth, again and again. It reminded me of the way someone might throw a rope over cargo in the back of a truck to secure the load.

I thought, "That butterfly is too beautiful to let this happen." So I got up to rescue it. Then, it was as if the Lord spoke to my heart, saying, "No. Sit back down!" I assumed God wanted me to see nature take its course, so I sat back down. Suddenly, out of nowhere, two monarch butterflies flew past my right side. Another one zoomed past my left. They flew fast and straight, one behind the other,

over to the trapped butterfly. Then, one after the other, they "dive-bombed" the web. They did this over and over and over again.

I was bewildered by what was happening, until suddenly the trapped butterfly rose; it was free! Quickly, all four Monarchs flew away. Totally amazed, I continued to watch, as one of the butterflies came swooping back, hovered over the spider for a few seconds, and again flew away.

The Lord spoke to me through His Spirit, a dynamic

lesson: "Jeff, that butterfly was beautiful in your eyes. So are people beautiful in mine. I could have let you free that butterfly, but I chose to use its own kind to help it. Just as I do with humans. I could send angels to help people, or intervene supernaturally, but most often I choose not to. I want people to help other people who are trapped or hurting."



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RRI Upcoming Events

Annual EuroLeader Conference

The next EuroLeader Conference is coming up soon. It will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, February 14 - 17, 2008.

The theme this year is "Advancement By Training." European national commanders should contact the Europe Regional Office to register for this important event.

Royal Rangers International Council Meeting

Royal Rangers International will hold the next annual Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 22 - 24, 2008. This meeting will be hosted by Jim Guneratnam, the RRI Representative for Asia, and followed immediately by the first ever regional conference for Royal Rangers in Asia. Please pray for this important event!

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.

