Royal Rangers, Siberian Style

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By Karla Ford

All training camps for leaders and children, as well as all camps and outings, have been completely self-funded. From spelunking, rafting, and bicycle trips in Western Siberia to scaling mountains in the Far East, young people across Siberia and the Far East are being engaged through Royal Rangers. As a result, they are hearing and responding to the gospel as well as growing in their walk with God. The foundation has been laid for exponential growth.

A particularly useful skill set in this part of Russia is provided through Winter National Training Camp (WNTC). Our first WNTC was held in March 2012 for leaders, and the first for youth was held in Western Siberia in spring 2013. You haven't experienced anything until you go through WNTC at sub-zero temperatures, sleeping one night in tents and another night in snow caves on a frozen lake! Equipped with



their newfound knowledge, Royal Rangers outings can now be held safely year-round.



We experienced some important firsts in 2013. Forty-five leaders and young people from Siberia and Far East Russia traveled by train for four to seven days one way to attend the first all-Eurasia camp in the Ukraine in July.

Also, the first team of Royal Rangers traveled to a closed border nation to share their walk with Jesus

in May. It is so exciting to watch the light turn on and see them realize the impact they can make for the Lord. Russia is no longer just a receiving nation, but it can be a sending one as well! The Royal Ranger leaders are now preparing for the first national commanders'



meeting to be held east of the Urals—perhaps the first one completely planned and executed without any foreign assistance— to be held on Lake Baikal in August 2014.

In just ten short years we have come full circle, since they are now capable of sustaining growth within Russia as well as expanding beyond its borders. Royal Rangers is a part of completing the Great Commission, and we now have some new partners in the Russian team!

he vast, untouched wilderness stretching across Siberia and Far East Russia has provided the perfect backdrop for the growth of Royal Rangers. From its humble beginnings in the fall of 2004, Royal Rangers has attracted the adventurous, the ingenious, and the fearless. In a nation with little to no infrastructure for outdoor activities, the Royal Ranger leaders have had to learn to build everything from scratch—toilets, shower facilities, kitchens, pantries, meeting rooms, etc.—because a typical Russian Royal Ranger campsite begins with only water and trees! A shoestring budget is the norm, not the exception.

Despite these challenges and others, Royal Rangers in Siberia and Far East Russia has grown in the last nine years from nothing to 15 outposts and 75 commanders. After some advances and setbacks, today in the six time zones that Siberia and the Far East span, we have broken down our ministry into three regions: Western Siberia, Eastern Siberia, and the Far East, with local head and vice commanders in each. The transfer of leadership to nationals was completed in August 2011, and since then each region has seen growth and maintained its independence from outside resources.

Bohol Earthquake and Typhoon Haiyan Relief Mission

ver the last year Royal Rangers Singapore has been working to raise leaders and help establish the Royal Rangers Ministry in the Philippines, and local leaders are catching the vision. During one of the training sessions last year, leaders from Bohol and Tacloban, which are part of the Cebu Visayas district, described the great opportunity to reach out to the multitude of children in their area.

But on October 15, 2013, the Bohol region was struck by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake. Royal Rangers Philippines National Commander Pastor Emerose Nemenzo described the horror of the devastation and the destruction of homes and lives. Many pastors in the devastated regions of Cebu, Leyte, and the Visayas have called for help, since their homes and churches were completely destroyed. Many were forced to live in emergency tent shelters after the Bohol earthquake. These tents provided little relief against Typhoon Haiyan, which came less than four weeks later. Both of these natural disasters exacerbated poor living conditions.

During the annual Royal Rangers Singapore Leaders' Council on November 17, 2013, the giving from the leaders raised nearly S\$25,000 to purchase relief supplies and rebuild homes. The funds were sent to the AG District Council of Central Visayas and Lower Leyte District Council. This money is the first wave of concerted effort to help in the rebuilding of the Bohol churches, homes, and lives. Plans are under way to identify opportunities for





our Royal Rangers youth and leaders to be ready to lead fund-raising projects, medical trips, mission trips, rebuilding homes, etc.

Please continue to pray for the people in the Philippines and for their Royal Rangers ministry. The same cry of desperation for help and relief for their physical and spiritual needs is heard throughout these regions. Many have lost loved ones and struggle with the task of rebuilding their lives and communities. We believe that the Royal Rangers leaders in the Philippines are ready to reach, teach, and keep boys and girls for Christ even amidst all the challenges they are facing. We continue to stand together with them.

Developing Royal Rangers in Northern India



At the beginning of October, Chilean missionary David Diaz began developing the Royal Rangers ministry in northern India, an area known to be difficult to evangelize. The primary purpose is to reach children in the villages for Christ using Royal Rangers discipleship methods. They began the program in a school they had already started, Jyoti Me Ekta English Medium School, and they are using the program with students from the school to teach the local youth.

At this time David is discipling and training nine leaders while concurrently running the Royal Rangers program on Saturdays. The response by the youth has been very encouraging, with attendance of close to 100 youth between the ages of 10 and 18. We are praying and dreaming to expand to other towns and cities until we form one solid outpost for Christ in India.

God's Vision for Royal Rangers Switzerland

By Patrick Schläpfer, Deputy National Director

or many years the leaders of Royal Rangers Switzerland have gathered for a national leadership conference at a beautiful location in the heart of our country.

Over the years attendance has grown continuously—from 120 to over 400. Not only that, but the focus of the event has developed from just training and exchanging information to investing in spiritually equipping our leaders. This year we concentrated on the theme "God's Vision." Speakers addressed various aspects of this subject in workshops and sermons, and younger participants enjoyed a dedicated worship night. The weekend also included time for fellowship.

Well-trained leadership is highly important to us Swiss, but God has laid on our hearts that spiritual development and motivation are even more important.

At all leadership levels, we want to seek God's vision for

At all leadership levels, we want to seek God's vision for our ministry. This happened in an impressive way during our last conference, and we received some very positive feedback. Here are just three examples:

- "I have taken part in this weekend over the last 15 years and have never experienced something as valuable as this before."
- "I found it fantastic. I experienced God so strongly and received new impulses for the RR work."



• "This weekend was brilliant, but passed way too fast— I'm really looking forward to next year."

I'm amazed to see how God is speaking to our hearts and revealing His vision for us and our Royal Rangers more and more. He is the one causing this growth, and when we carry out His plan, we will experience even more. In terms of organization, we are able to accommodate 500 participants next year, but our goal is to see many more than that—and with His help, we will. W

Wholehearted Friends, Wholehearted Followers, and Wholehearted Faith

By Angelika Dengler, Euroteam

This was the title for the 2014 EuroLeader Conference (ELC) in Wrocław, Poland.

The national Royal Rangers representatives of many European nations gathered in Wrocław for three days to discuss needs and interests, have fellowship, and build up the Royal Rangers Europe Association.

It was amazing to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ united in reaching, teaching, and keeping boys and girls for Christ despite all of the cultural varieties.

These days were filled with organizational and administrative meetings, but we all enjoyed the wholehearted hospitality of our hosts.

We are looking forward to meeting for the next ELC in Albania.







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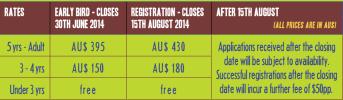
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Something New in ERLAC by Gio Cordero

Latin America and the Caribbean was filled with excitement when we promoted the new Royal Rangers training program—National Rangers Ministry Camp (NRMC) last year.

In May 2013 we went to Riobamba, Ecuador, to teach the first NRMC in Latin America. We stayed close to Chimborazo, a dormant volcano along the Andes. More than 30 leaders received this training. "This is a different level of training," expressed a leader who traveled from El Salvador, "This experience changes your life." A leader from Costa Rica advised both new and longtime leaders to participate in this experience.

During the month of October we traveled to the beautiful country of Guatemala for the second NRMC held in Latin America (and the first in Central America). This time we were blessed to teach almost 75 leaders, including a group from Honduras.

We look forward to continuing to teach leaders throughout Latin America and the Caribbean during 2014. Our goal is to enable leaders to better evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christlike men and lifelong servant leaders.



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