



# Royal Rangers International 2009 COUNCIL SUMMARY



*Kenya, April 21-23, 2009*

The sixth annual Royal Rangers International (RRI) Council meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya, April 21-23, 2009. The RRI Council meets each year to conduct business, exchange information and ideas between regions, and to build camaraderie and teamwork among the members. This was the first RRI Council held in the Africa Region. Here are some highlights of this year's meeting:

### **New Chartering Stewards**

The council reviewed the new Chartering Steward Agreements and the following were formally ratified:

Africa ~ Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, and Malawi

Europe ~ Albania, Poland and Slovenia

Asia Pacific ~ Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, and Vanuatu

Latin America & the Caribbean ~ Chile and Guatemala

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*From left to right:*

Jeff Cooper — *Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Coordinator*

Jim Guneratnam — *Asia-Pacific Representative*

Andy Whitman — *RRI Africa Liaison*

Doug Marsh — *RRI Director*

JoAnn Butrin — *Director of International Ministries for Assemblies of God World Missions*

Robert Crabtree — *RRI Field Advisor*

Jukka Piirainen — *European Regional Coordinator*

Patrick Kawe — *the National Commander of Kenya*



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## Translation Projects

The Royal Rangers ministry is now in 78 countries around the world. Many of these countries are using logbooks and curriculum created by Royal Rangers International. Currently these are only available in English and Spanish versions. Several other key languages are needed so that Royal Rangers in Asia, Eurasia, Europe, and Africa can easily use the materials.

This year Royal Rangers International is targeting some strategic new languages for translation, namely Chinese, Malagasy, Russian, and Portuguese. One out of every six people in the world is Chinese, so there are a huge potential number of Chinese children that could become Royal Rangers if they had the books in their own language. Other countries, like the island of Madagascar off the coast of Africa, are very isolated from the rest of the world and speak a language that is different from all of the nations around them. In order for Rangers to do well and continue to grow in Madagascar they need everything to be in their language (called Malagasy).

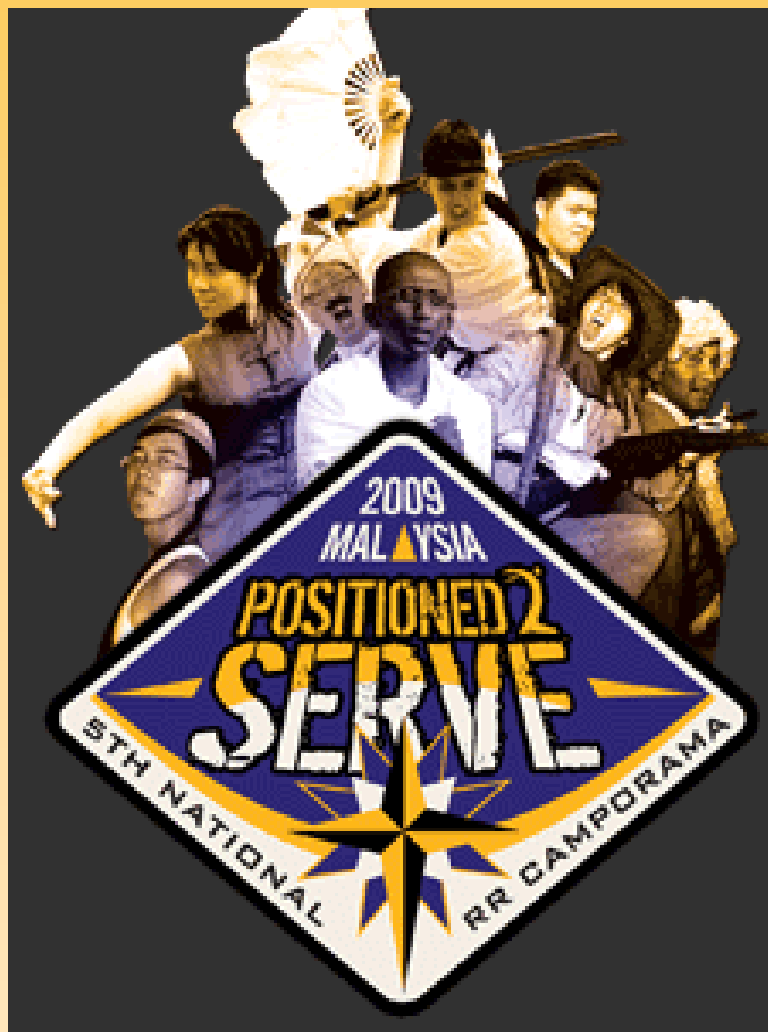
## Organizational Leadership Training

The RRI Council discussed resources to help national leaders be successful through a new course called Organizational Leadership Training (OLT).

The council was asked to consider ways to adapt OLT for the region and also discussed the following elements of the training:

- a. **Purpose:** To challenge men and women holding (or hoping to hold) positions of service or leadership at any level within their nation (outside the local church) to grow spiritually, to develop well-rounded ministry competences, and to enhance their leadership aptitudes.
- b. **Attitude:** The intent of this training is to help leaders discover their God-given talents and use them to express love and minister to those in their care, not to pour them into a mold.

The next RRI Council meeting is currently being planned by Mark Broberg, the Eurasia Regional Coordinator, to take place in the nation of Turkey in April of 2010. ☞



# National Camporama 2009, Malaysia *June 10-13, 2009*

Benum Hill Eco-Resort  
Raub, Pahang, Malaysia

*Article by*  
Malaysian Commander Kester Low





One busload after another, more than 700 boys and girls from outposts Malaysia-wide alighted, stepping into 4 days & 3 nights of extreme excitement, energy, and enthusiasm in a camp themed Positioned to Serve! This is the 5th Malaysian National Camporama 2009!

Campers were grouped into 4 Cities. Each camper became 'citizens' of a 'City'. So the Camporama saw the makings of Australians, Chinese, Indians, and Japanese. Every day, campers led by charismatic City Mayors gathered and recited City cheers. The camp was constantly alive with enthusiastic rhythms, songs, cheers, and yells. Every activity participated by representatives from Cities were accompanied by echoes of City-pride hoo-has! And each version infused a huge amount of creative flair.

During the days the campers were busy with activities like Laser Tag, an obstacle course, flying fox & archery; Intercity Challenges like the crazy-boating-regatta made of cardboard, Ultimate Frisbee games, and a range of Skillarama tasks such as boomerang throwing, darts, human 'chicken' fights, etc. Each city also had their own set of must-dos such as rugby in slow-motion, making 'tong yun' (a sweet glutinous-rice-flour-ball drink), tasting chai (Indian tea), and sumo wrestling (in huge sumo suits)! The City citizens were always busy trying to complete all the activities offered. Along with that, there was also an FCF Village where patch trading took place, and various other crafts/skills were done - ie, Sushi making (and eating), origami, paper fan making, tea making, tasting and appreciation, Indian fried-cooking-yummy-ness, Vegemite with crackers and more. In a nutshell, they really had plenty to do.

On the first night, each City hosted a City Night by campfire. Australia had big shouts, claps, dancing and a really cool archway that was aptly named the Mighty Boomerang. China had ample Confucius-style analects, proverbs and humour, and challenged each to a self-less service, of perseverance and faith like the pioneering Chinese missionaries and Christians. India was a coloratura of dances and food delights, amidst lighted oil lamps. The Indians were also encouraged to serve, as did Mother Theresa. In Japan, the night began with samurais giving an entertaining swordplay performance with their shiny katanas – which led to having their campfire being lit. They were also reminded of the story of a young David and the giant Goliath and how when in the position to serve God, one is never too small.

On the following nights, campers attended the rallies. The rallies included a big amount of jumping, praising and worshipping as we sought after God's presence - which was very real. Cmdr Gideon and Cmdr Mike brought the message of the camp theme and reminded us to offer our lives to God - and be personal with Him, that He may position us to serve just as King David did.

The camp was exemplary in how many young commanders were taking positions to serve in the camp and how God used them to bless the many around them. We surely thank God for the vivid memories made, friendships fostered and Godly encounters we would trade for nothing. Most importantly, 62 campers accepted Christ as their personal saviour and King!

Visit the Asia Pacific Royal Rangers website at <http://www.rasiapacific.org/>

IN RECENT YEARS, DreamWorks Animation SKG® made the island nation of Madagascar, located off the east coast of Africa, very popular.

Today, Madagascar is an example of the great things that God is doing through Royal Rangers. In 2004, missionary Nate Lashway moved his family to Africa and learned to speak French and Malagasy (their native language). His heart was to help churches minister effectively to children. Little did he know his background in Rangers would be so helpful in his mission.

# Africa: Madagascar

## *Royal Rangers Around the World*

by Nate Lashway, Assemblies of God Missionary to Madagascar



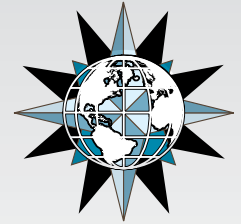
In 2004, I came to Madagascar to target basic children's ministry training. Most churches had no idea how to minister to their children effectively. In early 2006, Pastor Laurent, the pastor of the largest Assemblies of God church in Madagascar, asked me what I could tell him about Royal Rangers? I told him that it was a great program for reaching boys that I had run effectively in the United States in several churches. I also expressed to him my doubts that it would work well in Madagascar since children's ministry itself was so new. He asked me if I had any books he could review. I went home and found a very dog-eared English version of the Pioneers handbook that I gave him. Soon after that I returned to the United States on furlough. During my absence, Doug Marsh and Andy Whitman held the first Africa Summit in Kenya, and Pastor Laurent and Pastor Hery (pastor of the second largest church on our island) attended the conference with missionary Manny Prabhudas.

On my return, these two pastors had already begun a rudimentary Royal Rangers ministry and had been receiving some help with camping skills from a German Rangers leader who was volunteering for a few months in Madagascar. In consultation with Andy Whitman, I began teaching some basic Rangers principles, meeting techniques, and how to work with children. The Madagascar Royal Rangers program is severely hampered by language. All Rangers material and program discs are in English, so each course, training, and outpost meeting plan must be painstakingly translated into the Malagasy language. Amazingly, this has not slowed down the work here. Several

outposts have gone on ministry hikes into the countryside to just randomly be Jesus to local villagers by helping them make bricks, helping in fields with farmers, or playing games with local children. All the time these Rangers were wearing their uniforms and sharing Jesus.

In another instance, a large group of Rangers led by Pastor Hery went to a nearby village for intentional evangelism. When they arrived, the younger Rangers began to play and draw the village children into games while the elder villagers watched. The older Rangers (age 12 and older) had practiced their testimonies and all began to go door to door in the village and invite people to come to the center of the village for a special meeting. By the end of the day, over 130 people accepted Jesus and a new church was planted in the village.

This past spring we were able to attend the second Africa Summit in Malawi. What an encouragement to see what God is doing across Africa. Back in Madagascar we are still working on translating the vast amount of materials required to run the Rangers program as intended, but Rangers are alive and well. Currently, we have five pilot outposts with over 500 Royal Rangers involved. This coming year at least five more outposts will begin in other parts of the island. Please pray with us as this important ministry grows and expands throughout the entire island. Even in the midst of recent political unrest, God's kingdom is advancing and Royal Rangers is right there in the middle of it. ■



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*In our first 40 years (1962-2002), Royal Rangers around the world grew at a rate of 1.25 nations per year. But since the creation of Royal Rangers International in 2002, we are growing at the rate of 4.5 nations per year. Royal Rangers is active in 78 nations. We are influencing more boys and young men than ever, more effectively than ever!*



Left to right:  
Pastor John Smith, Ed Burke,  
Nate Lashway, Andy Whitman