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SPANISH NRMC in Las Cruces, New Mexico, U.S.A.

By Fernando Ahumada, Royal Rangers Latin America & the Caribbean Assistant Coordinator



An all-Spanish National Rangers Ministry Camp (NRMC) took place March 26–28, 2013, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, U.S.A. This was truly an international NRMC, with the participation of 19 students and 8 instructors from Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama) in addition to the staff and students from the United States.

NRMC students commented on how extraordinary the experience was for them both spiritually and educationally. The camp changed their view of ministry to the boys and affected their personal lives as men—husbands, sons, and members of a church, and in society in general.

This NRMC had great significance for the Royal Rangers of Latin America and the Caribbean, demonstrating changes made to the program over the last few years. The seven national directors who were present experienced firsthand the differences between the National Training Camp (NTC) and the NRMC and saw the new program elements of Royal Rangers 2.0 in action, two years after the changes were announced in a regional summit. While not all of the national directors in attendance caught the vision for Royal Rangers 2.0, they could envision the future direction of Royal Rangers.

This camp has become the springboard for launching the NRMC in all of Latin America in 2013 and 2014. The regional Latin America and



the Caribbean Royal Rangers team is excited to introduce the NRMC to our leaders. It will bring the Royal Rangers ministry to a higher level as local, national, and regional leadership commits to an even stronger relationship with God, engages with the ministry, and strongly develops junior leadership in our Rangers. Our challenge will be to get all leaders to come to the training, but it will be well worth the effort to see the Holy Spirit work in each youth and the Royal Rangers ministry strengthen and grow.

All glory and honor be to our Lord Jesus Christ. May we continue on the path to being "Together and United" (Acts 2:1). ☺

REACHING THE EX-STREET CHILDREN IN MALAWI

By Mphatso Chidothe, Royal Rangers Malawi



In an effort to influence more youth more effectively than ever, Malawi Royal Rangers has started an outreach to ex-street children in the capital city of Lilongwe. We are working through the Social Rehabilitation Center, an institution which is under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development of the Malawian government.

Out of the 15 million people in Malawi, 8.5 million are children. About 837,000 children are orphans. Twelve thousand children live in child-headed households, and more than 1000 live and work on the streets. About 41 percent experience physical or sexual abuse—65 percent of the girls experience some kind of sexual abuse by the age of 16, and one in every three girls is married before the age of 16. The 15–49 age group has been hit extremely hard by HIV/AIDS.



Even though Malawi has a beautiful freshwater lake running across two-thirds of the country and has rivers watering its land and a great climate for farming, it is listed among the 20 least-developed countries in the world.

About 39 percent of the population lives on \$5 per day, 15 percent are extremely poor, and 85 percent rely on subsistence farming. Divorce, poverty, poor parenting, witchcraft accusations, and HIV/AIDS are the major factors which put these children on the street. Most of the children come from areas within 10 kilometers of Lilongwe's city center; others, from districts hundreds of kilometers away from the capital city.

With its minimal resources, the rehabilitation center provides shelter, food, education, and recreation. It only gets \$300 a month from a nongovernmental organization for food, groceries, and three workers' salaries. On occasion it receives donations for clothes, shoes, bedding, school bags, notebooks, and textbooks. Once the children are taken off the street and to the center, they are put on a holistic rehabilitation process. Royal Rangers was invited to assist in the spiritual aspect.

The outpost started on January 21 with 28 children between the ages of 4 and 17, 5 of whom were girls. Now the total number has grown to 32, but 3 of the girls (aged from 10 to 13) went back on the street a month ago. The outpost meets every Monday afternoon for two hours with volunteer commanders from the Assemblies of God School of Theology because it has no commanders of its own to run its activities.

Working with these children has been significant for both the center and Malawi Royal Rangers because the love, smiles, and friendship shared

make a difference. Teaching about Christ and giving hope to children who have gone through the most horrible experiences in their homes, community, and on the street and assuring them that in any situation, past or present, God will never leave them or forsake them gives purpose to the existence of Malawi Royal Rangers. Telling the children that God knows each one of them by name and that Malawi looks forward to their leadership and contribution inspires them to pursue education and life skills.



Praying with them and learning that 29 out of the 30 boys would like to become soldiers when they grow up to protect themselves and their family, as well as listening to the rampant prayer petition for English vernacular and language literacy, compels Malawi Royal Rangers to take action. ☺



ROYAL RANGERS
— INTERNATIONAL —

Global Ministry & Resource Center

1644 West Lloyd St., Ozark, MO 65721-6667

PHONE: 417.595.0603 FAX: 417.485.0655

E-MAIL: RRI@RoyalRangersInternational.com

WEBSITE: RoyalRangersInternational.com

RoyalRangersInternational.com



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