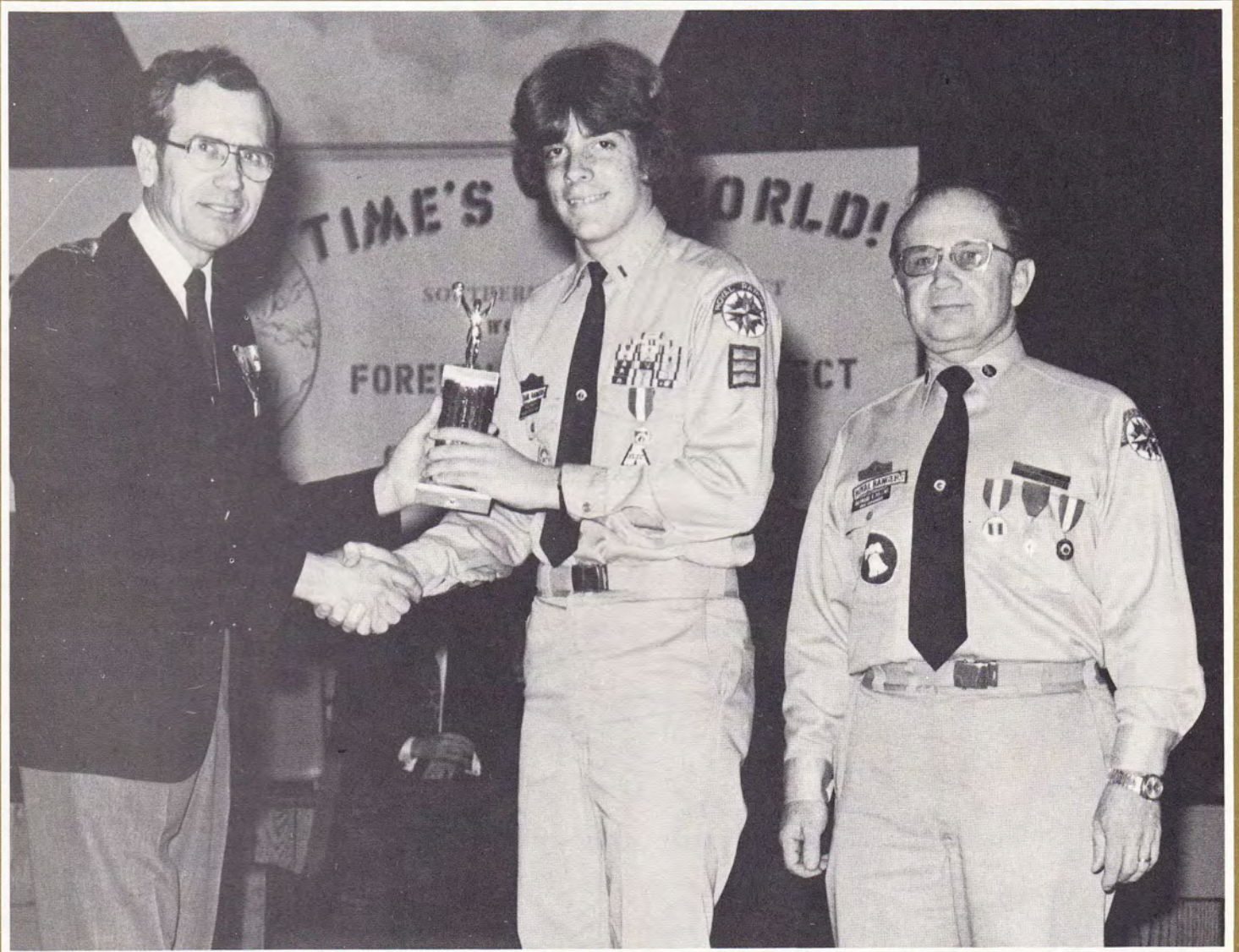


DISPATCH

A ROYAL RANGERS MAGAZINE FOR MEN

SPRING 1981



KNOW THEM TO REACH THEM
COUSIN ARNIE'S INVITATION
COUNCIL RINGS AND COUNCIL FIRES
WHY CAMPING?
BE A BARNABAS

DISPATCH

SPRING 1981

Vol. 17, No. 3

LATEST
FROM THE
NATIONAL
OFFICE.



Here is some of the latest information coming out of the National Royal Rangers office.

INCREASE IN CHARTER FEES

Due to increases in production cost and spiraling inflation, it has become necessary for us to increase our charter fees. There has not been a change in charter fees for over five years. During this time the cost of production has more than doubled. We never like to increase fees but due to accelerating inflation we feel it is necessary and justifiable. The new fee will be all leaders \$5.00. All boys \$3.00. This is still less than 1¢ a day for boys. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

EMBLEM FOR BUCKAROOS

It is now permissible for Buckaroos to wear the small (cap size) emblem on the sleeve of their western shirts (left sleeve) along with the district strip and outpost numeral (right sleeve).

NEW ADVANCEMENT FOLDERS

A new advancement and record folder is now available from the Gospel Publishing House. This folder will keep records of each boy's total Royal Rangers endeavors. A welcome addition for leaders who wish to keep complete and accurate records.

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP STAFF SCHOOL

Due to an anticipated increase in National Training Camp training in the future, there will be an increasing demand for qualified NTC staff personnel. To meet this need, we are conducting two NTC Staff Schools in 1981. Springfield, Missouri, March 20-22, in conjunction with the National Council, and Jacksonville, Texas, April 30-May 3.

The school in Springfield, Missouri, will be open only to National Council members. The prerequisites for both schools are:

1. Each trainee must complete the Leadership Training Course.
2. Each trainee must have attended a National Training Camp.
3. Each trainee must be approved by his District Commander.

Applications may be obtained from the National Office, your District Commander, or Regional Coordinator. *

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KNOW THEM TO REACH THEM

Communicating with and motivating our media-sophisticated youth.

BY DOUG TARPLEY

Every Royal Rangers Commander wants to communicate with and motivate the boys in his outpost. But it doesn't take a PhD in educational psychology to know that this goal is a difficult one to achieve, since boys of the 1980's are a lot more "worldly wise" than their counterparts of the 1950's and 1960's. Expressed as one Ranger leader said recently, "How can we interest and really teach our boys in Rangers after they've seen TV?"

The leader asked a tough question. The answers will come only with a leader's prayer, planning, and real understanding of boys.

Leaders must know boys to reach them. Leaders must understand why boys behave the way they do if the lead-

ers want to communicate with and teach them.

Educational psychologists suggest some basic principles to remember when teaching boys of all ages. Being aware of them may help you to be a better leader.

Learning is based on interest. The most common problem commanders mention is a lack of interest on the part of the boys in outpost meetings.

Psychologists tell us that youngsters remember 10% of what they hear, 50% of what they hear and see, and 90% of what they see and do.

So, good teaching avoids "lecturing" and "preaching" to the boys. Instead, an effective leader communicates stories, principles, and concepts in creative and

imaginative ways that touch the boys' senses and get them involved. They role play, dramatize stories, and create crafts.

Straight Arrows or Trail Blazers still enjoy a diorama, mural, or play about David more than "just hearing" the story. Today's youngsters are media sophisticated because of their wide exposure to television, radio, film, magazines, and books.

As Deuteronomy 6 declares, teach while sitting, lying down, rising up, and walking. An effective leader must use his imagination to create interesting teaching environments.

The best teaching is relevant teaching. Teaching of Christian principles occurs best when it is linked with real life situations. ►



“Boys learn by identifying models and imitating them.”

Throughout outpost meetings or camp-outs, leaders can capitalize on disappointments, hurts, and successes to teach practical Christian living. When a Straight Arrow comes crying because he's fallen and skinned his elbow, take the opportunity to teach him about healing and prayer. Your words will take root at that time much deeper than at another time more unrelated to need, when you're lecturing about healing in an artificial, “classroom” environment. When a Pioneer fails to win the game, teach him then about how to handle disappointment. The best teaching is relevant teaching.

Learning occurs best through activity. One educator defines teaching as “leading students through a series of meaningful, purposeful activities.”

This is especially true with young boys. For example, when you are teaching the truth about God's beautiful world, your teaching will gain impact when your boys go on a hike and examine wildlife, flora, and animals. They won't be numbed to sleep and bored as they so often are in a classroom.

Two Wednesday nights ago I observed Tim Earwood and his Ranger staff at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, MO. They were teaching some of the older boys about survival. Rather than lecture about what a man needs in life-death survival situations, they had the boys put together their own survival kits. The boys had to think about why they included the various items and came to realize what drastic situations a man could be in and how a man could take care of some of his physical needs in such a situation. The activity followed some discussion, a demonstration, and the viewing of a filmstrip about the same topic. The topic was approached creatively. Some active teaching occurred. Some real learning took place.

Boys learn by identifying models and imitating them. First Corinthians 11:1 establishes a Biblical base for the role of models. Paul admonishes his followers to “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

Young children, in particular, learn by

observing the behavior of others and then by imitating that behavior.

This truth challenges commanders to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. It challenges leaders to “practice what they preach.” It is impossible to really teach prayer if we never pray, or to teach faithfulness if we often find excuses to miss church activities and services. It is difficult to teach the joy of the Lord if we always look and act like we just “lost our best friend.” Teaching is only as effective as the teacher. Teaching is effective because of the teacher.

Good teaching begins at the boys' level. Some concepts are “above the heads” of some ages. You cannot teach a two-year-old about justification by faith, for example.

Leaders must know what boys are like mentally, emotionally, and socially at various ages. Leaders must be able to identify the boys' interests and capabilities at various age levels and define ways to deal effectively with those boys.

Straight Arrows and Buckaroos

The 5, 6, 7, and 8 year olds are usually very active. A boy this age often delights in strenuous activity. He is growing fast and needs exercise to stretch his muscles. He can usually concentrate on only one thing at a time.

So, give him opportunity to move around. Lead him in physical activity. Plan varied learning activities. A leader will probably give these boys as many as 4 or 5 activity changes during an outpost meeting. Show him how he can use his energy for the Lord. Teach him to do things for others.

He is gaining some muscular control. He may be awkward and clumsy, so will need plenty of space. Provide large materials for handcrafts. Don't expect him to do fine work.

He likes to help and take care of himself. Let him be responsible for his own things. Teach him to keep things in order.

He has a very short attention span; so, change activity often to keep his interest. The average attention span runs from 10 to 20 minutes.

He asks many questions. WHAT and WHERE are common questions. Try to answer his questions adequately. It may take some imagination; but, you can often direct his thinking to lesson subjects. Be careful. Don't let him go too far from your lesson or activity.

And, he can think through some problems. Don't do all the work—even though it is probably easier for you to do so. Make him think; but, guide him in his reasoning. Encourage him to think. Give him occasion to think. Present problems and let him try to solve them on his level of understanding.

He enjoys making things—6, 7, and 8 year olds, in particular. Handiwork should be a part of many scheduled activities. Remember to make it purposeful. That is, link it into your lesson, theme, study somehow.

Buckaroos are relatively easily disciplined. Some psychologists say that this age (6-9) is probably the best age for him to cooperate with adults—if conditions are right. He will often rebel if his basic needs are not satisfied. He cannot understand inconsistency. So, make him feel secure and stable in God's love. Explain why the rules exist.

You should strive very hard to communicate that you respect his ideas and like him. Often this can be achieved by giving him “important” jobs and awards for good behavior. Discipline is not just punishment for wrong behavior, remember. It should have a perventative and positive goal “before the fact.”

Pioneers

Pioneers come in all shapes and sizes, but each is 9, 10, or 11 years. When presenting any part of a Royal Rangers program to these youngsters, commanders do well to know that this is a healthy period of slow growth in boys' lives. They generally enjoy physical activity, since they are gaining strength and control of muscles and have abundant energy. When scheduling outpost meetings, commanders might give boys the opportunity to do things—help arrange the room, secure and distribute items, participate in opening exercises, camp-out plans, missionary projects, etc. Since



"Boys can be challenged to be friendly, to help others."

these boys admire strength and power (remember they are "showing off" their muscles), commanders might share with them how God helps men of strong character to do His will.

Pioneers seek friends their own age and sex. Since boys are frequently still smaller than girls at this age, a general antagonism exists between the sexes. Boys claim to be "stronger." Thus, commanders may appeal to their desire to achieve by letting them memorize Scripture, participate in music, reports, handcrafts, projects. Boys can be challenged to be friendly, to help others. Challenges can be concrete by placing them in real-life, everyday situations.

Pioneers are beginning to enjoy teamwork, making a contest of nearly everything. They are interested in ball games and group projects. They frequently form "gangs" at this age and enjoy competition (but find defeat hard to take). They take great pride "outwitting the enemy." Commanders can show them how to belong to God's Army. Boys can be told about this world's spiritual warfare and victory through Christ. Boys can be taught about the family of God, and given opportunities to develop "people skills."

They do everything wholeheartedly. They are developing a real desire for independence, freedom from restrictions. Commanders might enthusiastically present plans and activities. Leaders might justify lessons by explaining what the boys will get. Boys can even be invited to help make some rules and plans. Commanders should be careful, however, to keep good discipline.

Pioneers are avid readers. Smart commanders will channel that energy into Bible reading. Commanders will help the boys learn to be selective in their reading matter, a very important principle in practical Christian living.

Boys have interest in collecting things. They are extremely realistic, yet full of imagination and creative energy, qualities on which a good commander will capitalize.

Finally, they are beginning to note relationships with interest in geography,

history, and psychology. They can be helped to understand the "why" of people's actions and God's dealings with mankind. They can be helped to see what their relationship is and should be with Christ. Pioneers can be reached and taught if approached correctly.

Trailblazers

Trailblazers represent one of the most challenging and potentially rewarding age groups with whom commanders may work.

These 12, 13, and 14 year olds continue to improve muscular abilities and have a keen interest in physical activities.

Significant at this age is the fact that boys are beginning to have some social adjustment problems. They are beginning to become interested in girls. Since many boys are still smaller than girls at this age, the boys often withdraw from social contacts with girls and enjoy group relationships. They often feel and look awkward.

Commanders will be sensitive and avoid placing boys in embarrassing situations, such as asking them to repeat Scripture or answer difficult questions without giving them notice. Audio-visual aids work very well with boys this age, helping them to focus attention on the lessons and demonstrations to help overcome their own self-consciousness.

Trailblazers are preoccupied with social activities. Younger boys in the group are probably interested in team or group projects, while ninth graders are more interested in clubs or social contacts. Commanders might show boys how they can use their social contacts to witness for Christ, to invite other boys to Rangers. The Royal Rangers groups of this age often are the largest in a church's Ranger program.

Boys this age are often unpredictable. Emerging from childhood but not yet adults, these boys are not quite sure of themselves or others' reactions to them. Commanders can be friends. They can be understanding, not too shocked at boys' unconventional behavior. Commanders will not "talk down to boys." They will help the boys feel secure in

the Lord Jesus Christ.

Trailblazers crave acceptance, while throwing off adult restraints. They want to be individuals in their own right, cutting the proverbial apron strings. Ironically, they want to be accepted by their own age group as well as by adults. Commanders can make them feel wanted, needed, respected. Boys can be given responsibilities with expectations to measure up to them. Commanders should discourage cliques, showing boys that all men are created equal, in Christ they are new creatures, God's children. Trailblazers can be challenging to work with and when commanders see them develop acceptable behavior, the experience can be rewarding.

Trail Rangers

Boys this age (15-18) want to be treated like adults. They mature physically during this period. Often by 16, boys are adult size. Many boys this age have part-time jobs, good allowances, and enjoy some financial independence and adult privileges.

Therefore, commanders can give them opportunities to take responsibility by conducting meetings, helping with lessons and socials, and supervising some on camp-outs. Commanders should always give them tools to do the job and never "talk down to them." They should show love and respect. Commanders should share with the boys their spiritual responsibilities of salvation and Christian living. Commanders can share with the boys their responsibility to manage their money wisely, to tithe.

Trail Rangers question and think through facts. They think more logically than at any other previous time in their lives. They are less willing to accept facts at face value. When teaching, commanders need to be sure to know the subject so they can give positive answers to their questions. Very important at this age: commanders can help boys to use their newly developed abilities and energies in serious Bible study on their own.

They resent restraints. They want to become independent and stand on their own feet. Commanders can let them

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 ►



CAMPCRAFT

Council Rings And Council Fires

By John Eller

The highlight of most camp-outs is the night session around the campfire. Planning and program are very important, however, proper arrangements for council ring and council fire are key ingredients for top-notch campfire rallies.

COUNCIL RINGS

Council rings had their beginning in Indian times, were carried on by the frontiersmen, and are part of the great camping heritage passed on to us. A circle makes everyone feel a part, and as no one likes to be at the end, it puts everyone on an equal basis, more or less. The council ring speaks of friendship, unity, and security.

A simple log ring with the council fire in the middle is a good way to begin. Slabs can be fitted into place for backs.

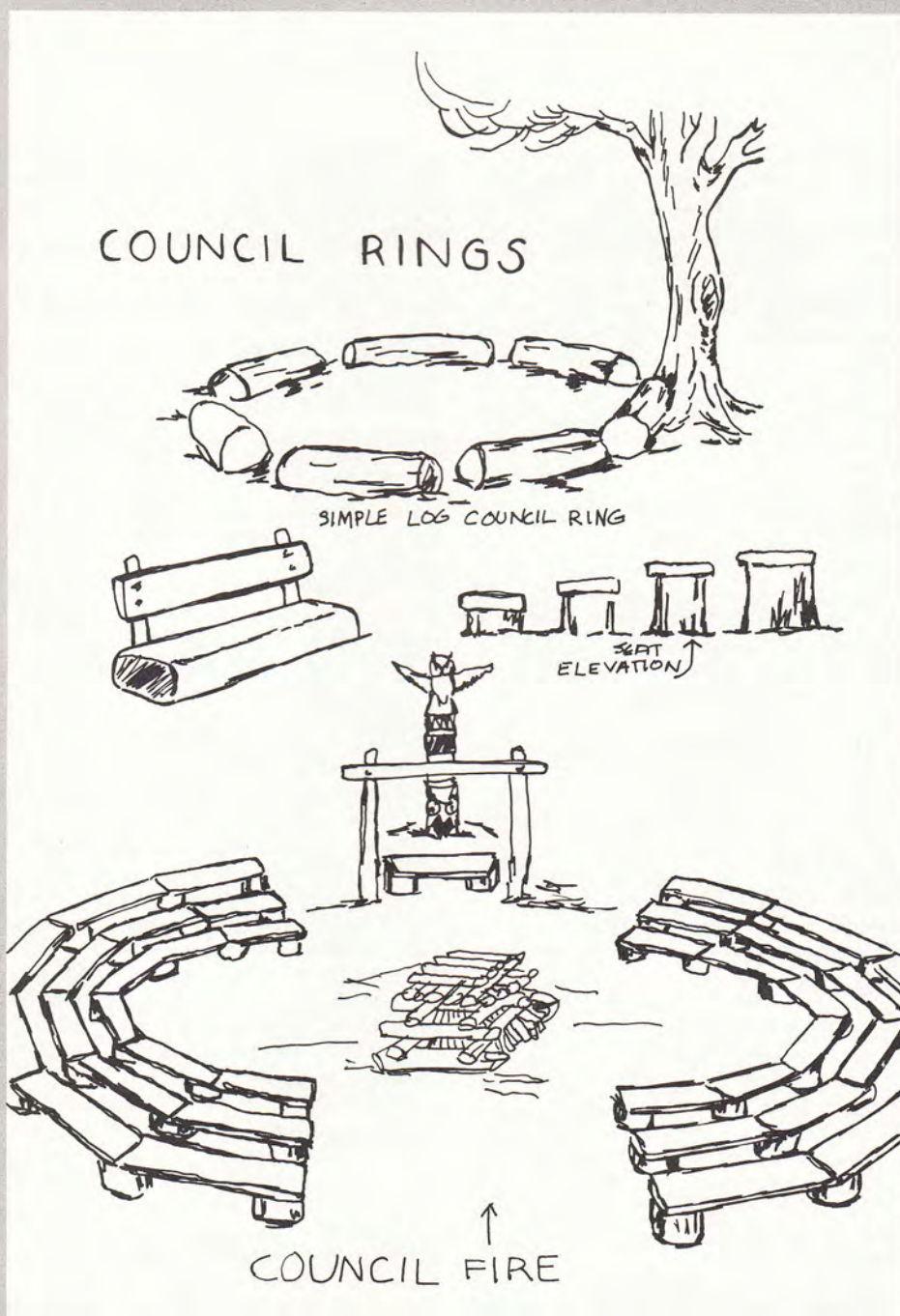
An up-ended long council ring may be constructed with slab seats and elevated seating. The chief's seat should be opposite the entrance way.

COUNCIL FIRES

The council fire is actually a crisscross fire and is useful for a prolonged fire and lasting bed of coals. The foundation should be of heavy logs, and each tier thereafter should be smaller and shorter. Finish with kindling pushed into the small openings. The council fire should be about two feet in height. Place tinder at the very top and light.

Lighting of the council fire should mark the beginning of the program. A little imagination in lighting the fire can add both color and excitement.

Among the variations you can use are: (1) torch, (2) flint & steel, (3) "fire from the sky" (fireball on a wire, strung from a nearby tree), (4) metal match, and (5) glycerin and potassium chloride.



Ready Rangers:
OUTDOOR OBJECTIVES

WHY CAMPING?

BY JOHNNIE BARNES

His bearing was one of authority and sternness. His face was etched with an overly serious frown. With a sigh of controlled tolerance, he folded his hands over his overstuffed pouch and growled; "Why would anyone in his right mind—tramp through the woods, live in a tent, and cook over a fire, when he has a nice home and all the modern conveniences? What value is there in frolicking in the outdoors? Couldn't all that time and energy be better spent in a more practical way? Why all this emphasis on camping anyway?"

WHY INDEED?

For over 100 years wise leaders have proven that camping is one of the most effective methods of training and influencing children and young people. Perceptive churches and religious organizations for many years have realized that camping provides an ideal setting for evangelism, and Christian development. Yet many people, such as the gentleman who asked the opening question, are still asking, "why camping?" For over 20 years I have been trying to answer that question. Here goes again!

DEFINITION

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary states: "A camp is a collection of tents, huts, or other shelters—used for a vacation or outing." That a camper is one who "pitches or prepares a camp." Our concept covers a much broader spectrum. Camp spans from youth and kids camp to a wilderness survival camp—including rough-out camps (living in tents—cooking over fires), church family camp-outs (using a variety of shelters and equipment), backpacking, canoe camping, horseback camping, bike camping, day camps, and other specialized camps.

The format and activities may vary, but each provides a golden opportunity for the alert leader.

A NEW BEGINNING

Camp represents a fresh start for many campers. They begin camp free of past failures, past reputation, or past acts to live down. He may be the kid with the bad grade, the unachiever, the bully, the sissy, the unruly boy, the introvert. He may be the over protected boy, the neglected youth, the smartest student in school, or the kid burdened with demand and expectation beyond his ability.

For a few days, this is all in the past. The slate is clean, he will be judged by his present action—not his past performance. Here is a chance to do new things, make new friends, experience new adventures, demonstrate new abilities and to be on the same level as the other campers. It is like being in a new world. What a golden opportunity to emphasize that this can also be a time to begin a new life in Jesus Christ.

OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE

One of the needs of youth is a sense of self-worth. They need the opportunity to achieve something that will give them a sense of importance. During camping many discover they can develop skills, and demonstrate talents yet undiscovered. The boy who thinks he can do nothing right, may discover he is good at fire building or knot tying. The timid boy may "come alive" within his peer group. A nonathletic boy may be a "hit" as a song leader around the campfire. In no other setting are there more opportunities for personal achievement than camping.

With a sense of self-worth, it is much easier for youth to believe that God will forgive and accept them and make something worthwhile out of their lives.

SELF-RELIANCE

Teaching a sense of self-reliance is very valuable in developing character and Christian leadership. A youth who

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Cousin Arnie's Invitation

A Dramatic skit
with an important message.
BY REV. GARY L. COOK

"Cousin Arnie" is a dramatical skit which shows boys that Jesus has prepared a Kingdom for those who truly receive Him as Lord and will serve Him. As the skit progresses one can observe the attributes of the world, against the attributes of a Christian. There is much to be taught from this skit as the requirements to enter heaven, proper Christian conduct, Christian attributes such as love and sincerity. Some boys will probably feel conviction as they will see themselves in the wicked brothers while others will be strengthened as they see themselves as the Christian nephew. This skit will draw to a close in a serious atmosphere which will allow the boys to search their hearts. If the Commander has prepared his heart in prayer, he will be in tune with God for an altar call. The




soul winning aspects of this skit are endless, not to mention the many who will say, "I need to walk closer with God," or perhaps "I need to be strengthened as a Christian."

"Cousin Arnie" does not need professional actors. The skit is designed that commanders and boys of the outpost can get involved in the devotion. We too often lecture boys when their hearts are crying, "I want to participate."

SETTING: Living room scene is recommended. A table with three chairs near a door is adequate. For a more meaningful effect one might hang pictures on the wall and provide a couch and chair, along with a coffee table.

CHARACTERS:

Arnie is a character who is full of love
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE / 

"Cousin Arnie" does not need professional actors. The skit is designed so that commanders and boys of the outpost can get involved in the devotion. We too often lecture boys when their hearts are crying, "I want to participate."

and life. Regardless of his mistreatment he springs back with a smile and gratitude in his heart. Arnie is very gentle and allows the fruit of the Spirit to work in his life. Arnie should wear blue jeans, colorful shirt, and tennis shoes.

Uncle Bob is a very wicked man who only thinks of himself. He is very cruel to Arnie and lets him know that he is a burden. Uncle Bob is dressed very high class. He wears a flashy suit with a gold watch hanging out.

Tom is the older brother. His personality is the loose and wild teenager. All he has on his mind is parties and girl friends. Tom wears a running suit as he is always working out, so he can stay in shape. (In general, Tom is a bully.)

Joe is the next brother down who is intellectual. He is very sarcastic and high society. His nose remains in books dealing with higher mathematics. Joe is a typical snob who wears an unmatched suit, for he has no taste for clothes.

Fred is the younger brother who is only concerned with getting rich and living fancy. He loves to impress people as his father. Fred wears the best of clothes. He can be dressed in sport clothes or a suit.

Messenger: The messenger is a Royal Ranger in uniform. This should be a boy who truly has Christian qualities.

SCENE 1: (*The brothers are really giving Arnie a hard time.*)

Tom: (*He is caught under some barbells.*) Arnie! Arnie! Get over here!

Arnie: Yes, Tom. What is it?

Tom: Don't just stand there! Get these things off of me. (*Arnie lifts the barbells up. The Uncle walks in and sees him holding them.*)

Uncle: Arnie, I thought I told you to clean the attic. Apparently you have time to play, so I'll also assign you the job of scrubbing the floor.

Fred: Yeah, Arnie. But before you get started, I want you to fix me some tea. (*Arnie returns and places the tea on the table. Fred reaches over and picks up the glass his brother put on the table. He takes a sip and begins to cough.*)

Fred: Arnie! How many times do I have to tell you that I like sugar in my tea?

Arnie: But Fred, I did bring you the right kind of tea. You accidently picked up the wrong glass.

Fred: Well, it's still your fault. Hand it to me next time!

Joe: Arnie, I need my mathematical formula books. Go to my room and get them. And hurry up about it. (*The uncle meets him on the way out.*)

Uncle: Arnie, if you don't have that floor and attic cleaned before supper I'm going to give you a beating that you will remember for a long time. And by the way, I want supper served at four o'clock instead of six. (*Uncle trips over the mop that Arnie was using and snarls. Arnie returns with Joe's book and begins to scrub the floor.*)

SCENE 2: (*There is a knock on the door which causes all three brothers to dash toward it. They argue over who will answer it. The uncle enters the room and is disappointed in his sons, but takes his anger out on Arnie. Arnie is on his hands and knees scrubbing the floor.*)

Tom: Get out of the way! I'm the oldest brother here and I will open the door.

Fred: Yeah, and I got here first. Besides that, what will our neighbors think if they see someone in a jogging suit answering the door?

Joe: Well, as far as I'm concerned there is a mathematical solution to this problem. We will draw straws and the shortest straw wins.

Uncle: (*Comes across the room and looks down at Arnie.*) Do you see what you have caused? This argument is all your fault. You have a butler's uniform and I expect you to wear it. (*Turns his attention to the door.*) Oh, get away from there. I'll answer it myself. (*Uncle opens the door.*)

Messenger: Oh, good evening, Sir. The King has sent me out into the streets to see who will come to the great marriage feast.

Brothers: A feast! The King is inviting us to a royal dinner! (*The uncle and three sons are so excited they leave the messenger at the door. They grab from one another the invitation the messenger brought.*)

Tom: Alright! This is far out! I'll take three dates with me. Yeah, three girls at

once. The King will see that I'm the most athletic man in the kingdom.

Joe: Oh, yes, this will give me a chance to show my new success of experimental equations.

Fred: Now, let's see what shall I wear? I must show the King that I'm going to be the richest man in his Kingdom.

(*Messenger sees Arnie in the corner.*)

Messenger: Hey! Spss! Yeah! you—come over here.

Arnie: Who me?

Messenger: Yeah, you! Come over here!

(*Arnie goes over to the messenger.*)

Messenger: You're also invited. The invitation has all the requirements. I do hope your brothers read it carefully or they will not be able to come in. (*The messenger leaves and the uncle grabs Arnie by the collar.*)

Uncle: Now look here Arnie! It's bad enough that I have to feed you, but at least you could work for it. I don't believe my brother could have a son like you.

Tom: Yeah, it's embarrassing to have an ugly cousin.

Fred: Yeah, Pop, let's just kick him out.

Joe: What's that in his hands? It looks like an invitation to the King's feast.

Uncle: You stole this from the messenger didn't you? Do you actually think the King would invite someone like you? Why should he invite someone who is poor?

Arnie: Sir, this invitation says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Joe: According to mathematics and science, a person who does good things will live forever. And I can assure you that I have done no wrong in my life.

Arnie: That's not what the invitation says. It says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Fred: Well, big deal Arnie. So what if everyone has sinned? Nothing will happen to sinners.

Arnie: Oh, yes. This invitation says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Messenger: I'm sorry Arnie. They were told many times. But they never changed their lives. Arnie, they did not believe in Jesus and now it's too late."

Tom: And what else does it say about this Jesus you're talking about?

Arnie: Well, it says here, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." This invitation didn't come from the king across the river. This is no earthly king. This King is Jesus the Son of God.

Uncle: (Grabs the invitation and tears it up as he throws it on the floor. All exit except Arnie.)

Arnie: (Kneels to the floor) "Jesus, I've heard about You before when Dad used to take me to Sunday school. I used to love Royal Rangers, but Uncle Bob won't let me go. Jesus, I'm awfully tired of being treated mean around here. I want to go to my heavenly home. I want to go to heaven where I can see my dad and mom again. But, most of all, Jesus, I want to see You. Sometimes I get real lonely and I hurt inside. Jesus, You're the only one I can talk to. Please Jesus, allow me to go to heaven. All that I have is the Bible that Mom gave me before she died. But Jesus, she told me that if I lived according to the Bible, I would see her someday. And Jesus, I've done my best."

(Knock on the door. Arnie goes to answer it. He finds the messenger.)

Messenger: Arnie, it's time to go to the wedding supper. Jesus, said it's time to come home.

Arnie: What about my uncle and cousins?

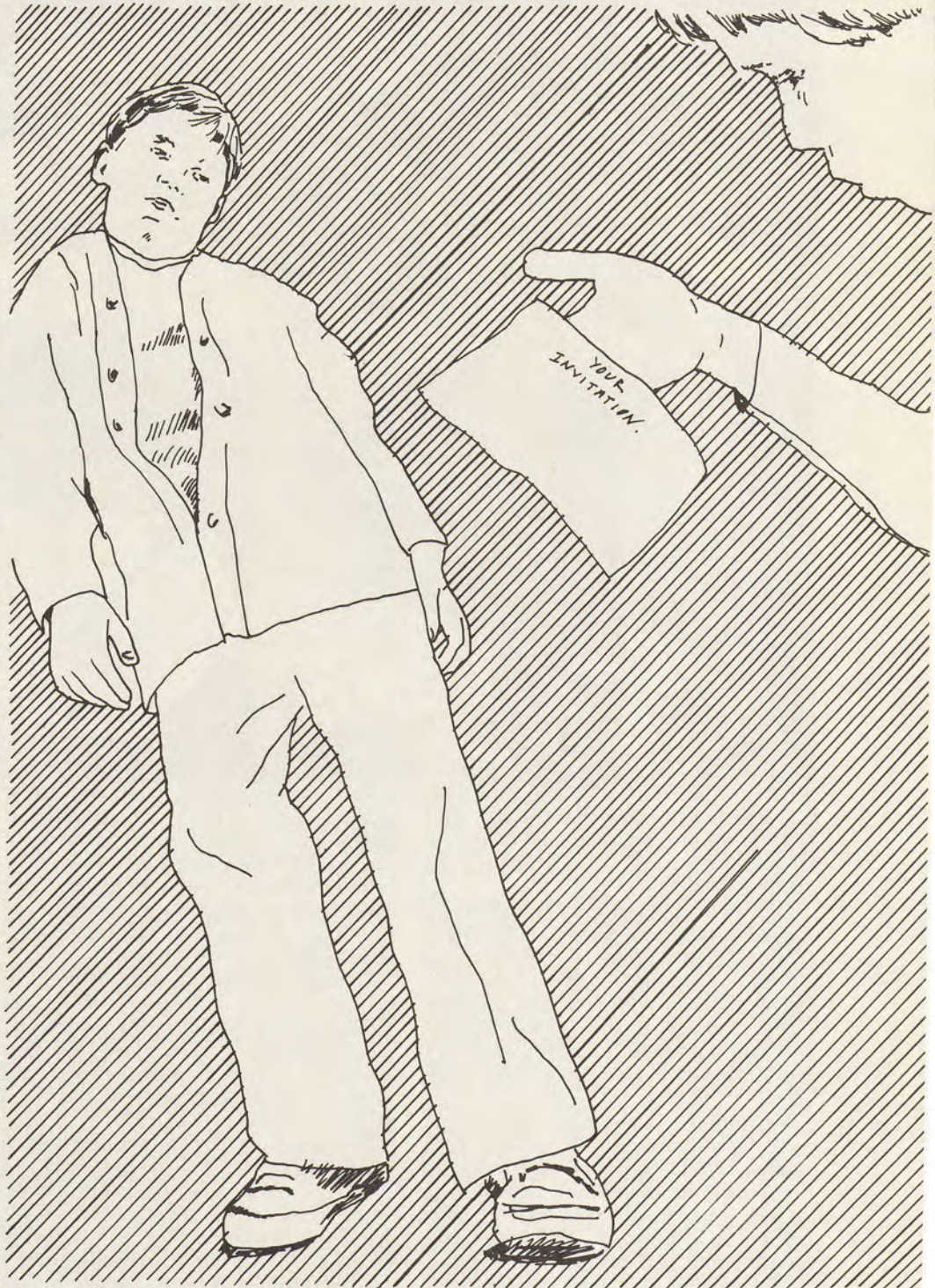
Messenger: I'm sorry Arnie. They were told many times. But they never changed their lives. Arnie, they did not believe in Jesus and now it's too late. The Lord will come in the twinkling of an eye and those who believed will be caught away into everlasting life with God.

Arnie: Who are you?

Messenger: Well, let's put it this way! God has angels who help out. Remember that Royal Rangers group you used to attend? Well, you never saw me, but I was there helping out.

(Both exit.)

THE END.





learns to climb that mountain, cope with the weather, master these skills, and provide for his own food and shelter, is far better prepared to face the rugged challenges of life.

One young person, after completing a rugged backpacking trip, stated: "When I came I had a problem I thought was almost unbearable. As I faced the challenge of the wilderness, my problem began to shrink in size. Before the trip was over it seemed almost trivial. Now I feel I'm ready to face any of life's problems."

Reynold E. Carlson an outstanding camping authority suggested that each camper should "do some hard things in the woods; get really tired from hiking, go where you need a compass and map, get wet in a rainstorm, go hungry, surmount some real obstacles—climbing, bushwhacking. Find your way through a dark forest. Make a camp, put up a shelter, cook outdoors, get wet and cold in the process but get dry and warm by the open campfire, from wood you have cut yourself.

Such self-reliance experiences will

help forge strong individuals and strong leaders. Many of our youth are soft and pampered. Some will retreat or give up the first time they face a hard task or big problem. Rugged camping experiences can help give them the inner fortitude they need to face life's challenges as a strong, determined Christian.

Camping should be used to build in campers those qualities of reliability, resourcefulness, initiative, teamwork, and Christlikeness so that when God taps them for service, they will eagerly answer, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

CONTACT WITH NATURE

Every young person should have a chance to touch God's natural world—a chance to roam fields, explore woods, wade streams, to feel the sun on his back, the rain in his face, and the wind in his hair. To touch a leaf, to listen to a bird, to smell a blossom, to see a deer disappear in the thicket. To wonder at the stars, to meditate in moonlight, to fall asleep to the sounds of the winds in the trees, a murmuring brook, a crackling fire, a chorus of night creatures, to awaken to singing birds, crisp air, and a

radiant sunrise. To get high on the sights, the sounds, and the smells of nature.

To experience and understand nature helps a young person better understand his role and responsibility in today's world.

It is easy to forget the Source of the necessities of life, and when we forget the Source we began to lose our sense of dependency upon God for providing the basic needs of life.

These experiences will also provide excellent learning opportunities to help campers become increasingly aware of the natural resources God has given them. The leader's task is to take the camper's inherent interest in nature and teach him a sense of dependence upon God who created all things. Being caught up even in the violent side of nature can dispel many unnatural fears.

Because we lived in an area called "tornado alley," my son as a child developed a strong fear of storms—until a certain camp-out.

During the night a turbulent thunderstorm struck our campsite. Together we lashed down the gear, and covered



the firewood as lightning crashed about us and rain lashed our faces. We tightened the tent ropes and drove the pegs deeper. We retreated into our tent and shed our rain gear. My son soon crawled into his warm sleeping bag and lay listening to sounds of the wind shaking our tent. In a few minutes he was sound asleep. That night he lost his fear of storms and I believe many other fears as well.

The camper who is at home in the out-of-doors has little fear of darkness and storms. The individual who has learned to love and understand nature is not likely to become a fear-ridden adult lacking courage for exacting tasks.

A MINIATURE SOCIETY

For a brief period of time, the camp becomes a mini-community. Through controlled activities, and understanding counselors, some of the greatest lessons in Christian living can be taught. Pitching tents, lashing tables, cleaning cabins, and other do-it-together duties is a great classroom for human relations.

Camping gives special opportunity for close personal relationships. Working

together for the comfort and safety of the group reveal their real selves to each other. They are free from complex relationships in which they live, and each is taken at face value.

Living together in the out-of-doors under proper guidance can be democratic living in its highest form. Campers learn the give-and-take of life. They share living quarters, responsibilities, they play and work together, they share experiences, they learn that cooperation, with each camper doing his part, is necessary for a safe, comfortable experience. Faith in the democratic way of life comes through happy, satisfying, personal participation which must begin with campers if we expect them to grow into freedom loving Christians who are willing to sacrifice for Christ and this way of life.

Living together in camping breaks down artificial barriers which may have stood between individuals because of differences in family, economic, or cultural backgrounds.

Camping gives young people the opportunity to work together with others.

Here they must face the consequences of their actions. They assume responsibility for their own needs; they learn to respect the rights and personal belongings of others. Selfishness and greed have no part in a camp. Camping means everyone working together. The person who chisels for selfish reasons finds himself suffering the wrath of his fellow campers. Camping is a unique occasion for adjustments to take place in habits and attitudes which will remain with them through life, and camping helps boys develop a sense of Christian justice and fair play and Christian standards of right and wrong, and gives them opportunities to apply these to life.

RESULTS

Camping can change lives, improve attitudes, strengthen character, sharpen perspectives, and create a new outlook on life. Camping provides a golden opportunity for evangelism and Christian development. Perceptive leaders are utilizing this open door for the benefit of our young people.

With open arms, the hills and forests call to us, "Send me your children. . ."

Devotions For Boys



Heaven And How To Get There.

By Carole Clark
Taupo, New Zealand

Purpose: A direct challenge for children to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Equipment: Flashcards with gospel story on.

1) Heaven—describe the place (Rev. 21:4). Jesus has gone back to heaven to prepare a place for each one of us. Will you go to heaven? How do we get there? Let me tell you how.

2) There is only one thing that keeps us out of heaven—SIN (Romans 3:23). How can we get to heaven if we sin, tell a lie, steal from someone, cheat at school or in a game, disobey our parents, teachers, leaders? Sin is punished by death (Romans 6:23). This is separation from God—and separation from heaven and all the good things there. How can we ever get to heaven?

3) God loves me—I'm glad I don't have to stay sad because of sin. God loves me (and you) very much (John 3:16). Even while we were very bad sinners, God made a way for us to live with Him (Romans 5:8). We can be nice to our friends, can't we? Are we always nice to our enemies? God loves us so very much that He became our friend when we were still His enemies. Jesus Christ came to die in our place, so we could be forgiven and go to heaven to live eternally.

4) God couldn't let our sin go unpunished. He is totally holy and couldn't just pretend they were not there. He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to take the punishment that was meant for you and me—what was that punishment—death and separation from God. So that if we trusted Jesus to forgive us, and we received His life, His forgiveness, His love, we would be able to go to heaven to live with Him. This is called salvation. We are saved from death. We are saved to live eternally.

5) How can we receive this wonderful gift? Do we have to earn it? Do we have to work hard for it? Do we have to try to be good to get it? Remember, it is a gift—a present. How do you receive a birthday present? You have to take hold of it. You have to make it your very own. You have to believe that it really is yours.

6) This is how we receive our eternal life. We accept all that the Lord Jesus Christ did for us, and we ask Him to take our naughtiness and give us His goodness (repentance and forgiveness).

Prayer: Maybe a repeat-after-me-type if a group is being spoken to.

1. I'm sorry. 2. Forgive me. 3. Come and live in my heart. 4. I receive You. 5. Thank You.

Assurance is needed with all new converts—so ask for those who responded to stay behind, or signify in some way, so you can give them the assurance of salvation and to know the passport to heaven has been filled in for them—that as from this moment, the Lord Jesus Christ is preparing a place for them in heaven for all eternity.

Off The Beaten Path.

By Fred Van Horn
Vancouver, WA.

Purpose: To explain to the boys to make sure of what they hear. Not to just believe.

Commander: The Commander was going to test the skills of his group on reading maps and following a compass. They were to use their own compass and the Commander supplied the maps.

His directions were for them to hike over the mountain and come out on the other side at a specific point. One of the boys came upon some other boys going in the opposite direction. They asked the boy where he was going. He told them and they said they knew a short cut. Without consulting his map, he took off in the way they had directed. He was soon lost. After check-in time had come for all the boys, the Commander realized that one was missing. He arranged for a rescue party and found the lost boy.

Discussion: Can someone tell me what the lost boy did wrong? (Wait for their answers.) How can you apply this to your Christian walk? (Pause) (After they give their thoughts, give yours.) Many, many times young Christians are led astray, because they hear something and follow that instead of consulting the Bible which is God's Word.

Scripture: The way we study our maps to make sure we know where we are going, we need to study God's Word. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15 to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

24 Hour Lights.

By Jack Van Wijk
Auckland, New Zealand

Setting: Boys seated around a campfire, with a torch for each boy placed in the fire.

Story: I can remember how a few years ago, we used to live in a big city. Traffic was always hectic, so when we went on a day's outing, we used to leave in the very early hours of the day. Everything was quiet and dark. As we traveled along the road, the car lights would shine bright and light up the surroundings as we passed. When we passed through a township, however, it seemed as if we switched them off, because of all the shops and street lights, but as soon as we got through our lights were again clear and brilliant.

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KNOW THEM TO REACH THEM CONTINUED.



know they respect the boys as people. Smart commanders confide in them occasionally. Smart commanders ask for their opinions. Concerned commanders share with them that true freedom is found only in Christ.

Trail Rangers like to date and go steady. Many begin to think of marriage and their own families. They value friends of both sexes. Commanders can guide them into a wide circle of friends and provide some Christian counseling on dating and behavioral problems. Boys will have special problems at this age about which they might want to talk with men. Commanders can teach the boys by showing them God's standards of behavior and challenging them to live by His code. Leaders must be sincere and honest. They must "really listen" to boys this age, must be aware of their world, and think of ways to show Christianity's relevance.

Their activities are more adult in character. The boys are becoming more stable and dependable.

They are looking for a theory or meaning for life at this age. High school teachers find boys this age interested in talking about values of life and philosophies. Commanders can discuss the same topics from a Christian world view and provide a real blessing to the boys.

Christ is the single most important fact in the history of our world. If commanders can present a revelant Christ as the answer to the teens' needs, Christ may become their counselor, friend, and mediator as well as judge.

Commanders must know boys to reach them—a tough assignment. Commanders are "about their Father's business" and the Word encourages us to believe that God will help us with the task to which He has called us.

"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of the Father who giveth liberally and upbraideth not."

"I can do all things through Christ..."

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Devotions Continued.

Then as daybreak came, the lights faded away until they became invisible. At least so it seemed to us, but they didn't, it was just that the surroundings became light. Even at midday other people would still see our lights, even if we didn't.

Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world. Let's take a look behind us, it's dark out there and very little to see. Let's pick up a torch and form a large circle around the fire, spreading out so that the light from our torches illuminates the darkness and then we will just bow our head and pray.

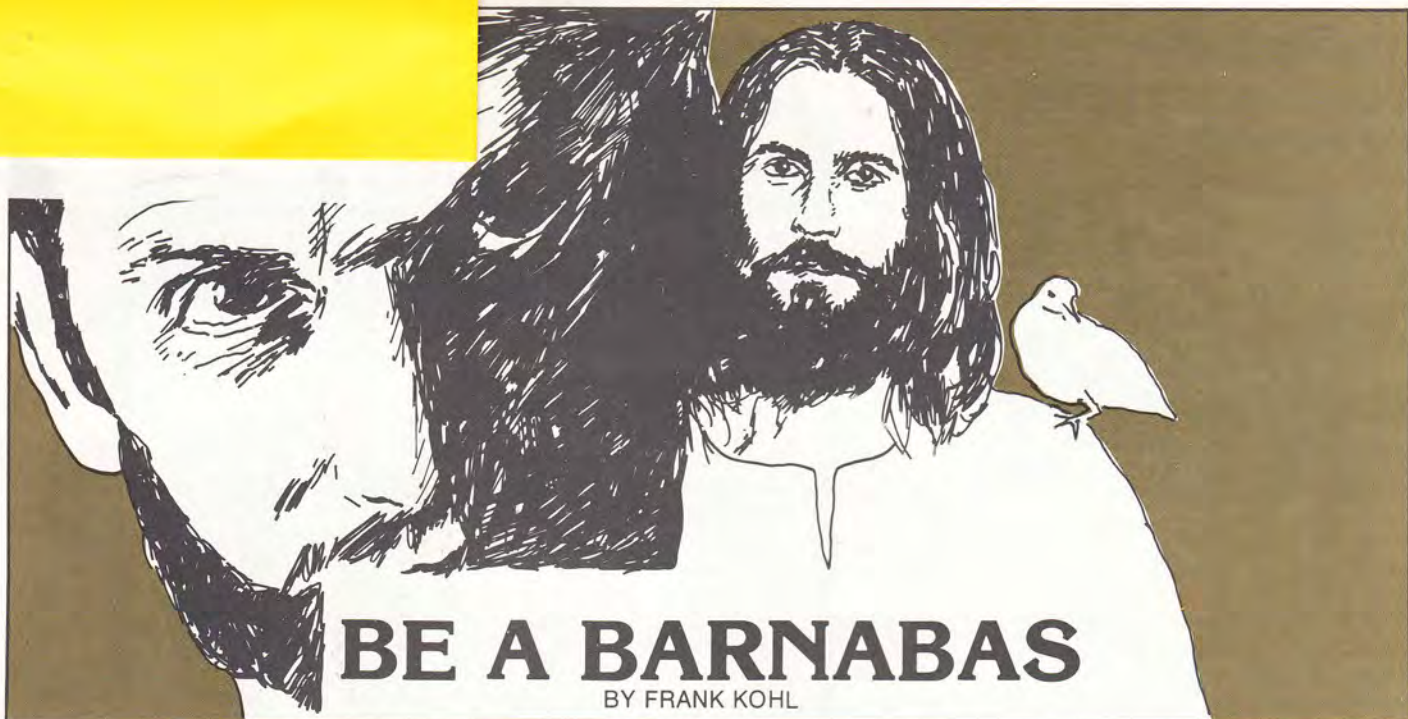
Dear heavenly Father, we just want to come before you and thank you that you sent your only begotten Son into this world to provide a light in this world of spiritual darkness. We thank you Lord that we also with our Christian testimony can become a light in the darkness, and Lord, we just ask you to help us to remember that no matter the circumstances, if we keep our light shining, people will see it even if we don't.



"THAT WAS NICE OF OUR COMMANDER TO TELL US HIS BEST FISHING SPOT, AS MEAN AS WE ARE TO HIM."



"NEXT TIME I'LL RENT THE TENT, SHORTY."



BE A BARNABAS

BY FRANK KOHL

After accepting the call to my first pastorate I was doing some visiting, getting to know my new congregation. Upon entering one home my wife and I discovered that the mother and two small children were awaiting the arrival of the father. We had only talked for a short time when he came home. The children rushed to the door and the little three year old exclaimed, "Daddy, Jesus is here!" He had associated my Sunday ministry as being from Jesus. To him I did represent Jesus! We were all a bit embarrassed and amused. Later, when I was thinking about the incident, I realized our solemn responsibility as pastors, teachers, parents, etc., to be proper examples to the children in our churches, because they do look to us as examples.

Dr. Howard G. Hendricks, founder, professor, and chairman of the Department of Christian Education at Dallas Theological Seminary, has said that the example image "is the greatest form of unconscious learning." We must realize that what we are speaks louder than what we say!

The Bible not only teaches the same principle, but also gives us many examples. First Peter 2:21 says, "... Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that (we) should follow in His steps." The Greek word for "example" refers to the way that young boys learned to write in Bible days. Since paper was so expensive, they used wax tablets and a stylus with a pointed end to write with, and a flat end to smooth the wax over again. The schoolmaster drew lines on the boy's tablet for him to stay within, and wrote words for the boy to copy. If the boy was having trouble, the schoolmaster would place his hand over the student's and help him form the letters.

Jesus gave us guidelines to stay within, His Word, and also the pattern for us to follow, His life. We can be sure that if we are having trouble following His example, our Master will place His hands on us and help us.

The Bible also gives us many illustrations of the power of the example image. Jesus made a great, long-lasting impression on His disciples because everything He taught was backed up with what He did. (Mark 2:4-12) His ministry is referred to throughout as the things He both *did* and taught. (Acts 1:1) People came to see Jesus when they heard what He "*did*," not what He taught. (Mark 3:8) Even when the twelve returned to Jesus after He had sent them out, they told Him what they *did* and taught. (Mark 6:30) See also Matthew 5:19. Notice that emphasis is first placed on what was done, and then on what was taught. Praise God for the mighty example that the disciples had. They had the Supreme Example! They had the Son of God!

Now I know exactly what you are thinking. "I am not Jesus Christ. Who am I to set myself up as an example like Him? I'm not that dynamic. I'm just a common person who wants to serve Jesus the best I can." The Bible has another example just for you.

The Apostle Paul, before he was saved was a formidable person. He had poured out such threatenings against the church, that even after he was saved, the disciples in Jerusalem thought it was merely a trick and would not trust him. There was only one brave person in the church, Barnabas, who took Paul "under his wing," gave him fellowship, and helped him get started in the ministry. (Acts 9:26-29) Later these two were both called by the Holy Spirit to be missionaries together. (Acts 13:2) After they

returned from their first trip and were about to start their second, they had a disagreement over taking young John Mark who failed on their first trip. "Barnabas took Mark, and sailed to Cyprus. Paul took Silas," and went out to become a tremendous missionary-evangelist. (Acts 15:36-40)

You may not think you are equal to Jesus (and you're not), or to that great missionary Paul, who wrote over half of the books in the New Testament, or even to John Mark, who went on to write the gospel that bears his name, **BUT YOU CAN BE A BARNABAS!** He was never very dynamic. The Bible really does not say much about him, except that he was dedicated to Christ, faithful to his calling, and had a consistent Christian testimony before Paul and John Mark. If it was not for Barnabas, Paul would have probably become bitter against God and the church, and worked to destroy Christianity all the harder. If it was not for Barnabas, John Mark would have probably become totally discouraged and quit, and we would not have his Gospel today. If it had not been for Barnabas' consistent Christian testimony before these two men at a time when they were very tender and impressionable, we might not have heard the story of salvation, and be on our way to heaven today!

How many potential "Pauls" or "John Marks" do you have sitting in front of you on Sunday mornings? Remember that Joshua had his Moses; Elisha had his Elijah; the Disciples had Jesus; Paul and John Mark had Barnabas; and **THOSE LITTLE FRECKLE-FACED IMPRESSIONABLE CHILDREN HAVE YOU!** Don't be a phoney. Be what you teach. Be a Barnabas. Then you can confidently say with Paul (1 Cor. 11:1), "Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."*