

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

BY DOUGLAS MARSH  
DIRECTOR



ROYAL RANGERS  
INTERNATIONAL

## WORLD MISSIONS BOARD REPORT

NOVEMBER 9TH - 10TH, 2004

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

By Douglas Marsh  
Director, Royal Rangers International

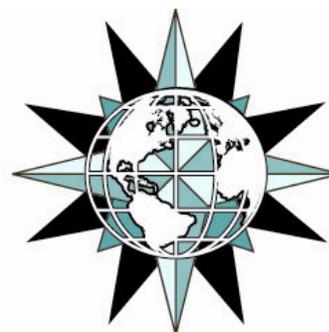


After each ministry endeavor overseas, whether it is a training event, a camp, or a conference, I return “charged-up.” God is using Royal Rangers powerfully!

On previous occasions I have communicated many of these testimonials, and will share others in the future. But in this report I invite you to hear directly from missionaries and nationals who have been impacted by Royal Rangers. It is exciting to read it “in their own words.”

Before leading into these reports, organized by region, allow me to spotlight a few headlines:

- The *RRI Global Curriculum* will be complete in January: Forty-five nations have already requested immediate access. Numerous translation and adaptation projects will begin next year.
- Royal Rangers is growing: Royal Rangers has been established in three additional nations in the last six months— Luxemburg, Iceland, and Bulgaria. This brings the number of nations with an active ministry to 70, with a total of approximately 100,000 members.
- Camp Summit nears completion: With God’s help, and finances permitting, the construction at Camp Summit, the Latin American Royal Rangers Training Center (located in Costa Rica), will be completed in 2005. Jeff Cooper will assume direction of the center in August 2005.



**ROYAL RANGERS**  
—INTERNATIONAL—

- The Royal Rangers International (RRI) Council to meet next in Finland in May 2005: The RRI Council, intended to gather key players from the five regional fellowships each year, had its first meeting in April. Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe and Latin America & the Caribbean were represented.
- The RRI team grows: We welcome Andy Whitman, from Macedonia, to the team. He will oversee our global communications and translation projects.



It is an honor to play a role in strengthening and establishing Royal Rangers around the world. All our efforts are directed at equipping men to reach today's boys to become tomorrow's godly men.

"Because Jesus was slain, he purchased with his blood men and boys for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 4:9, personal paraphrase). RRI is focused on telling millions of unsaved boys around the world about the gift of Jesus; we are reaching, teaching and keeping boys for Jesus Christ.



## J.R. Gould

### *Missionary to Africa*

There are two specific ways this ministry provided excellent resources for the development of Rangers in East Africa. First, the focus of evangelism provided an invaluable platform. The same scriptures marked in my Bible as a young Ranger, as a Senior commander, and as a NTC trainer are marked in the language of Swahili as Kenya's 7 million boys under the age of 15 are now being targeted under the newly formed Rangers program.

#### Royal Rangers in Africa

- Ghana
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa



Second, as camping increasingly expanded my love for the outdoors, it provided a rich backdrop for the skills I would use and train with in Africa. Who could have dreamed that outdoor camping would be taken to Africa's primitive bush, strategically used to reach distant tribes! Imagine spending camping nights under the distant sub-Saharan stars as evangelistic crusades were preached, training was carried out, and churches were erected in primitive settings. Royal Rangers provided a great confidence with an excellent skill base to complete such assignments.

I would be remiss to not mention the valuable training aspect of Royal Rangers. This excellent training has provided East Africa with hundreds of effectively trained commanders and functioning Executive Council members with excellent National leadership. Without a doubt, Royal Rangers provided excellent resources, priceless skills, and superb training to effectively carry out my assignment as a missionary in Africa.

## Rev. Peter Njiri

### *General Superintendent*

### *Assemblies of God – Kenya*

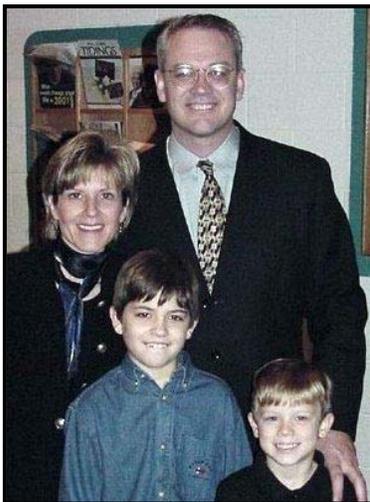
Approximately 17 million of Kenya's population is under the age of 15, resulting in a great opportunity for Kenya Assembly of God churches to provide spiritual ministry to our country. Royal Rangers has come at the right time for Kenya. It is helping our churches to grow by involving laymen in ministry, adding families to our churches, and giving our children hope. We are indebted to and are thankful for our friends in the US who are helping us rise to this great challenge.

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## Mark Bouman

### *Missionary to Cambodia*

Being a Royal Ranger commander was a great teacher for me. Being the director of an orphanage of 120 kids has allowed me to put all I learned as a commander into practice.



I learned the value of teaching and investing in kids, letting them learn by doing and using experience as a teacher. Getting out, doing things, experiencing life—those are the things that develop kids.

I also learned the value of establishing structure and a clear chain of command. We run our orphanage a lot like a Royal Ranger outpost. Visitors often comment that our orphanage is clean and orderly and the kids are well behaved and polite.

In fact, I have often used the devotions from the Royal Ranger handbook "Devotions for Boys". Cambodians love stories and respond much better to a story than just facts or a sermon.

## Wong Hon Chong

### *National Commander-Malaysia*

In Malaysia, we have 24 churches with an estimated 1,500 rangers and leaders actively serving in the ministry. This year alone, two new churches will launch the ministry. As we are a multiracial community, Royal Rangers is conducted in English, Mandarin and Tamil.

Our nation is Islamic. Although the constitution guarantees freedom of religion, it is still an offense for a Muslim to convert to any other religion. Pray that the Royal Rangers ministry is able to reach out to Muslim children in this nation.

#### Royal Rangers in Asia Pacific

- Australia
- Cambodia
- Fiji Islands
- Japan
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vanuatu



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**Dr. Mark Hausfeld**  
*Area Director, Central Eurasia*



Royal Rangers played a vital role in my spiritual development as a boy which influences the missionary I am today. The men in the program I participated with at Bethel Temple in Dayton, Ohio, were men who had vision, passion and commitment to reach the lost. That burden was first

extended to the boys in the program who did not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I was one of those boys. I'll never forget the evening meeting that one of our commanders, Jim Greer, shared a gospel message that opened my heart to the good news. That message not only changed my life, but placed a desire to share that same message with those who did not know Christ. Now my family and I have the privilege to share Jesus Christ with peoples in the most unreached areas of the world, Central Eurasia.

**Mark Broberg**  
*Missionary to Russia*

My father pastored in Wisconsin throughout most of my life. I grew up just like any small town kid, and Royal Rangers was a big part of those younger years. I remember when I was five years old hiding in our basement where the Royal Rangers would meet. I wanted to be a part of the meeting but I wasn't the right age. When I was either six or seven I was able to join Royal Rangers. For the next five years I had a normal family and church life—until we moved.

At age twelve my father felt called to Utah to work with Mormons. We moved to Salt Lake City and then at age fifteen we moved to a small town in South Utah called St George. St. George was built in the desert valley and is surrounded by national parks. As a young teen, the mountains and desert of South Utah were mine to play in. One problem I faced was that my sister and I were the only Christian kids in a high school of 1,500. Everyone there knew I wasn't a Mormon and I was an outcast because of it. I went to school but I didn't talk to anyone, and no one wanted to talk to me. I was never on the basketball team or the football team. After school I went home, got my dog and gun, and ran to the hills and the mountains where I spent most of my time.



**Royal Rangers in  
 Eurasia**

- India
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Sri Lanka

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My father, being a wise man, spent countless hours helping me with my interest in the outdoors. We started a small Royal Rangers group—me, my brother and another kid from church. I remember Mormon children coming to our meetings and then their parents coming



and taking them out of our meetings because we were Christians. During my teenage years Royal Rangers became my only friend. My father would drive me hours upon hours to meet other Rangers in Colorado, Nevada, and California. There was one commander who lived six hours away and he picked me up then drove me all the way to California for a JLTC. I may not be able to remember a single person from my high school. I can, however, remember the countless Royal Ranger commanders from various states who drove to pick me up, making sure that I was a part of their outings.



Looking back I can say that I never missed out on anything in high school. My life was full with my family and Royal Rangers. I was never a part of the typical high school drug and party scenes; I wasn't even a rebellious youth. God protected me through my father's wisdom. It was a time that I could have become bitter for lack of friends, but through it all God had a plan. My mother would often say, "Mark sure is wonderful at Royal Rangers. Too bad he won't be able to use that in his life."

Now I am 36 years old, living in Russia as an Assemblies of God missionary. I work with Russian Royal Rangers by providing a program to countless children who need the love of Jesus in their lives. I don't know who or where I would be today if I didn't have Rangers while growing up.

### **Testimony from a sensitive nation in Eurasia**

Children, 450 of them—most Muslims hearing about Jesus' life-giving sacrifice for the first time—attended the Royal Rangers camp where they enjoyed adventures on the high tower, the huge slippery slide, and many other activities. At the final evening camp fire 160 children responded and asked Jesus into their hearts.

As a result of this camp (held last year), there are now eight outposts established with weekly programs initiated, involving over 200 children. Royal Rangers has enormous potential to grow in this sensitive nation as it fills a desperate need. The collapse of Communism has left a vacuum of hopelessness in the nation, often characterized by drugs, alcohol and abuse. Children need to be reached and given a godly alternative before they fall victim to the despair around them.

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## Jim Sabella

*Area Director, Central Europe*

First let me say that some of the fondest memories I have of my church experience as a boy are those experiences that I had in Royal Rangers. I absolutely loved it...the whole thing, the camping, the badges, the rope craft, all of it. To this day I remember the Royal Ranger code, the blue, the red, the gold points; "Ready for anything, ready to work, play, serve, obey, worship and live."

### Royal Rangers in Europe

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Great Britain
- Germany
- Holland
- Hungary
- Italy
- Iceland
- Luxemburg
- Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

How did Royal Ranger's prepare me to live overseas and minister? I think I would say that Royal Rangers helped me to understand that God could and should be a part of our everyday life. Royal Rangers taught me, in a very practical way, that we don't have to put God in some kind of box that's reserved only for Sundays or for very serious moments, but God wants to be a part of everything we do, even camping! This lesson is vital to our ministry here in the Czech Republic. Most of the people in the Czech Republic are atheists. They do not trust the church or religion. I realized early on that there was only one way to "witness" to them; that was by showing them that faith in God is not about "religion" but about a relationship that permeates every part of our life. When they can see God in our lives, even when we go camping, it begins to

make sense to them: the faith that we have is not blind faith based on intellectual weakness, but one built on a relationship with someone who enjoys being a part of our lives. Thank you Royal Rangers!



**M O R C H**

**Rauno Mikkonen**  
*Assistant Executive Director*  
*Fida International*

As a volunteer and father of a teenager, the Royal Rangers Eurocamp 2003 appeared to be a magnificent example of fellowship and friendship of European Christian youth. Royal Rangers expresses a holistic approach to the young person by paying balanced attention to his/her spiritual, social, psychological and physiological needs. Eurocamp 2003 assured me that people of different genders, ages and cultures may work, play, have great fun together and learn to appreciate each other. God's loving presence was very real during evening programs on the campground.



**E U R O C A M P**

**Steve Graner**  
*Missionary to Colombia*

I was 11, my father had just died and the Outpost 68 of Santa Ana, CA was just forming (1964). We began with Pioneers and Trailblazers. I was asked to be a patrol guide by the Pioneer commander. I asked what that was and why did they want me? They told me they thought I could do the job and they would help me. Someone believed in me. My mother was elated as she wanted male influence to continue on my upbringing, and at home it was only my mother and three sisters.



Royal Rangers gave me goals, purpose and future. I rapidly escalated in the merit program, as the commanders helped me to learn skills that would serve me all my life. They include character traits of perseverance and honesty and teamwork, as well as authority and submission, and organization. They include things like "always leave a campsite as good or better than you found it" which I still apply to such things as even picking up paper, servanthood, and practical things like knots; rules such as only one person should cross a log over a stream at a time (which too has served me well in my missionary career). We are "ready" not only to do, but to be. Jesus is our Master Commander. I still maintain friendship with those men who gave me so much!

Thank you to the Assemblies of God World Missions for standing firmly behind Royal Rangers.



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**Ervin Flores**

*Royal Rangers Leader-Guatemala*

My name is Ervin Flores, of Guatemala. I am a 24-year-old Royal Rangers leader. I accepted Jesus into my heart in 1993 (at the age of 12), in a weekly Royal Rangers meeting in my nation. I love this ministry! I honor you for having created it—my life and family is different because of it.



**Royal Rangers in Latin America & the Caribbean**

- Argentina
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Curacao
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

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