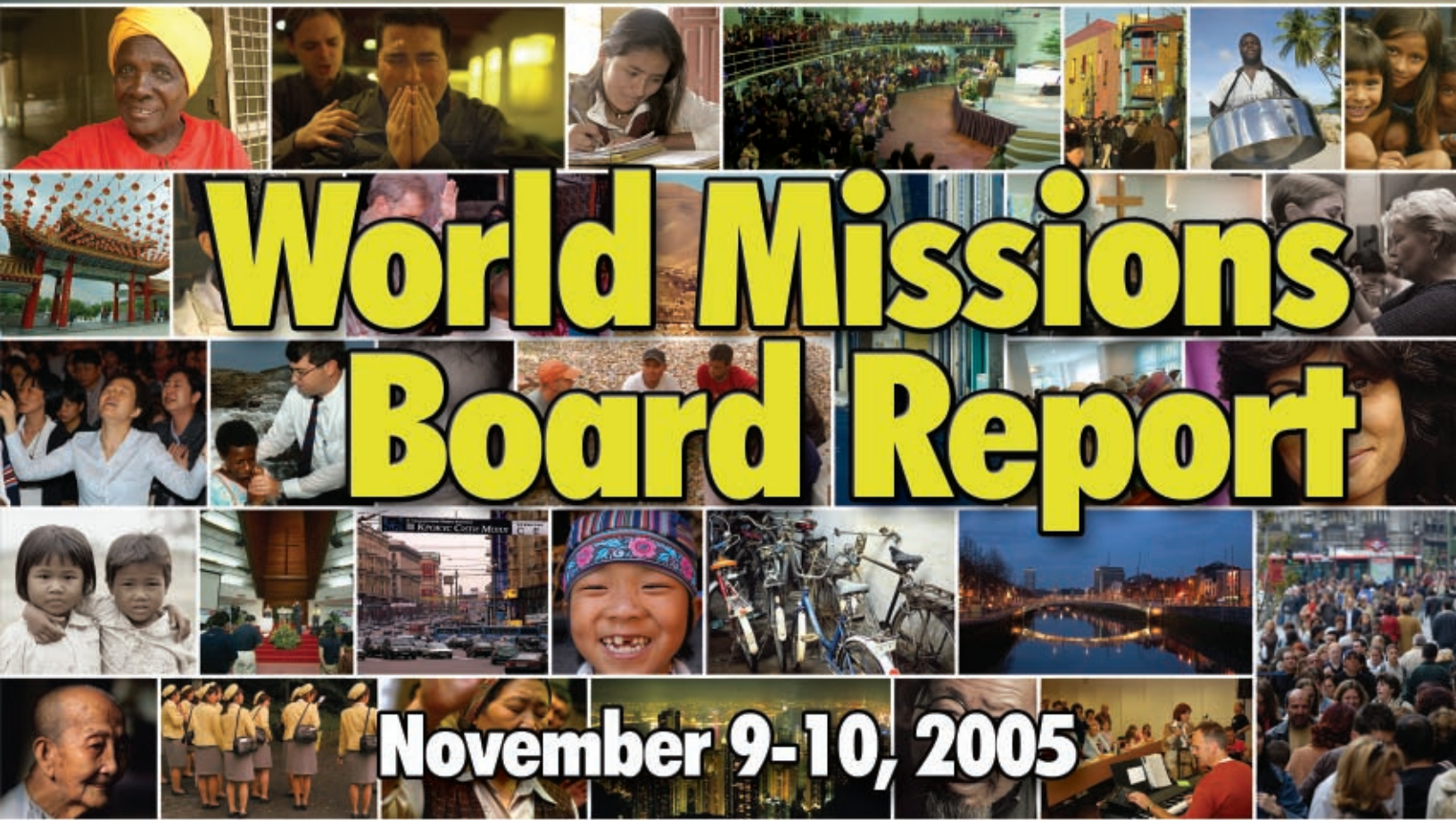


INTERNATIONAL SERVICE MINISTRIES



FINISH HIS
WORK

ROYAL RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

Royal Rangers International (RRI) is a relatively new ministry (founded in mid-2002), yet as I travel from region to region I'm often asked, "Why wasn't Royal Rangers International started 40 years ago?" National leaders and missionaries are very pleased with the services we are rendering—their only complaint is that we weren't around sooner.

From early assessments we identified three fundamentals required to strongly establish the ministry. In our office we refer to them as "the three legs of a stool." They are *strategy*, *personnel*, and *finance*. God has been faithful and is helping us become "sturdy."

STRATEGY

Since RRI was started well after many nations had already gained momentum, we knew that our plans needed their input. For 18 months we dialogued with national leaders and prayed for God's direction. We then identified helps we could provide nations regardless of their level of maturity.

The first was in the area of curriculum. All nations expressed a desire to receive fresh materials and ideas. For two years, RRI has been developing Global Curriculum unique for overseas use—unique because nations will receive the materials royalty-free, and in electronic format. This will allow nations to adapt the curriculum for various considerations, including culture, economy, academics, etc. What is more, RRI will provide nations full access to all program materials (such as badges, pins, etc.) at near cost. Then, at the nations' earliest convenience, they will be encouraged to produce

the items themselves, which will create a funding mechanism for their national ministry-program.

This strategy has been well received by countries with a thriving program, as well as by nations interested in starting Royal Rangers, since it has removed their single largest obstacle—the overwhelming amount of money and time required to, as one leader put it, "Start to commence to begin." Now nations can virtually start right away and with very little initial investment.

As I explained this approach to Doug Jacobs, an Area Director from Eurasia, he smiled and shook his head in amazement. Repeatedly he said, "You guys are really interested in serving our nations in a realistic and practical way! Thanks!"



This curriculum will begin to circulate widely around the world in 2006. Several key events are planned to formally introduce the materials. One is an historic conference for the national leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It will take place February 20-25, 2006 in Orlando, Florida. If everyone who has registered receives their U.S. visa, we expect 150 national-level leaders from as many as 19 countries to attend. The National Commander from El Salvador, Alex Sánchez, expressed his enthusiasm for the new curriculum he will receive at the conference in this way: "In ten years we will look back on our current program materials and refer to it as a machete, and the new as a chain

saw.” The national commanders from LAC have set a goal to grow the Royal Rangers ministry with this new curriculum from 45,000 boys to 250,000 in the next ten years.

Our strategy also calls for similar partnership with nations in the areas of leadership development, ministry promotions, and consultative assistance.

PERSONNEL

The words of Asia Pacific Regional Director, Russ Turney, constantly ring in my ears as I call out to God for harvest-hands, “Wherever we have sent missionary personnel, the work has grown.” God is answering our prayer! In 2002 there were three missionaries involved in evangelizing boys through Royal Rangers. Today there are ten. Yet we pray that God will lay it on the hearts of hundreds of missionaries to reach, teach, and keep today’s boys, tomorrow’s men.

In addition to missionary personnel, it is exciting to see how God has begun to raise-up top-notch national leaders to provide direction in each overseas region. Jukka Piirainen, the national commander from Finland, was elected by his peers to serve the European Region in 2004. Missionaries are working closely with key national leaders to provide direction in Eurasia and Latin America, and God is stirring up leaders in Africa and Asia Pacific.

God is building up leaders! As a result, Royal Rangers has grown from 56 member nations to 70 inside of three years.

FINANCE

No ministry can thrive without a strong financial base. During the first two years, RRI was financed through my own missionary account (and largely continues to be). Last year we began to invite churches to make a monthly commitment to RRI. Churches have begun to respond. As of the end of September, we have raised 11 percent of our budget needs. Please make this a matter of prayer. [RRI AGWM Account #6054936(40).]

God’s blessings are being poured out on Royal Rangers around the world. He is creating the atmosphere and the conditions that will empower the ministry to reach a huge percentage of the 970 million unsaved boys in our world.

The key is partnering with national leaders around the world. I recently met a Guatemalan man who introduced me to his wife and newborn son. He said, “Thank you for supporting Royal Rangers in Guatemala. I am in my mid-twenties, married to a godly woman, and we are raising our son to love God. Ten years ago I was a teenager dabbling in drugs and illicit activities with a dim future ahead. A friend invited me to a Royal Rangers meeting. The leader led me to the Lord. Christ changed my life!”

The man then announced, “Not only am I a Christian, a husband, and a father, but I am a Royal Rangers leader. There are thousands of boys who are in the same position I was. My wife and I have a goal, to lead as many as we can to Christ. Thank you for partnering with us!”

Reaching boys for Christ,



Douglas Marsh, Director