

**HIGH**

LEADER  
EDITION

# ADVENTURE

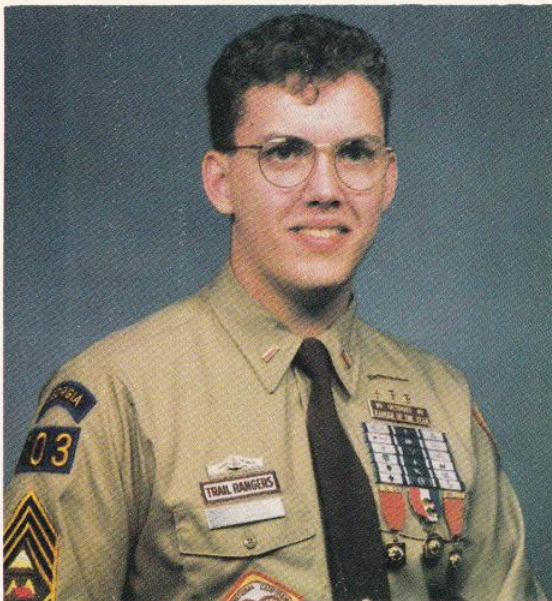
*A Royal Rangers Magazine For Boys*

FALL 1993

**UNCOMMON VALOR**

.....  
**A BROKEN JET ...**





**Page 5**



**Page 6**



**Page 13**

**High Adventure**

# *High Adventure*

FALL 1993

**1994 National Camporama**

**3**

**Uncommon Valor**

**4**

**Make Yourself Interesting**

**4**

**Hiking the Missions Trail**

**8**

**Major Bummer**

**10**

**A Broken Jet**

**12**

**KEN HUNT**, National Commander/Director of Publications  
**MARSHALL BRUNER**, Editor  
**DONNA JESTER**, Editorial Assistant  
**LARRY BANGLE**, Art Director  
**RON DAY**, Layout

**KEN RIEMENSCHNEIDER**, Secretary, Men's Ministries  
**TERRY RABURN**, National Director, Division of Church Ministries

HIGH ADVENTURE—Volume 23, Number 2 ISSN (0190-3802) published quarterly by Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield MO 65802-1894. Subscription rates: single subscription \$1.75 a year; bundle (minimum of five subscriptions, all mailed to one address) \$1.50 a year. Copyrighted 1993 General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. Gospel Publishing House. Printed in USA second-class postage paid at Springfield, Mo. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *High Adventure*; 1445 Boonville; Springfield, MO 65802-1894.

MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

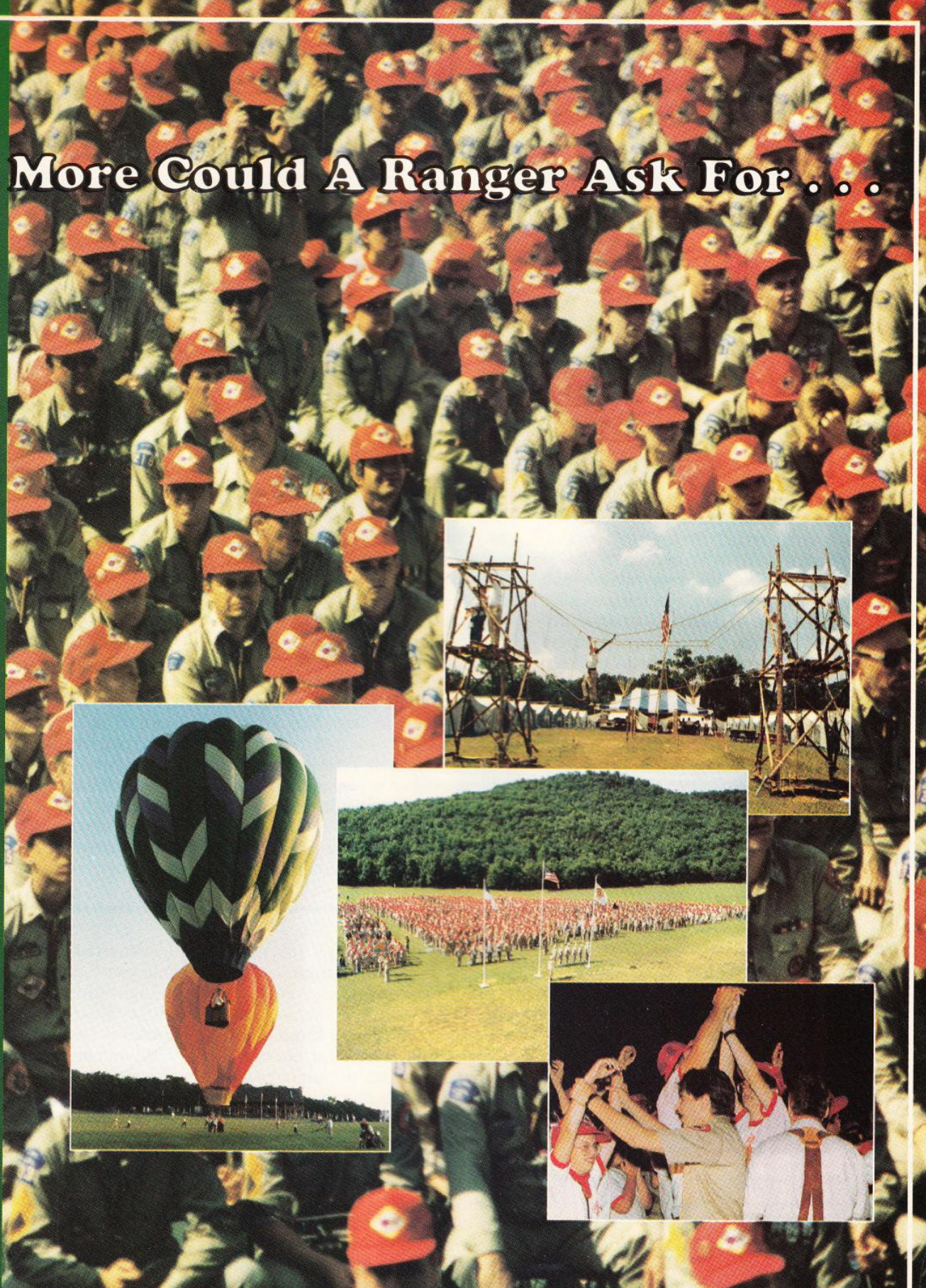




# What More Could A Ranger Ask For . . .

Activities could include . . .

- Cool Water Activities
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- High and Low Ropes Courses
- Riflery
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Famous Guests
- BMX Bike Races
- Go-Cart Races
- Pine Box Derby Races
- Competition
- Colorful Evening Pageants
- Music
- International Guests
- Special Guest Speakers



## 1994 National Camporama

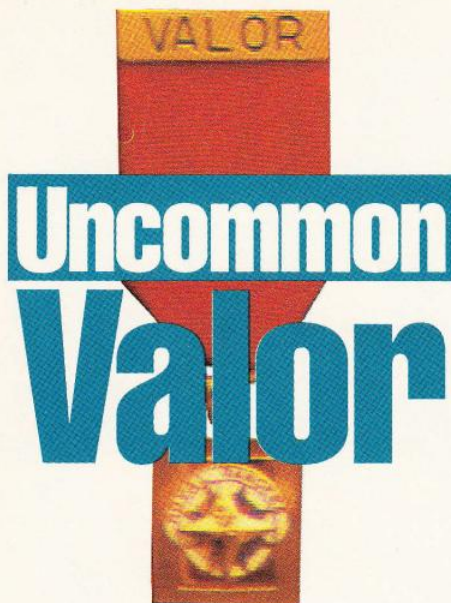
National Royal Rangers Training Center

Eagle Rock, Missouri

July 11 -15, 1994

Cost: \$125





By John Eller, national dispatcher

Since 1964 the national Royal Rangers Office has issued nearly 300 Medals of Valor to Royal Rangers boys and leaders who have displayed unusual courage, bravery, and heroism when human life was at stake. These daring acts show faith in Christ and a commitment to God and fellow-man.

**Cricky Tucker.** The first Medal of Valor was presented to "Cricky" Tucker, son of J.W. and Angeline Tucker, then missionaries to the Congo in Africa. After the Simba rebels captured J.W., they held him hostage at a Catholic convent, murdered

him, then fed his body to the crocodiles.

When Angeline called to ask about her husband, the Catholic sister who answered the phone simply said, "He is in heaven." For his bravery and courage in that time of stress and danger, Cricky was awarded the Medal of Valor.

**Jason Land,** a Buckaroo from Panama City, Florida, saw a bulldog knock a neighbor girl to the ground and begin to bite at her throat. He yelled for help, but there was no response. Jumping the fence, Jason tackled the animal with his bare hands so the girl could escape. Jason was bitten repeatedly, often to the bone, which required some 30 stitches.

**Jeffery Markant,** a Pioneer from Niagara Falls, New York, saw a runaway car headed for his home. He ran to the kitchen and pulled his little sister to safety, just as the car crashed through the wall.

**Tim Anderson,** a Trailblazer from Mount Pleasant, Texas, observed a small boy being bitten by a coyote. Tim ran to the rescue, was bitten repeatedly, requiring some 19 stitches in his arms and legs. But he saved the boy's life.

**Chris Jackson,** a Trail Ranger in Andalusia, Alabama, rushed into a burning jail after two police officers had been overcome with smoke inhalation. He unlocked the cellblock and led the jail's only prisoner to safety.

**Donald Spicer, Jr.,** a Buckaroo from Rush Springs, Oklahoma, awoke to find his mobile home ablaze. His mother and dad were at work. Donald rescued his 5-year-old sister, but after two attempts was unable to rouse his older brother, 9, who perished in the blaze.

**Matthew Avila,** a Straight Arrow from Phoenix, Arizona, was on a camp-out when he heard someone call for help. Running to a nearby pond, he discovered a boy had fallen into water over his head and did not know how to swim. Matthew, who could not swim either, bent down from the bank and held the boy by the arms until help arrived.

**David Kovalcik,** a Trailmaster from Baytown, Texas, observed a friend trying to put out a fire on an electric generator mounted on the back of a truck. David ran to his friend and knocked him away, just as the carburetor blew up, igniting the gasoline supply. The fire singed the back of David's hair; his friend was unharmed.

**Ronnie Thomas,** an 11-year-old Pioneer from Akron, Ohio, was on his way to Sunday school when he stopped at the corner before crossing to the church. Coming toward him was a 7-year-old girl who started into the street, decided she couldn't make it, and went back. Realizing the danger, Ronnie ran toward her and knocked her away from the oncoming car. He saved her but lost his own life.

# Make Yourself More Interesting

By Bill Vossler

Have you ever been told you're interesting? If not, the fault is in yourself, for all of us possess the ability to make ourselves more interesting—and thus more attractive—to others.

Here are some tips for making yourself more interesting:

## Branch Out

If you only know all about one subject, you'll be interesting only as long as that subject is popular. You see, fads and trends change. People rapidly lose interest in things.

No one is more uninteresting than the person who talks about only one thing—only sports, only math, or only whatever. And you'd be surprised how many people are like that. Don't be one of them.

Take an interest in a wide variety of people (everyone has his or her story to tell) and events. Force yourself to become interested in unfamiliar things. Think of how much you've learned and enjoyed once you "got into" something you were forced to

do. You'll be surprised how enjoyable you'll find many new things you thought didn't interest you.

## Look for the Positive in Others

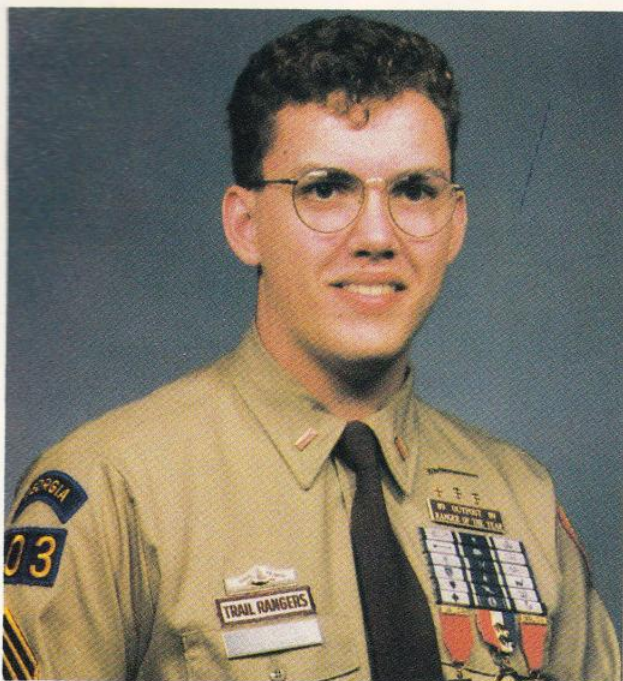
When you find out something good about another person—and you will—sincerely praise him or her. Think about how you feel when someone says nice things about you. You figure that person must be really bright because he spotted your virtues. Suddenly he's more interesting and fun to be with. You can do that for someone else if you look for the positive in other people.

## Cut Down on TV Viewing

Lots of television is boring. Much of it isn't original. Think now: How many times have you been able to predict from early on how a partic-



# The Tale of Two Medals



**October 17, 1986**  
**Lampe, Missouri**

A lady stopped for gasoline en route that afternoon from Green Forest, Arkansas, to Springfield, Missouri. After filling the tank at the state line, she continued north on Highway 13.

While passing through Lampe, Missouri, she noticed smoke billowing from underneath the hood and into the interior of the car. Stopping the automobile immediately, she told her son, age 10, to run for safety.

After fleeing from the car, the boy looked back and saw his mother still inside the car. She was trapped in-

side because the electric door locks had jammed. He ran to the car, forced open a back door with his bare hands, and pulled his mother—now overcome with smoke inhalation—to safety. Seconds later, the automobile exploded into flames.

On July 10, 1988, National Commander Johnnie Barnes, now deceased, presented J. D. Eller with the Medal of Valor.

**December 24, 1989**  
**Springdale, Arkansas**

A family Christmas celebration was just getting underway when the family pet, a greyhound, began barking excitedly outside. Curious, their son looked out to see what was happening since the dog rarely barked.

Standing in a neighbor's driveway was a 7-year-old boy with his clothes on fire. Startled, he began to run.

The greyhound, which was commanded to catch the boy, cleared a 4-foot-tall fence to join in the chase. The dog caught the boy by the pants and held on until the Royal Ranger came and smothered the flames, using a throw rug from the garage and his own body.

Everyone involved survived the gas-related blaze with first- and second-degree burns.

On April 21, 1991, National Commander Ken Hunt presented J. D. Eller his second Medal of Valor, making him the first in Royal Rangers history to receive two.



ular program will turn out or what a certain character will do? Too often, right?

Television is also a passive medium. You don't have to do anything but just sit there. If you watch a TV program, watch it with another person then discuss it afterwards. The exchange will make both of you more interesting persons.

## **Be Original**

Don't always follow the crowd; let them follow you at times. Write your own songs, try a foreign food, and make a friend others have rejected, for starters.

Ask yourself what you think most of your friends would do in a certain situation. Then, because you are a different and unique person, do it differently and uniquely.

## **Read**

There's no better way to become interesting than to read. Read about all kinds of people, places, and things. You'll expand your horizons greatly.

But don't stop at reading. Think about what you've read and how you feel about it. You might learn something to help you in your own life. And because you know more now, you'll be able to talk to almost anybody about almost anything.

## **Show Interest in Others**

When you're introduced to someone, remember his or her name. And ask questions about the other person as you tell him or her about yourself. Other people will find you fascinating for having taken an interest in them.

Look at the person you're talking

with, not at the floor. Show that person that you are interested; meet his or her eyes.

## **Use Your Time Well**

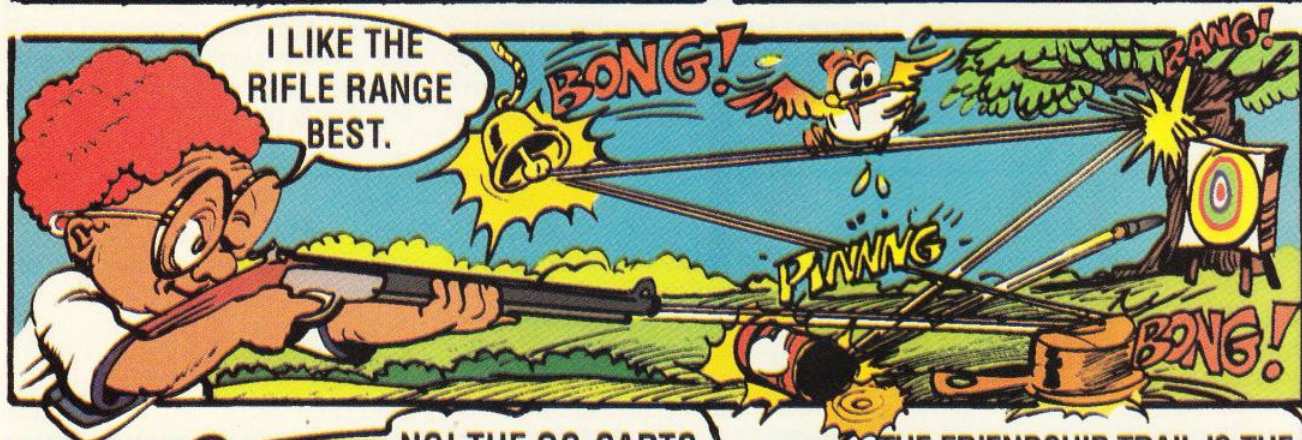
Use little pieces of time to think, read, and learn. All these activities give you more information, make you more knowledgeable, and help you talk with just about anyone. Having fun, by the way, is not a waste of time.

Most importantly, find time to talk with Jesus Christ. He is always interested in you—so much that He died for you.

You can't do everything at one time, of course. But if you want to make yourself noteworthy and interesting to others, practice all of these principles. Using them will earn you a lot of interest.

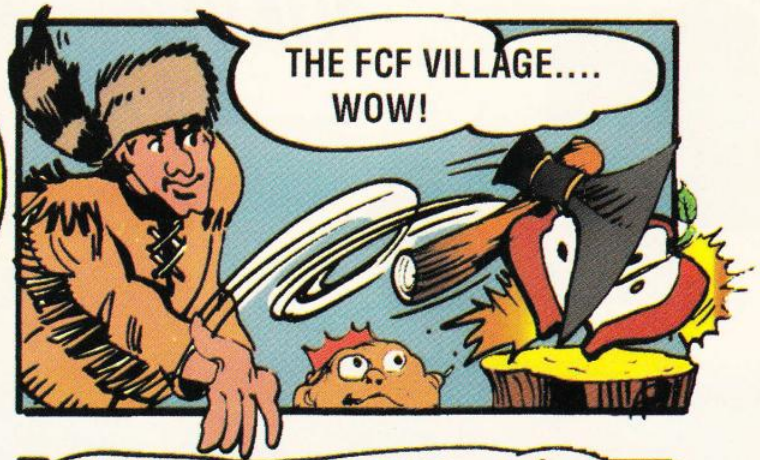
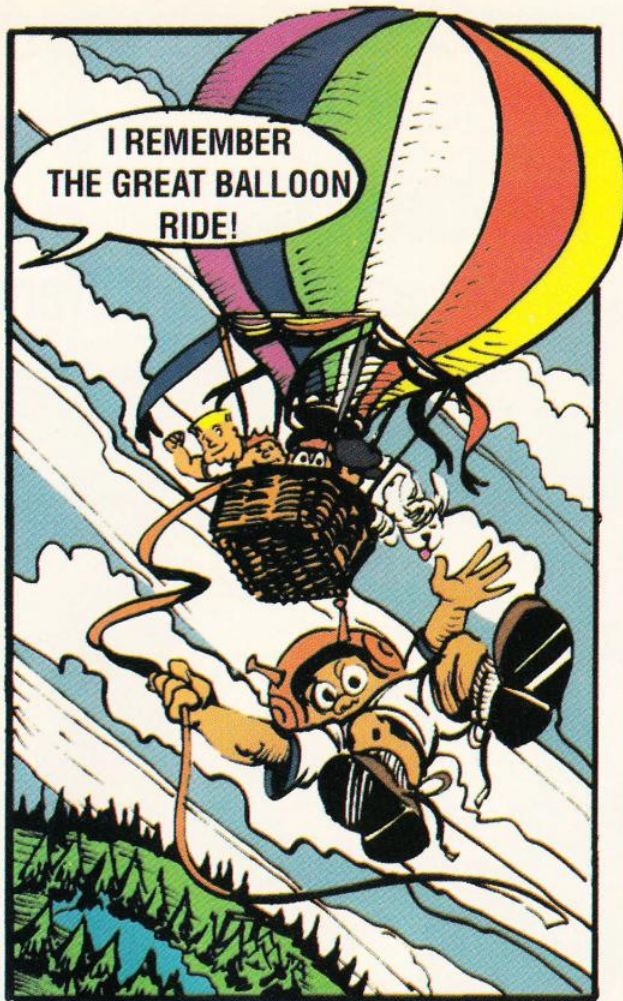




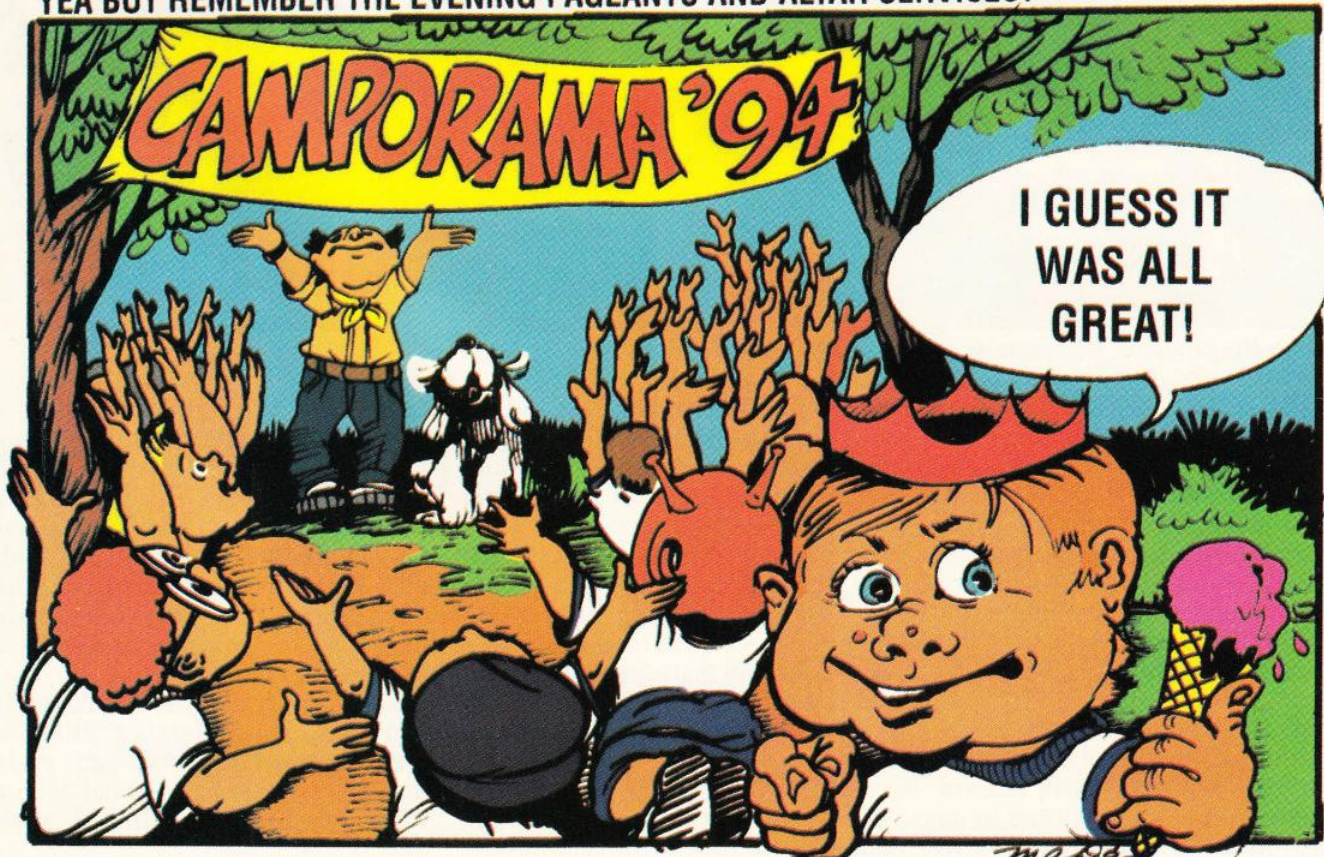


Note: Illustrations drawn for humor and do not depict the strict safety precautions used at each Camporama event.





YEA BUT REMEMBER THE EVENING PAGEANTS AND ALTAR SERVICES?



SEE YOU AT THE CAMPORAMA!





# HIKING The MISSIONS TRAIL

## Light-for-the-Lost: Helping Make an Eternal Difference



By Bruce Braithwaite, missionary to Brazil

Several secular publications have reported the growing violence among the street children in Brazil. But God is doing a mighty work here. Our ministry has been reaching 100,000 children in the public schools every week. Through this Assemblies of God outreach ministry, more than 150 teachers are teaching in over 100 schools.

There is a marked difference between the public school systems of the United States and Brazil. Here in Brazil our teachers are invited to go directly into the public schools to

teach the children about God and the Bible. Right in the schools our workers present the salvation message and invite children to accept Jesus Christ into their hearts.

Using materials like *The Children's Bible Weekly*, our teams teach songs about Jesus, Bible stories and memory verses, and the plan of salvation. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. With *The Children's Bible Weekly*, I would add that more than 2,500 pictures are worth over 2.5 million words.

This and other gospel literature is purchased, in part, with Light-for-the-

Lost funds. We use the literature as part of our Brazilian children's ministry, called Children of Brazil Outreach. Attractively illustrated and in simple, modern language, it tells—from Genesis to Revelation—of God's plan for mankind. Each story is followed by exercises, which help reinforce the lesson and a message of eternal life.

The majority of these Brazilian boys and girls are unchurched. But now many are learning about and receiving Jesus as their personal Savior. What an opportunity God has given us!



## **A Harvesttime Challenge**

**2**

## **News**

**4**

## **Your Outpost Planning Guide**

**6**

## **Crafts for Heroes**

**11**

## **Hope in the Midst of Despair**

**12**

## **Devotions**

**14**

## **One-on-One**

Several years ago I was privileged to meet a man whom I had heard about since I can remember. My mother and father spoke about him\* often. I noticed that they idolized him. I didn't mind them talking about him, though, because the words they spoke were cheerful and encouraging.

I was even prompted to act like the gentleman whom they mentioned frequently. Then, although I had not met him personally at the time, I began to speak of him myself. I fondly recall the painting of him that hung in our living room.

The painting could do no justice to his image, though, for nobody of recent had seen this person. He had made such an impression on others, however, that people wanted in some way to look upon his image.

Then the day came when I finally met him. He was loving, kind, looked beyond my flaws—exactly like my parents had said. Now I, too, talk about him often. My wife and I share about him with our child. We can't wait for the day our daughter knows him personally.


I'm sad, though, because few children today will ever have the privilege of meeting him—or even hear their parents talk about him. Most children will never experience that joy. Millions of children today go through life not learning about this wonderful Person of whom I am speaking. We fondly call him our Lord, Jesus Christ.

That's why we as commanders have a tremendous task before us. We must share the good news many boys will never hear in their godless homes. We must become the surrogate fathers to the boys from broken families and be the Christian role model many boys will never have at home.

You very well may be the only Christian role model some boys in your outpost will ever see. Just like the Imperials' song states, "You're the only Jesus some may ever see."

Royal Rangers can only minister to boys if its local commanders reflect Jesus. Otherwise it's just another program . . . going through the routine. Show them Jesus. They're looking up to you.

*\* This and other pronouns referring to Christ Jesus normally capitalized.*



Editor, National Public Relations Coordinator





## A Harvesttime Challenge

*By Rev. G. Raymond Carlson, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God*

**T**oday was a challenge—too many demands on an already overloaded agenda. Correspondence was stacked high because of a day or two of field ministry. People were begging for answers. The day seemed too short.

But this particular request was urgent: Would I have a few moments over a cup of coffee to help someone who had come to the end of the road? I sensed the urgency and responded affirmatively. And what a reward for doing so!

I had come to know this person through business contacts. Exchanges had been pleasant. Outwardly life appeared to have been kind to this individual. But inwardly the cry was for help and it was desperate. Frustrations and bitter problems seemed beyond solution.

After a few moments of prayer, we opened conversation. The marriage

bond had been broken. A whole series of unfaithful and adulterous acts by the mate brought the couple to the divorce court.

It was discovered that a daughter had become a practicing lesbian. Then a teenage granddaughter had become so angered over her mother's open lesbian life-style and the father's flaunting of living with another woman that she was contemplating suicide. A chain of bitter failures followed—drug abuse, suspension from school, appearances before the authorities. Divorce had broken up that home as well.

Their church had failed them, and now no light was in the tunnel. Was this the end?

But today was harvesttime. Not a harvest where thousands come into the Kingdom. Jesus was concerned about the "one lost sheep." The Shepherd left the ninety and nine to seek the lost one. The Scriptures are replete with such examples of Jesus' concern for the ministry to the one.

Over and over it has been my joy

to bring the "ones" to the only One who has the answer to life's overwhelming difficulties. His invitation is always extended. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

We may have met at the airport, on a plane, at a hotel, or at a restaurant. They may have been executives, professionals, or blue-collar workers. But always their needs are similar: They need the Savior.

Then there are the thousands of boys—boys from the inner cities and from the country, boys from the gangs and gutters of life's cesspools of iniquity. Yes, boys and men from every strata of society need Jesus.

Young fellows struggle with what they feel is a "generation apart" relationship to their seniors. Their sense of values seems so different: Fun versus work. Experience versus achievement. The present versus the past. The "in crowd" versus the "out crowd." Mysticism versus intellectualism. Rules are restrictive, and inhibition is boredom.

Big values are not for sale. Judas Iscariot discovered that too late. You can buy sex, but you can't buy love. You can buy publicity, but you can't buy respectability. You can buy medicine, but you can't buy health.

A young man of another generation went all out and made his life as wild as possible. It was a blast, but then he came to himself. He didn't like what he saw and returned to father and home (see Luke 15:11-32).

Yes, life today may have different tag lines, a different vocabulary, and new thought patterns; but the problems are the same. The cover, the jacket, the binding, the type, and the margins may wear a "new look," but the contents do not change. People need the Lord.

Fellows, we have the great privilege of working in God's ripened harvest field. We must not fail the Lord of the Harvest. Let us jointly bring in the "ones" who need our help, who need Jesus. Today is harvesttime. ☼

*Rev. G. Raymond Carlson has served as general superintendent for The General Council of the Assemblies of God from January 1, 1986, to present. Brother Carlson is retiring December 31 after having served 24 years as an elected official.*



# Royal Rangers...



**Building Bridges to  
the Hearts of Boys**

**Royal Rangers Week  
October 3-9, 1993**



## Ohio Royal Rangers Take Flight on Air Force Cargo Plane

By Garold Speer, news editor,  
Pentecostal Evangel

Royal Rangers groups from North Bloomfield, Ohio, Assembly and Corinth Assembly in Kinsman, Ohio, recently took a special flight aboard a U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane.

Pastor Mike Levelle of North Bloomfield Assembly, who serves as auxiliary staff chaplain at the Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station, approached the Air Force more than 2 years ago trying to make arrangements for the flight.

"I was told that I needed to submit literature describing the Royal Rangers program," Levelle said. "After the Air Force reviewed the literature, we were granted status as a recognized national youth group by the Department of Defense."

During the time officials were reviewing the program and Royal Rangers leaders in the church were trying to schedule the flight, "we experienced several setbacks," Levelle explained, "such as military downsizing, budget restrictions, realigning of air base status, and the readjustment of flying time for Air Force Reserve pilots."

Levelle explained that the orientation flight the Royal Rangers finally took was the type of flight the Air Force has always given to Civil Air Patrol and Scout groups. These flights cost the approved groups nothing, he said. "The pilots and other Air Force personnel are required to fly a certain number of hours and flights to keep their training current.

Taking up these orientation groups is simply part of utilizing those training flights, as circumstances and funding permit."

The delay in getting their flight scheduled was due to a combination of having Royal Rangers reviewed by the Defense Department to qualify as a recognized youth group and specific budget considerations at the air base they would be flying out of.

"Our persistence paid

off, and on April 1, 1993, this became a reality," Levelle said.

The C-130 the group flew on was stationed at the Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station in Vienna, Ohio. It was attached to the 910th TAG unit. The flight itself lasted about 2 hours. "We flew to Buffalo, N.Y., and back across Pennsylvania to the Youngstown base," Levelle said.

"We would like to express our sincere appre-

ciation to the command and staff of the 910th. It was their courtesy and kindness that made this flight so memorable," Levelle said.

The group making the flight numbered 37 Royal Rangers boys and leaders from the two churches. Levelle praised the church Royal Rangers leaders for the hard work they put into meeting Air Force requirements to make the flight possible.





"Senior Commander Jeffrey Kish of the North Bloomfield Assembly should be credited for organizing the event from the Royal Rangers side," Levelle explained. "Jeff made sure that Social Security numbers were recorded, all men and boys had a complete uniform, and that all had up-to-date membership cards. All these were needed for the preflight inspection."

Cpt. John Keytack, public affairs officer at the reserve base, met the group and gave a preflight briefing and slide presentation about the modern Air Force. Levelle explained that Keytack was the officer who put the Rangers groups' request into writing and saw it through channels to get permission for the orientation flight.

"The Air Force does these orientation flights to utilize their training flight time and also to interest young people in aerospace technology, aviation, and the Air Force," Levelle said.

He added that part of the thrill of the experience was the recognition it gave to the Royal Rangers program. Now that their group has set the precedent, he said, it opens doors with the Air Force for similar recognition for other Royal Rangers groups.

"We believe we have set a precedent for the Royal Rangers program nationwide," he said. "The paperwork is established, the groundwork has been laid in hope that other Royal Rangers outposts will be able to experience this adventure."

Reprint courtesy of *Pentecostal Evangel*. Article appeared in the June 27, 1993, issue.

# Inner-City Rangers Changes Lives

By D. Edson

Luis Santaella became a Royal Ranger after his first visit to Outpost 119, at the Star of Jacob Christian Church in New Haven, Connecticut. He was 13 years old. He started attending church regularly because he "could see the love in these people."

Luis took Royal Rangers seriously. He later became a Golden Medal of Achievement recipient, an FCF member, and a senior commander.

Sometimes when Luis goes to church, he passes childhood friends on the street who are now drug dealers. He doesn't want to judge them because he knows they chose their "career" because of the fast money. They took a shortcut that Luis knows will lead them to an even faster end. So when he gets to church, he makes sure he tells his Royal Rangers that "there is no such thing as a shortcut."

Luis isn't the only success story at Outpost 119. When Ruben Ruiz was 7 years old, he moved to New Haven with

his mother and sister after his father had left them. Not long after the scared little boy arrived, a neighbor invited him to Royal Rangers.

"I discovered Royal Rangers that day and just kept coming back," Ruben said.

When he received his first award, his mother came to see him receive it at the advancement ceremony. But while she was there she met the people, then began to attend church with her son.

Ruben later received the Golden Medal of Achievement and was able to obtain a flying scholarship sponsored by Yale University and Tweed-New Haven Airport. This scholarship is no small thanks to the Royal Rangers because he successfully completed its aviation program.

"If it weren't for the leaders," Ruben stated, "I never would have come this far."

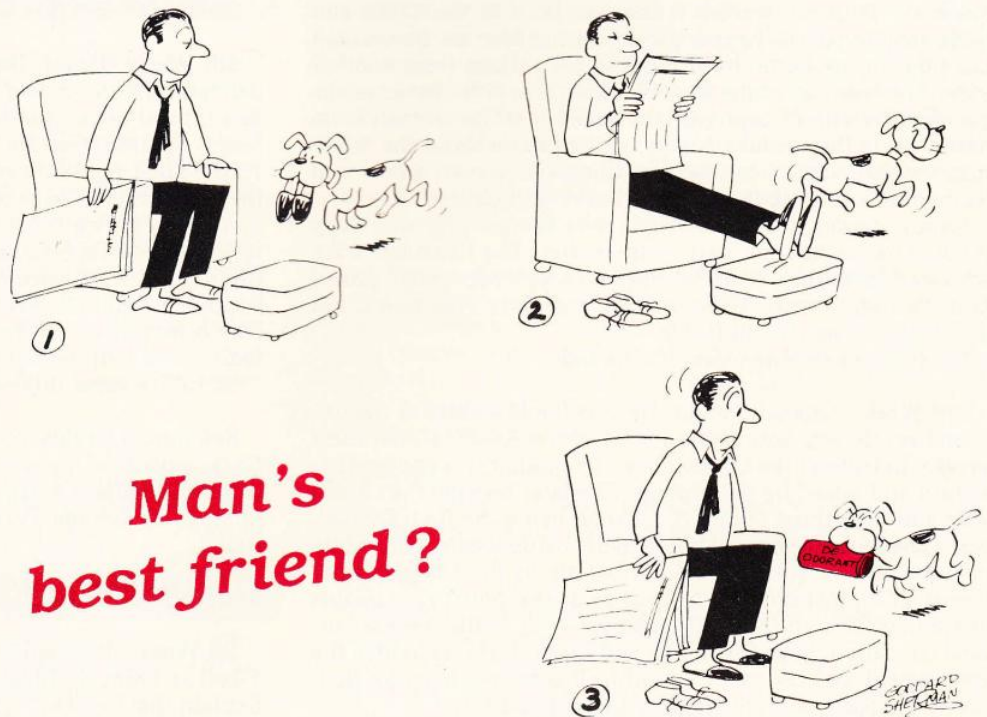
Outpost 119 is not the only outpost to successfully challenge its members. Outpost 133, at Star of Jacob Church in New Haven, had its Trail-

blazers class attend a "wilderness school" that lasted 21 days. Three of the boys—Pablo Cosme, Joel DeJesus, and Danny Cruz—will never forget the experience. They walked 10 miles a day with 80-pound backpacks and ate raisins and nuts. Also, they had to weather Hurricane Bob—harassed by sheets of wind-driven rain while inside tarpaulin shelters.

Needless to say, the boys were excited to get back but knew the experience was worth it. "I'm a new person," Pablo says. "I learned there's nothing you can't do if you work together."

Danny noted that during the experience he came to realize how he had been breaking his mother's heart by skipping school. "I'm not the same boy," he said.

The inner city is a tough place for anyone. But when God gets the chance to work in the hearts and minds of its young men, they—for the very first time—experience what real power is.





# Your Outpost Planning Guide

## Straight Arrows Program

By David and Marie Brecheen

### September: Great Men and Women

**1st Week**—Joseph Brant. He was born in the upper Ohio River wilderness in 1742 to a Mohawk chief. His sister Molly married an Englishman named Sir William Johnson. Through Sir William, Joseph learned the white man's ways and language. Joseph joined him on the side of the English in the wars against the Americans. He had gone to England and while there was made a colonel in the British Army. After the war he was able to keep his commission and was given a tract of land in Ontario.

The second white man who had a profound effect on Joseph's life was Samuel Kirkland. Kirkland had wanted to be a missionary to the Indians and had Joseph teach him the Iroquois language. He also encouraged Joseph to translate parts of the Bible into Iroquois. It was in his old age that he translated the New Testament into the Iroquois language. He was buried near the little church he built on the Grand River, near Brantford, Ontario.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 150:2.

**2nd Week**—Nancy Ward. She was known among the Cherokees as "Beloved Woman." She was born in the 1730s and had a great impact on her people during her lifetime. She earned her title during battle by defending her village from another tribe. She was one of the few who held that title. Because she decided the fate of captives, she saved a white woman from death. From that woman Nancy learned more about the white man's ways. Nancy was the first Cherokee to own a cow and learned how to milk it and make butter and cheese.

Nancy passed this knowledge on to her people, and dairy products soon became part of their diet. The Cherokee tribe advanced faster than most because of Nancy's knowledge gained from the white man. They soon owned their own farms and developed a weaving industry.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 145:3.

**3rd Week**—Quanah Parker. He was the last chief of the Comanches. He was son to the leader of the Kwahadi, the most savage division of the Comanches. His mother was captured as a child and raised by the Indians. She later became the chief's wife and bore three children, Quanah being the first. Quanah was a great warrior and fought in many battles against the white man but finally surrendered his people to the United States troops. From that time on, he became a great help to his people in leading them in the white man's way of living. He encouraged education, house building, and agriculture. He helped the government and became a friend to President Theodore Roosevelt. He became quite wealthy in land and cattle.

Scripture verse this week: 1 John 4:4.

**4th Week**—Ohiyesa, Dr. Charles Alexander Eastman. Ohiyesa (meaning "The Winner") was born in 1858 near Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Ohiyesa went to a small missionary school, where he learned to read. Until age 15 Ohiyesa (Indian name for Charlie) was raised by his uncle because his dad was imprisoned in Canada after fleeing there. Ohiyesa learned from his uncle the Sioux heritage of horsemanship and buffalo hunting. At age 15 Ohiyesa traveled with his father to South Dakota.

Ohiyesa's father had been converted to Christianity while in prison. After being released his dad established a farm in South Dakota before returning for Ohiyesa. Ohiyesa later continued his education at Beloit College in Wisconsin. From there he graduated from Dartmouth and from the Boston University School of Medicine. Later he became the appointed government physician at the Pine Ridge Agency and was the doctor in charge during the Battle of Wounded Knee. Later Ohiyesa went into private practice in St. Paul and helped organize 42 YMCA's for Indians in the United States and in Canada. He became the attorney for the Sioux in Washington and later was appointed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Many today know him by the nine books he wrote.

Scripture verse this week: John 15:13.

**5th Week**—James, the brother of Jesus. Help the boys understand that Jesus had brothers and sisters and that He lived in a typical home (see Matthew 13:55). Ask the boys, "During Jesus' lifetime, was He believed to be the Messiah (see John 7:5)?" Then read this summary: After Jesus' death James and the other brothers became believers and were in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost. James became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem. He became one of the great leaders in the Early Church. He was instrumental in bringing the Gentiles into the established church. Also, he taught the Jerusalem church members how to live as Christians. His teaching in the New Testament can help us live as Christians today.

Scripture verse this week: 1 Corinthians 15:7.

References for this month: The Bible; Encyclopedias; *Concise Encyclopedia of the American Indian*, by Bruce Grant; *Famous American Indians & Tribes*, by Julia F. Lieser; *Book of American Indians*, by George Turner; *Bible Personalities*, by Mary Jane Haley.

### October: Sports

**1st Week**—Baseball. Ask your boys how many have played T-ball or baseball. Most boys know something about baseball. Explain that baseball is a modification of the game cricket and rounders, which came from Great Britain to the American col-



onies. The game baseball was established in the United States during the 1800s. Discuss some of the names of professional teams and players. If your church has a baseball or softball team, talk about who plays on that team. Your boys would enjoy meeting these players. Invite a church team members to this meeting to discuss the sport.

Scripture verses this week: Psalm 92:12-14.

**2nd Week**—Basketball. Basketball was invented in December 1891 by a Canadian minister and teacher who was teaching in the YMCA training school in Springfield, Massachusetts. He developed the game to meet the need for a vigorous and entertaining inside recreation. With the harsh winters of New England, boys needed a vigorous game they could play indoors. Share how the first team and court differed from the ones we have today. Tell how the game spread from this training school to others and how it went from indoors to outdoors. Tell how and when the sport was adopted by other U.S. colleges, then as a professional sport. If you know of any Christian professional players, tell your boys about them and their spiritual life. Invite a basketball player to this meeting to discuss the sport.

Scripture verses this week: Psalm 92:15.

**3rd Week**—Football. The game originated from another sport played during the days of ancient Greece. Modern football came from England, where a form of the game was played during the 12th century. It was refined in several ways into the game we know of today. Share how and when football became a popular sport in colleges and professionally. Tell why the players wear the kind of uniform they do. Have the boys tell about their favorite team. Invite a football player to this meeting to discuss the sport.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 93:1.

**4th Week**—Soccer. "Soccer football," as it is called today, is a form of football and rugby combined. Discuss how the sport and the field it is played on differs from football. Compare the uniforms of both sports. Share the benefits—physically and mentally—of playing soccer. It is the most popular sport that can allow boys and girls to play on the same team.

Scripture verses this week: Psalm 93:2-5.

## November: Indians of the Northeast

**1st Week**—Iroquois Confederacy. Known as the People of the Long House, the Five Nations of the Iroquois were composed of the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk tribes. About 1722 the Tuscarora Indians joined the confederacy, which became known as the Six Nations. The people lived in lodges called long houses. They were 100 feet in length and between 20 to 30 feet wide. A long house was made of a framework of poles and had walls of slabs of dried elm bark. Inside fires were built every 20 feet. The people were chiefly hunters and gardeners. The women did the gardening and the men the hunting and fishing. The people also ate nuts, fruits, and berries. In the springtime they made maple syrup. They traveled over land on foot, using snowshoes in the winter. Birch-bark canoes were used on the lakes and rivers.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 27:1.

**2nd Week**—The Massachusetts Tribe. This was one of the tribes of the Algonquian Indians. The tribe occupied the land that is now Boston. In 1614, Captain John Smith mentioned there were 11 tribal villages along the coast. Along with the establishment of colonies came a white man's disease, which wiped out most of the tribe. Those who remained became known as "Praying Indians" (or Christian converts) and were no longer known by their tribal name. This tribe was remembered as being a great help to the early settlers known as pilgrims.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 27:5.

**3rd Week**—The Delaware. The Delaware tribe was part of the Algonquian Confederacy. They lived in what is now Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. William Penn established his settlement near their capital, near what is now Germantown, Pennsylvania. He made a treaty with them in 1682 under the famed oak tree at Shackamaxon. The Delawares lived in small villages in dome-shaped wigwams. The village chiefs were the political and religious leaders. The men did the hunting and fishing and protected the villages. They also made tools, weapons, and dugout canoes. The women gathered the food, planted and harvested crops, cooked, and made the clothes.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 91:16.

**4th Week**—Harvest Party. It is time for a "Harvest of Thanksgiving Party." Join the Buckaroos for an evening of fun and praise. Encourage the boys to dress like Indians and pilgrims. Decorate the room to fit your theme. Prepare games, both quiet and active, and bring lots of food. As you close, have the boys form a circle. Ask each boy to give thanks to God for something the Lord has done for him. Conclude in prayer.

References for this month: *Concise Encyclopedia of the American Indian*, by Bruce Grant; *Famous American Indians and Tribes*, by Julia F. Lieser; *Northeast Indians*, by Linda Spizirri; *The First Americans*, by Virgil J. Vogel; *Indians of the Woods and Plains*, by Ruth Dockery.

## Buckaroos Program

By David and Marie Brecheen

### September: Sports

Christian Character Trait this month: *Meekness*

**1st Week**—Discipline in Sports. This is one phase of the activity most boys would rather not consider. Let the boys know that the "greats" in sports make it to the top because of discipline. Share about the vigorous training schedule each sport member must endure. Invite a coach from a nearby college, high school, or club to speak to the boys. Have him speak about the game he coaches and how discipline plays an important role in that sport. Let him affirm to the boys that they, too, could be a key player if they "discipline" themselves. Follow up on a discussion on how we each are to discipline our minds and spirits as well. These are important lessons boys need to hear to help them grow into Christian men.

Scripture verse this week: Matthew 5:5.

**2nd Week**—History and Rules of Baseball. See the Straight Arrows Program guide for ideas. Allow your boys to become more involved in discussion and sharing. As always, give the boys a chance to get involved in your learning experience by sharing what they know about the sport, how it is played, their favorite players, etc.

Scripture verse this week: Titus 3:2.

**3rd Week**—Basketball.

See the Straight Arrows Program guide for ideas.

Scripture verses this week: Matthew 11:28, 29.

**4th Week**—Football.

See the Straight Arrows Program guide for ideas.

Scripture verse this week: Matthew 11:30.

**5th Week**—Soccer.

Scripture verses this week: Galatians 5:22,23.



## October: Great Early Americans

Christian Character Trait this month: *Courtesy*

**1st Week**—Thomas Jefferson. Allow time for the boys to tell what they know about this president. He was the third president of the United States. He was much like the first president in that he was a son of Virginia—a planter/farmer and a slave-owner. Study and report on how he differed from the other political leaders of that time. He was a very educated person and had interests in many things—such as science, education, philosophy, art, architecture, music, and politics. Some of his great inventions were the swivel chair, revolving music stand, a letter-copying machine, and a pedometer. He is most noted for writing the Declaration of Independence, helping write the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, designing the U.S. Capital Building, his home “Monticello,” and acquiring the Louisiana Purchase. It has been said that Jefferson stood forth as the fearless champion of human rights, of religious freedom, and of liberty of press and speech.

Scripture verse this week: Colosians 4:6.

**2nd Week**—Thomas Edison. He made life for all of us today more enjoyable. As a young man growing up in Port Huron, Michigan, he had a driving curiosity for experimenting in science and nature. By age 15 he was printing his own newspaper and selling it on a train, along with snack foods and fruit to the passengers. He later went on to invent or to improve many things in the electrical field. Ask your boys how many things they may use that Edison helped to invent or improve.

Because he was curious, the telegraphic communication system expanded and became more effective. He created the phonograph cylinder and its disc, the kinoscope (first motion projector), batteries, etc. His most famous invention, of course, was the electric light bulb.

Scripture verse this week: 1 Peter 3:8.

**3rd Week**—Dwight L. Moody. This great man of God was born 1837 in Northfield, Massachusetts. He became a Christian as a young man and left his job as a shoe salesman and moved to Chicago to do missionary work. He began Sunday schools that grew into churches. Still with a great desire to see people won to the Lord, Dwight Moody teamed up with singer and composer Ira Sankey. Together they held revival meetings in America and Great Britain. Vast numbers of people accepted the Lord during these meetings.

Moody later saw the need to educate young men and women in the Bible as well as secular knowledge. He began a school for young women in 1879 and one for young men in 1881. In 1889 he began what is now known as Moody Bible Institute. Because of his love for and desire to work for the Lord, millions of people have since been won to Christ.

Follow this discussion with a talk about how the Buckaroos must witness to their friends and lead them to Christ.

Scripture verse this week: 1 Peter 3:9.

**4th Week**—Helen Keller. At 19 months of age, she lost her ability to see and hear due to an illness. But this courageous young girl later learned to read and write through the help of a great teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan. Through much study, she learned to read Braille and to write by using a special typewriter. Sullivan also taught Keller to talk by feeling the vibrations made from the sounds of letters and words coming from her throat as she uttered them. She went to Radcliff College and graduated with honors in 1904. Because of her courage and desire to achieve, in spite of her impairments, she helped and inspired countless men, women, boys, and girls who had physical impairments. She spoke throughout the world to the physically impaired and to government officials on behalf of the handicapped.

Scripture verse this week: James 3:17.

References this month: Encyclopedias; *World Book Of America's Presidents*, by World Book, Inc.; *The Presidents In American History*, by Charles A. Beard; *40-Presidents*, by Joan Bu-mann and John Patterson.

## November: Pilgrims

Christian Character Trait this month: *Consistency/Standing Firm*

**1st Week**—Freedom of Worship. Most boys have a mental picture of what the pilgrims looked like, but how many of them know how and why the pilgrims came to this country? In the early 1600s some people living in England did not want to worship God as did the Church of England. So they had to hide to do so, for the fear of being imprisoned. They wanted to be free to worship God as they chose. Many had been persecuted for their simple beliefs in faith. Therefore, the decision was made to leave England to settle in a new land. Discuss who the church leaders were who led the group from England to Holland.

Pose this question: Are there still people today who cannot worship freely? Let your boys interact here, then discuss how freedom of worship differs today than it did in the 1800s.

Scripture verse this week: Luke 12:15.

**2nd Week**—Search for Freedom. Those in search of freedom of worship left England and ventured to Holland. They lived there for a time but still were not satisfied because they did not find the freedom they desired. The leaders then decided to take the group to America on the Mayflower. Explain how these pilgrims had to have a strong faith in God in order to endure the long, hard trip to America. Show how God is still guiding people who want to worship Him in faith and in truth. Ask these questions: Where are some of the modern day pilgrims coming from and what are they seeking? Are they finding it?

Scripture verse this week: Colosians 1:23.

**3rd Week**—Pilgrims. Show a picture of the Mayflower if you have one. (Search an encyclopedia for such drawings and information.) Tell how the people survived the crossing of the Atlantic in such a small craft, which was so loaded with people and cargo. Compare how long the trip took then to what it would take today. Describe what life was like on board ship during the crossing. Using a map or a diagram, explain where the pilgrims landed in America. Tell how they lived on the ship until they could build homes. Explain that many of them were sick—because of lack of good food, bad weather, and poor living conditions—only a few men were able to start building.

The homes were built in two rows with a high fence around them for safety. Each man was to build his own home, but they all built the common house at the “Plymouth Plantation.” About half the people died that first winter from the weather and from sickness and disease. By springtime living conditions improved. And with the help of the Indians, they learned how to plant food and how to hunt and fish. With the help of their new friends, the Indians, they prospered in this new land—where they worshiped God as they chose.

Scripture verse this week: 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**4th Week**—Thanksgiving Party. As the pilgrims and Indians sat together to give thanks to God for providing food and health for them, so we should give our boys a chance to have their own Thanksgiving Party. By doing so the boys can be reminded of God's blessings to them and be given the chance to thank Him. Decorate the room according to the theme. Bring goodies to eat. Invite the Straight Arrows to the party. Make this meeting a real time of “Thanks Giving” to God.

Scripture verse this week: Psalm 51:10.

References for this month: Encyclopedias; *The Coming of The Pilgrims*, by E. Brooks Smith & Robert Meredith; *The Pilgrim Story*, by W.F. Wood; *The Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony*, by editors of American Heritage Publishing Co.



# Pioneers, Trailblazers, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers Program

By Rev. John Eller

## September: Old Testament Heroes

**1st Week**—Noah. Read the following summary: The world in Noah's time had become exceedingly wicked and sinful. God was grieved that He had even made man. The Lord decided to wipe the earth clean. But one man, Noah, found favor in God's eyes. Noah was not perfect, but he had pleased the Lord in his walk before Him. God instructed Noah to build an ark to save himself, his family, and the animals that would be taken on board. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. There was a window in the top, a door, and three decks. (These specifications became the guidelines for shipbuilding through the centuries.) After all were in the ark, it rained 40 days and 40 nights. The flood lasted 150 days. When the earth was dry, God allowed them to leave the ark.

Questions for discussion: 1. What does the rainbow mean? 2. What has happened to efforts to find the ark today? 3. What did Noah do after he left the ark?

Scripture verse this week: Genesis 6:8.

**2nd Week**—Moses. Read the following summary: Moses escaped death as a child when his mother made an ark and hid him among the bulrushes. Found there by a princess, he was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. As a young man he tried to correct the wrongs done by killing an Egyptian who was struggling with an Israelite. He fled to the wilderness for 40 years. There, God spoke to him from the burning bush and sent him back to Egypt to set God's people free.

After 10 plagues upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh was at last willing to set the Israelites free. Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. When Pharaoh's army attempted to follow, they were drowned. Moses led the people of God through the wilderness 40 years and to the border of Canaan—the Promised Land. Moses received the Law directly from the Lord. Many miracles occurred on the journey to supply water and food for the Israelites. Even their shoes did not wear out. Moses, the man of God, led about 2½ million people from slavery to liberty. Moses died on Mt. Nebo and was buried in secret by God.

Questions for discussion: Was Moses capable in himself to lead the Israelites? What excuse did Moses use to try to avoid God's calling on his life? Did Moses enter the Promised Land? Why not?

Scripture verse this week: Exodus 3:14.

**3rd Week**—Samson. Read the following summary: Samson was a child of promise. He was born to be a deliverer of Israel. He was a Nazarite under a vow to the Lord. A symbol of that vow was his hair: It was not to be cut. He was not to drink wine or strong drink. God allowed him to have superhuman strength. He once killed a lion with his bare hands. He killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. He once carried off the gates of a city that had been locked to hold him inside.

After being captured by the Philistines through Delilah, his eyes were put out and he was forced to work at a mill. His hair grew, and Samson renewed his vow to God. During a public display of Samson, God gave Samson strength to pull down the pillars of their temple to Dagon, their fish god. He killed thousands of the enemy at his death.

Questions for discussion: 1. What are some positive aspects about Samson? 2. What were the negatives about him? 3. How could Samson have been more effective as a judge?

Scripture verses this week: Judges 13:24,25.

**4th Week**—King David. Read the following summary: David was a shepherd boy, the youngest son of Jesse. God directed the prophet Samuel to anoint David as king over Israel, to replace King Saul. King Saul had many problems because of his disobedience to God. Saul was often troubled by an evil spirit. David was brought into the palace to play his harp before Saul, which was soothing to the king. Twice Saul tried to kill David with a javelin. He even hunted the countryside for David. David developed a strong friendship with Jonathan, Saul's son. Jonathan helped David escape the wrath of Saul. David later became king and reigned for 40 years. David is best-known for writing the Book of Psalms. They are still used today in preaching, teaching, and worship. The best-known of his writings is Psalm 23. (Commander, read Psalm 23.)

Questions for discussion: How many stones did David gather, and how many did he use? Why did God find such great favor in David? How many psalms did David write?

Scripture verse this week: 1 Samuel 17:50.

**5th Week**—Other Bible Characters. Prior to this week, assign the senior guide and an assistant guide the task of preparing this week's lesson plan. Ask each boy to give a talk on a Bible character and to cite a Scripture verse. Here are some Old Testament characters to choose from: Joshua, Jonah, Gideon, Nehemiah, Jonathan, Joseph, David's mighty men, 12 spies Moses sent out, 12 sons of Jacob, the prophets—such as Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel.

## October: New Testament Heroes

**1st Week**—Jesus Christ. Read the following summary: Jesus Christ is the greatest person of all time. He is the subject of some 333 prophecies in the Old Testament. His birth was miraculous: He was born of a virgin. The New Testament records 43 miracles He performed while on earth. At age 33 Christ gave His life on Calvary for the sins of the world. Three days later He arose from the dead and showed himself alive some 40 days. He ascended into heaven and is now at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us.

Questions for discussion: 1. Can you remember when Christ became your personal Savior? 2. Have you experienced His healing power? 3. What proof do we have that Christ will come again?

Scripture verse this week: John 3:16.

**2nd Week**—John the Baptist. Read the following summary: The Old Testament prophets spoke of the coming of John, a messenger to herald the coming of Christ. Kings of the east used to send messengers or forerunners before them to prepare the way. Likewise, John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ. He came preaching in the wilderness to prepare others for the appearance of Christ. John baptized believers in water and also baptized Christ, who had come to John. King Herod put John the Baptist in prison for his straight preaching and later ordered him beheaded.

Questions for discussion: 1. Would John have lived longer if he had preached differently? 2. Why do you think Jesus called him "great"? 3. How do you relate to John as a wilderness person?

Scripture verse this week: Luke 7:28.

**3rd Week**—Apostle Paul. Read the following summary: Other than Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul is probably the greatest Christian ever. He began persecuting and wasting the church, but his experience with Christ on the road to Damascus made a dramatic change in his life. Paul became a missionary, making three trips abroad. He was often imprisoned, but wrote letters that are now a large part of the New Testament. It is believed Nero had him beheaded for his faith.

Assign a leader to do a chart showing the three missionary trips Paul took. Ask a boy to discuss how a nephew once saved Paul's life.



Questions for discussion: What caused the apostle Paul to change his ways? Where did Paul go once he was blinded on the Damascus road? Can you cite the Scripture verse where Paul refers to a "thorn in the flesh"? What did he mean by that statement?

Scripture verse this week: 2 Timothy 4:7.

**4th Week**—Stephen. Read the following summary: Stephen was chosen as one of the original seven deacons of the Early Church. God anointed Stephen to preach the Word of God. His message made folks angry. Instead of heeding the message, they took him out and stoned him to death. He is remembered as a man of great courage and fortitude. His example has inspired many to face the dangers of foreign service and to give their very lives, if need be, for the cause of Christ.

Questions for discussion: 1. Was Stephen's message any different from that of the other disciples? 2. Why do you suppose he was singled out for stoning? 3. What do we call those who are killed for the cause of Christ?

Scripture verses this week: Acts 7:59,60.

John the Beloved. The apostle John was probably the disciple closest to Jesus while He was on earth. The Gospel of John gives us an inside look at why Christ came. John also wrote three letters that bear his name. In them he emphasizes love as the overriding force in our lives as Christians.

John wrote the Book of Revelation while in exile. He was given a look at the future, beginning with that moment and stretching through eternity. He saw all the past, present, and future redeemed. He saw Jesus Christ reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Questions for discussion: 1. Is it possible to feel close to God when you are alone? 2. Does God still speak today? 3. How would you have felt if you had seen Jesus while on an island alone?

Scripture verse this week: Revelation 1:9.

## November: Minor Bible Heroes

**1st Week**—Twelve Sons of Jacob. These twelve sons became patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel. A list of their names and the blessings their father gave to them is found in Genesis 49. If possible, assign several leaders to do a character sketch on one or more of Jacob's sons. Reuben, the firstborn, was not a strong character. Simeon and Levi were fighters, with Levi receiving the priesthood. Through Judah would come Jesus Christ. Zebulun would dwell at the seashore. Issachar would be a burden-carrier. Dan would provide justice for his people. Gad would ward off attackers. Asher would be wealthy. Naphtali would be fruitful. Joseph would be a fruitful vine; he had been instrumental in saving his family from starvation. Benjamin would charge out in the morning and bring home plunder in

the evening. Jacob and his sons were shepherds. During the famine they went to live in the land of Goshen, which was part of Egypt. Some 400 years later, Moses was sent to lead them from slavery to freedom.

Scripture reference this week: Genesis 49.

**2nd Week**—Twelve Spies. Read the following summary: When Israel approached the Promised Land the first time, Moses sent out twelve spies. Their names and tribes are found in Numbers 13. These men explored the Promised Land and came back with the report that it was a land "flowing with milk and honey." However, the land also was infested with giants, and 10 of the spies thought it bad to invade the land. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, felt Israel should march in immediately because God had given them the land for possession.

It was decided, though, not to go in at that time, so Moses lead Israel in wanderings in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time a generation of people died out. When they finally entered Canaan, Joshua and Caleb were the only two of the original band of people to enter the Promise Land.

Questions for discussion: 1. Would you have enjoyed being a spy? 2. What kind of adventures would you have experienced? 3. What kind of report would you have brought back to Moses?

Scripture reference this week: Numbers 13.

**3rd Week**—David's Mighty Men. Adino killed 800 men with his spear. Eleazar fought as one man against the enemy until his hand stuck to his sword. Shammah defended a pea patch against the enemy by himself. Abishai killed 300 of the enemy with his spear. Benaiah killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day. He also killed an Egyptian with his own spear, having only a staff in his hand. There were 37 mighty men in all.

Questions for discussion: Which of David's men is your favorite? Why did you select that person? Which of his mighty men were most daring? Can you tell why they were called "mighty" men?

Scripture reference this week: 2 Samuel 23.

**4th Week**—Twelve Apostles. Make a chart showing the twelve, and lead in a discussion on them: Simon Peter, Andrew (brother to Peter), James (son of Zebedee), John (James' brother), Philip, Bartholomew (or Nathaniel), Thomas (the doubter), Matthew (the publican), James (son of Alphaeus), Lebbeus (or Thaddeus), Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot), Judas Iscariot (the betrayer).

Explain the following: These twelve men all followed Jesus, heard His teachings, and witnessed His miracles. Jesus also gave His disciples power to cast out evil spirits and to heal all manner of sickness and disease.

Questions for discussion: Which apostle is your favorite? Which apostle was delivered from jail by an angel? 3. Which apostles were fishermen? 4. Who was chosen by the church to take Judas' place? 5. Was Paul an apostle?

Scripture reference this week: Matthew 10.

### READY FOR ANYTHING

A Royal Ranger is ready for anything—even bad weather!

If you haven't done so, prepare a "Family Be Ready Emergency Kit" for home.

Doing so will keep you on the lookout for bad weather.

Your emergency kit should include these things:





*By David and Ammie Craun*

A boy tends to develop heroes out of the world he comes to admire. Involvement with crafts can help define that world. And crafts can be used for boys of all ages to help them identify with wholesome role models; this is the privilege of the commander.

Some examples of wholesome hero identification are, of course, the heroes of the Bible. Other examples are former Ranger of the Year winners, Gold Medal of Achievement recipients, and those serving the public—such as law enforcement officers, military heroes, or any Christian who has gained some notoriety through excellence of achievement or outstanding service to his community. The Royal Rangers leader himself may become the hero of the boys he leads.

As a boy, the shepherd boy David was one of my favorite Bible heroes. Still today the slingshot can be a useful craft project to help you teach your Rangers about the shepherd David. I can recall my father helping me as a boy make a slingshot. My mother read the story of David and Goliath. Then I pretended that a target was the giant and that I was King David.

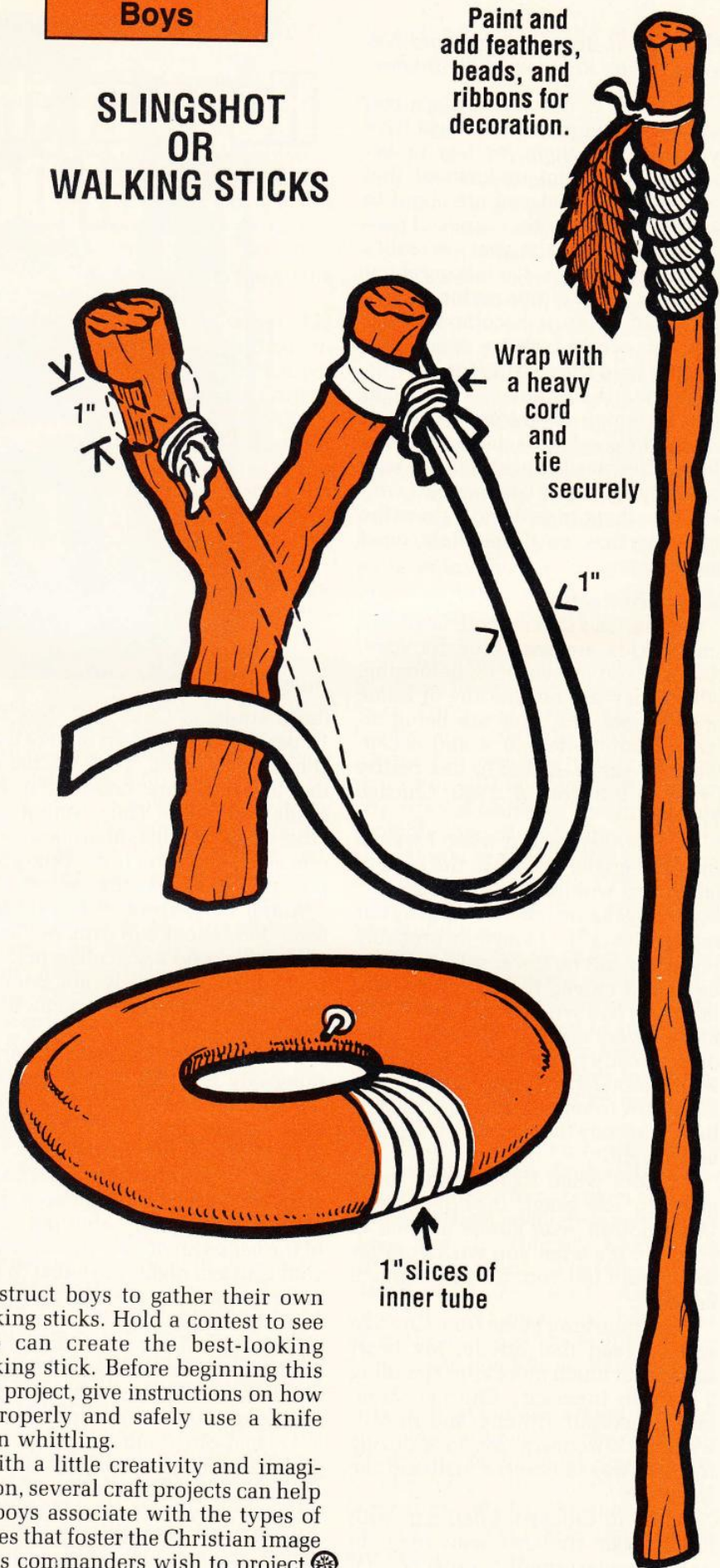
Your Royal Rangers can have the same fun I did as a boy. Help them make their own slingshots. Give them instructions on how to safely use their slingshots. Allow them to have target shooting contests, and award prizes to the winners.

You can use the same materials as did my father. He used an old inner tube from a flat tire and a Y shaped branch from a nearby tree.

Find some forked sticks about 2 inches in diameter. Cut each about 6 inches below the Y-shaped fork and about 4 inches above it on each branch. Using a hacksaw or a knife, make a ¼-inch-deep and 1-inch-wide cut below each branch of the Y. These notches will help secure the rubber strip once it is tied to both branch ends. Once secured the rubber strip should droop to or below the bottom of the Y, allowing ample flexibility.

A good craft project for the older Rangers is the walking stick. It could be used to symbolize Moses' staff. Teach about how God used Moses and his staff to perform miracles. Then tell about the advantages of using a walking stick during a hike along hilly pathways.

## SLINGSHOT OR WALKING STICKS



Instruct boys to gather their own walking sticks. Hold a contest to see who can create the best-looking walking stick. Before beginning this craft project, give instructions on how to properly and safely use a knife when whittling.

With a little creativity and imagination, several craft projects can help the boys associate with the types of heroes that foster the Christian image we as commanders wish to project. ❁



By Marshall Bruner, editor and National Public Relations Coordinator

Allow me to describe a place you may never have gone. You might have avoided going there for fear or because you did not understand that "world." But what you are about to read is a reality for thousands of people every day of the year—a reality they cannot escape. I'm talking about the inner cities of our nation.

Each of us must become familiar with this world because it is a true mission field that is ripe for harvest. Multiplied thousands of kids—right here in America—desperately need to hear the good news that Jesus loves them. They need to hear this message from Royal Rangers commanders who will take them in and show them the attention they so desperately need and deserve.

### Let's Face Reality

In America's cities—both large and small—kids are searching for love, respect, and a sense of belonging, which they are not finding at home or at school. But they are being offered a counterfeit love and acceptance by gangs. Listen to this reality I read in the April 4, 1993, *Chicago Tribune*:

"My mother passed when I was in the third grade, and I had the kind of father that wouldn't really hug you," says [ex-gang member, now gangster rapper "Ice-T"]. "I know he probably loved me, but he never said it. When he died, I moved to L.A. [from New Jersey] to live with his big sister. She made it very clear to me that . . . she didn't really want to be burdened with another kid. It hurt me, but you learn how to suck your teeth, because there's nobody there to say, 'It's gonna be all right.'"

" . . . But when I got around these guys [in the gang], they'd tell me, 'Ain't nothin' ever gonna happen to you.' . . . It's what you wish your father would tell you. It's the ultimate family."

I was returning home from Chicago when I read that article. My heart ached that much more after spending 3 days in inner-city Chicago, Zion, and Waukegan, Illinois, and in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My task during that trip was to observe firsthand the inner city.

While in Chicago, I had met with junior high students who lived in nearby government "projects." Of

those students I had met, less than 10 percent of them had fathers living at home, I was told. Their teacher said the teenagers are confronted with crime each day. They cannot even cross from one neighborhood to another—due to gang turfs. Doing so is potential danger to themselves.

About 68 percent of the students from that school will drop out before graduating, said a schoolteacher. This problem, however, is not common only to Chicago—it's throughout our major cities.

I later traveled throughout parts of inner-city Chicago, video recording the sounds and sites. I saw a drug deal "going down." I observed the gang turfs and the gang graffiti. I met with an ex-gang member (gangbanger is the term used by the gangsters). His name is John (real name not used). In the back seat of a car during a dark, cold Chicago night, I listened to John as he spoke of the senseless gang killings and crime.

He talked about boys 11 years old joining gangs because they were given an identity and a sense of belonging. He spoke of one 12-year-old shooting a 13-year-old (both of whom were gang members) in the heart and how the dead boy's father died of a heart attack as a result. There my heart cried out as I listened to him rap (a contemporary lyric) about the "state of

confusion" and of black "brothers" killing one another with their "techs" (guns). John said the song was dedicated to his "boy" (a friend) who had been shot in the back by a gangbanger.

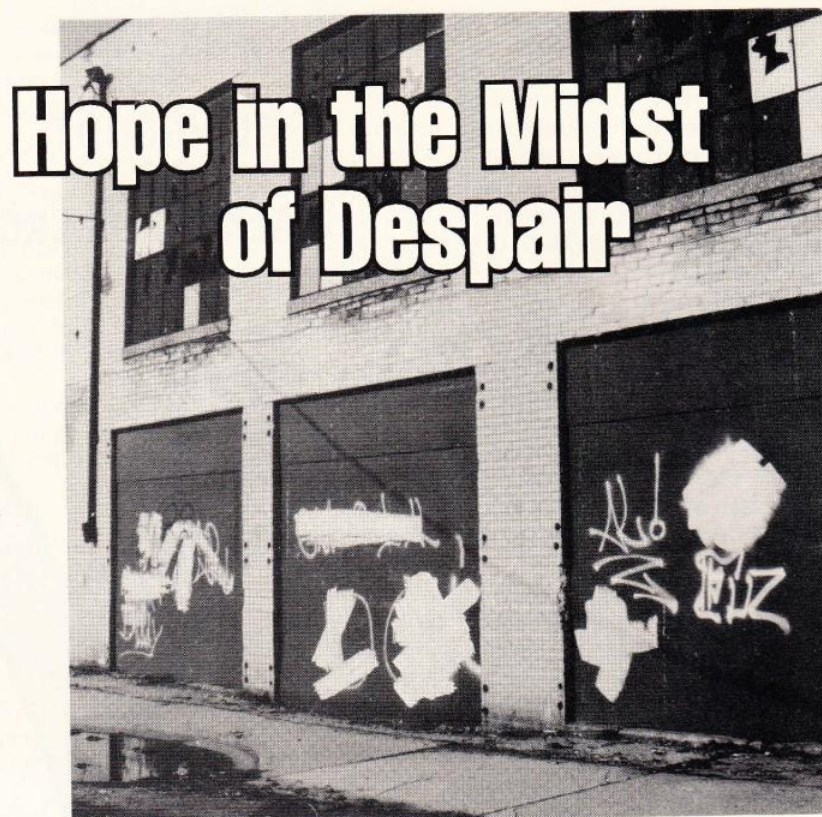
After we had talked for a while, we walked across the street to a fast food place. As John waited for his order, he mentioned how he wished winter would never end. When I asked him why, he said, "I don't have to look over my shoulder all the time." In other words, fewer gangsters on the streets due to cold weather equals a greater chance John can survive. His life could be threatened now that he has disassociated himself from the gang.

John is only 19 years old. I guessed he was about 30. Life can be hard in the inner city.

Joining a gang may seemingly provide security. But when and if a boy sees the true side of a gang, he may not be able to abandon it; for doing so could jeopardize his life.

Noted the *Chicago Tribune* in an article titled "Children Who Live With Death":

"A dark culture has woven its way into their minds, games and dreams, infused their language, and dimmed their view of the world so dramatically that some children say they will not survive to reach adulthood."





In that April 4 article, I read this quote from an elementary school principal: "Most of our young men expect to die young. . . . The children have accepted that for themselves, so much so that it's like sitting down to drink a glass of milk."

The newspaper reported of one grandmother who had purchased life insurance for her grandchildren so they could have decent burials. She was facing the reality that life for too many kids in the inner city is but a fleeting moment.

Remember the article "They Need Us," which appeared in the summer 1993 *High Adventure Leader*? It stated: "Six thousand or more children, age 14 and under, will successfully take their own lives this year. An estimated three times that will fail in the attempt. An estimated 1.2 million children will run away this year."

Is it any wonder? Today's kids need to be told of the true hope: Jesus Christ!

I traveled from Chicago to Zion and Waukegan with Don Brock, North Central Region coordinator. There, just about 40 miles northwest of Chicago, we met with Pastor Luis R. Marquez, of Calvary Assembly Christian Center. I was surprised to learn that these towns, along with neighboring North Chicago, were also steeped with housing projects, gangs, drugs, and crime.

Again I had heard of kids killing kids and all the other trappings of the large inner-city environment. Pastor Marquez noted that Waukegan, population about 70,000, had only one Assemblies of God church. North Chicago, he said, had one Assembly.

According to Pastor Marquez, this cluster of communities is being overrun with gang activity, yet little is being done by the church to evangelize the inner-city dwellers there.

That day we traveled to Milwaukee and met with about 20 Royal Rangers commanders and church pastors. Seven inner-city churches were represented at that gathering as we exchanged ideas on how to better evangelize the inner cities through Royal Rangers.

### ***Hope in the Midst of Despair***

Everywhere I looked I saw the problems of the "inner city." I also saw the vast need for each of us to do much, much more to reach the cities, so that the "forgotten" can

learn of Christ. I saw the need for "colors," both those of the skin and those that mark the gangs, to be forgotten in God's overcoming love. But I did not see a defeated church.

Those I had met with in Milwaukee were making a difference in the lives of many inner-city boys. Royal Rangers is working in the inner cities! They are giving boys an alternative to the gangs—they're giving them Jesus.

In Zion, Pastor Marquez and his church are dedicated to the call to reach those communities for Christ. The church—consisting of Caucasians, Hispanics, and African-Americans—doesn't fear the inner city and is looking at methods—in specific Royal Rangers—for going into the streets with the gospel message.

In Chicago, Pastor Edward Peecher and his Rangers staff—who kindly escorted us throughout Chicago—are giving Satan a black eye. New Heritage Christian Center's Outpost 229 has grown from 5 to more than 60 boys. Its Neighborhood Extension Program is reaching another 200-plus boys. Senior Commander Mario Jones—himself an ex-gang member saved through Teen Challenge and now area commander—had received permission to establish a Royal Rangers program in one of the inner-city schools there and is conducting meetings 3 nights a week. The school principal and board are desperate for solutions to the problems they face and have looked to Mario and his men for help. At the time of writing, Mario had enlisted 75 boys who wanted to participate in the summer Rangers program because they wanted an alternative to the gang activities. He said he expected to easily reach 100 boys.

Other commanders working with Mario are going into the schools with Rangers uniforms on, sharing about Royal Rangers. And a city juvenile delinquent counselor has asked one commander to work with boys having misdemeanors.

From Los Angeles to Chicago to Miami, I am hearing great reports how Royal Rangers leaders are effectively evangelizing the inner cities. But we've only begun.

The inner-city commanders are desperate for inner cultural curriculum. They are in great need of support—prayer, finances\*, and manpower. The battle over the souls of America's inner-city kids is being

waged, and thousands of boys and girls feel hopeless.

### ***What To Do***

1. "Our whole philosophy of ministry in the urban setting is to recapture the black male," said Pastor Peecher. The positive male role model must be prominent in an environment where little male leadership is displayed. Boys need to be led by godly men in the Royal Rangers setting.

2. Suburban commanders must join hands with those in the inner cities who are fighting the lone battle. A concerted effort must go forth to assist the inner-city church. Men must provide time and financial support. Why not adopt an inner-city outpost? Let your church men help provide uniforms and curriculum for the outpost you have adopted. Get your Rangers involved as well. If you live in the suburbs, call the inner-city senior commander to ask how you can help him.

3. This October the national Royal Rangers Office is promoting a Prayer Task Force gathering in Chicago. Commanders will be meeting with inner-city church pastors to fast and pray. We will be touring the inner-city areas of Chicago. The intent is to promote prayer and financial support. If you are interested in participating in an inner-city PTF, contact your district commander and request he conduct one.

4. The national office also is studying how to better assist the inner-city Rangers program. Additional material will be developed to help train inner-city commanders. Also, the revised handbooks for boys forthcoming in 1995 will reflect an inner-cultural blend.

Let's become the surrogate fathers for the multiplied thousands of inner-city boys from broken homes. Let's give them an alternative to street gangs and the concrete world that surrounds them. Together, let's "reach, teach, and keep" America's inner-city boys for Christ. Let's offer them the true answer to their every need: Jesus, the Master Ranger. ☪

*\*Help support our efforts to reach the inner cities for Christ. Send an offering to the national Royal Rangers Office today. Designate the funds to account "001-01-031-4001-000 INNER CITY." Your help can make a difference.*



## Devotions for Boys

*Devotions By Rev. Lauren Orchard*

### **A Broken Jet, A Soaring Life**

The big defensive end heard the snap count, caught the motion of the center, and crashed through the Kansas City Chiefs' line. Bearing down on Chiefs' quarterback Roger Kraig, Dennis Byrd lowered his shoulder for the tackle.

Kraig stepped up into the pocket. A sickening "crack" was heard as Byrd's helmet plowed into teammate Scott Mersereau.

On November 29, 1992, New York Jets' 26-year-old defensive end, Dennis Byrd, fractured his fifth cervical vertebra. His world came tumbling down.

Dennis Byrd wasn't a superstar on the field. But he was a real-life hero to the community. Cheerful and friendly, he readily helped charity interests. He helped high school students grieve over the death of a classmate. He touched peoples' lives by making them feel special—people confined to hospital beds or wheelchairs.

Now Dennis lay in the hospital—his wife's tears falling on his hand. But he refused to go for surgery until he heard the final play of the game.

Before he underwent 7 hours of surgery to clear the pieces of bone from his broken spinal column, Dennis prayed to his Master: "God, I know You allowed this for a reason. I'm Your messenger." And into the hands of God and the surgeons, Dennis placed his life.

One week later, following a game between the Buffalo Bills and the Jets, something happened that rarely is seen: Team members from both sides joined in prayer on the football field for Dennis.

As the days and weeks passed, scores of family and friends came to see Dennis. They came to encourage him . . . but left with their spirits being uplifted.

Dennis says he drew his strength from the Bible verse written in black marker on white cardboard, which hung above his bed. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

It was the first thing he saw when he woke up, the last thing as he went to sleep. Though not sure of his physical future, he was sure of his spiritual relationship with God.

In February 1993 Dennis Byrd, with the aid of crutches, walked before an astounded sports press corps. By his life and testimony that day, he gave all the glory to his real life hero: Jesus Christ.

*Information gathered from Sports Illustrated, Dec. 14, 1992, issue; and American Broadcasting Co.*

*Note: The above devotion appears in the attached High Adventure. Encourage your boys to read the article after you have shared the devotion. Then follow with a discussion on the importance of "living" the Christian example.*

### **Just a Ranch Hand**

He was from the hill country. The youngest of seven boys, his place in the family wasn't thought of very highly. In fact, his father wouldn't even call him to meet house guests but made him care for the livestock instead. While caring for his animals, he often watched them while composing music. Through time his lyrics have become some of the most quoted songs ever written.

Once a bear attacked his herd. He rushed toward it to save the young ones. Then the bear charged at him. Without a second thought the 14-year-old boy fought the bear bare-handed and won.

One day, when he was 16, his father sent him to take food packages and to deliver news to his brothers fighting on the front lines of war. Day after day the army was subjected to ridicule and propaganda by the enemy. The enemy forces were greater and included extraordinary men and weapons.

The boy from the back country listened to the boasts and watched as the enemy paraded their military might. Unaffected and disgusted, he asked his brothers why they wouldn't fight. In anger and fear they told their

little brother to go back home to the sheep.

Suddenly the boy remembered the incident with the bear and asked to see the commanding officer. A challenge had come from the enemy: "Send out your best warrior, and we'll send out ours. The man who wins captures the other's army."

The commander was disturbed. None of his men were equipped to handle their best fighter. Now this teenager was asking to go against the enemy to represent the whole nation. Surprisingly the commander let him go!

Without armor the shepherd boy advanced. Equipped with only his shepherd's tool and confidence in God, he shouted out, "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47).

The teenage boy became a real-life hero to his entire nation when David, armed with only a sling, killed the 9-foot-tall giant Goliath. Never underestimate the power of a teenage ranch hand . . . and God.

### **The Raid**

The Crisis Action Team called C.A.T. stood poised to enter the crack house. Each member of the six-man team knew his task. Drugs, guns, and criminals were on the inside and the C.A.T. was ready to pounce.

Officer Mike Owen was in charge of the "Key to the City," a weighted one-man battering ram. His mind went back over their training. Springfield, Missouri's version of a SWAT team is one of the top in the nation. Yearly they train municipal, state, and federal agencies throughout a two-state area. Serving more than 200 search and seizure warrants per year and spending 25 percent of their own duty time in training, the C.A.T. unit has become highly efficient. As an additional resource, five of the six members are born-again Christians.

Officer Mike breathed a final prayer. Then came the hand signal to GO! Crash went the battering ram.



Three men scrambled through the door—assault rifles ready.

"He's moving!" came the cry as one criminal raced to a back room. Bang ... bang, bang, bang. The gunshots were exchanged, followed by the words, "He's down!"

The paramedics raced in. The drug dealer lay on the bed—one shot in the leg and a bullet to each shoulder. The C.A.T. members were unharmed. Near death, the criminal—while being bandaged—noticed the cross lapel pin worn by a Christian police officer. Fearing for his physical life, the drug dealer—who had been raised in church—asked for prayer for his spiritual life.

Officer Mike smiled inside. The training paid off. The law was enforced. And God's grace was extended to another sinful soul. The full weight of the law came down on the drug dealer but he now lives and believes, "There is ... now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Through God, Officer Mike Owen and the other C.A.T. members are real-life heroes.

### The Quiet Hero

Sectional Ranger of the Year testing was occurring. Boys from the metro area had gathered to show their knowledge, aptitude, and personality to the sectional commander and staff.

Having completed his interviews, one young man was shooting baskets in the church gym. He hardly noticed the distinguished older gentleman in casual clothes, sitting on a chair in the back court. He probably was a grandpa to one of the other Rangers.

As the day progressed, the young Ranger played basketball with many others, sharing, encouraging, and befriending all who had come by. And the gentleman was still there.

Late in the day and all alone the Royal Ranger took one shot that missed, hit the refreshment table and spilled soda over the floor. Hurriedly he got paper towels to clean the spill, but it was too great. Suddenly the stranger was standing behind him with additional help. Together they cleaned up the mess.

Afterwards the young Ranger talked with the "grandpa," sharing how much Royal Rangers meant in his life. The quiet stranger listened, asked questions, and shared a few personal experiences. Then the boy had to leave.

On the way home the boy's father asked who the new friend was from the gym. "I don't know who he was, but he was real neat," said the Ranger. "He made me feel very special!"

The truth came home to the boy's father, the sectional commander, "To be a real-life hero meant touching another person's life to make him feel special."

And the quiet gentleman? He was Ellis Stutzman, past president of the National Royal Rangers Council and now national field advisor. A man who knows how to share his life with others making them feel special.

And Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that it might be a very special life" (John 10:10, paraphrased).



**More Than a Bag of Cans!** Outpost 38—of Evangel Temple in Columbus, Georgia—has been collecting aluminum cans to raise money for missions. Since fall 1991 the Royal Rangers of Outpost 38 have raised about \$500 for world missions. A special "Thanks!" to Outpost 38. Keep up the great job.

## Stake a Claim

Invest in an acre or more of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center near Eagle Rock, Missouri.

I will invest in \_\_\_ acre(s) of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center at \$500 an acre. (A claim conveys no legal interest.)

I will pay my pledge of:

- ☐ \$540 per acre within 1 year  
(12 monthly payments of \$45)
- ☐ \$600 per acre within 2 years  
(24 monthly payments of \$25)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

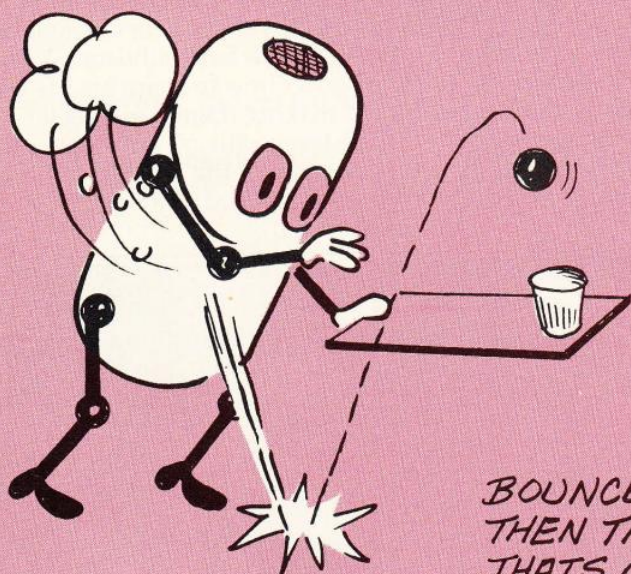
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Account #001-01-035-4001

Church to receive  
World Ministries credit \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Royal Rangers STAKE A CLAIM Pledge Form

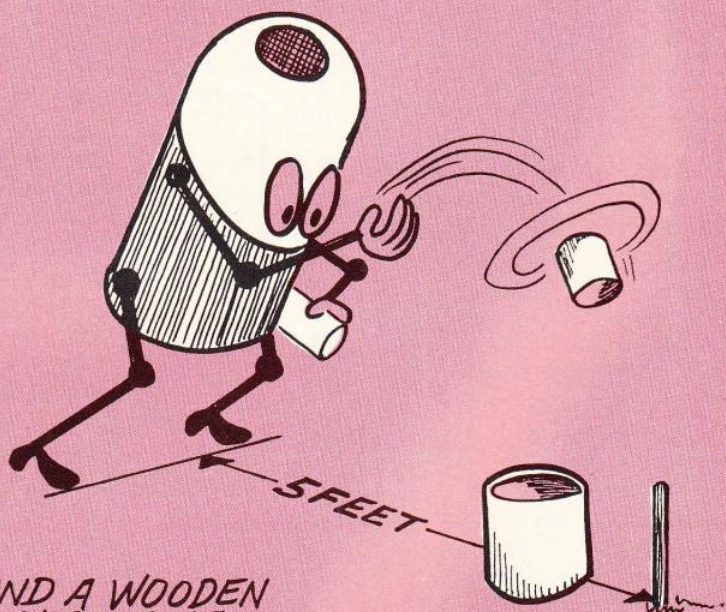




WHAT'S THE HIGHEST TOTAL A PLAYER CAN SCORE IN THIS GAME AFTER 20 TRIES?

BOUNCE THE RUBBER BALL ON THE FLOOR THEN TRY TO CATCH IT IN THE PAPER CUP THATS GLUED TO A CARDBOARD BASE. THE BALL IN THE CUP COUNTS FOR 5 POINTS. A BALL THAT HITS THE CUP OR BASE COUNTS FOR 1 POINT. THE PLAYER WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL AFTER 20 BOUNCES WINS THE GAME.

WHAT IS THE WEIGHT OF A CAN, SIZE 5" ROUND x 6½" HIGH THAT IS FULL OF COFFEE?



TWO CANS (LARGE AND SMALL) AND A WOODEN STICK ARE NEEDED TO PLAY THIS GAME.

EACH PLAYER TWIRLS THE CAN AND TRIES TO GET IT INTO THE OTHER CAN OR OVER THE STICK.

SMALL CAN IN THE LARGE CAN = 3 POINTS  
SMALL CAN OVER THE STICK = 5 POINTS  
THE PLAYER WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL AFTER 20 TOSSES WINS.

MZANCO



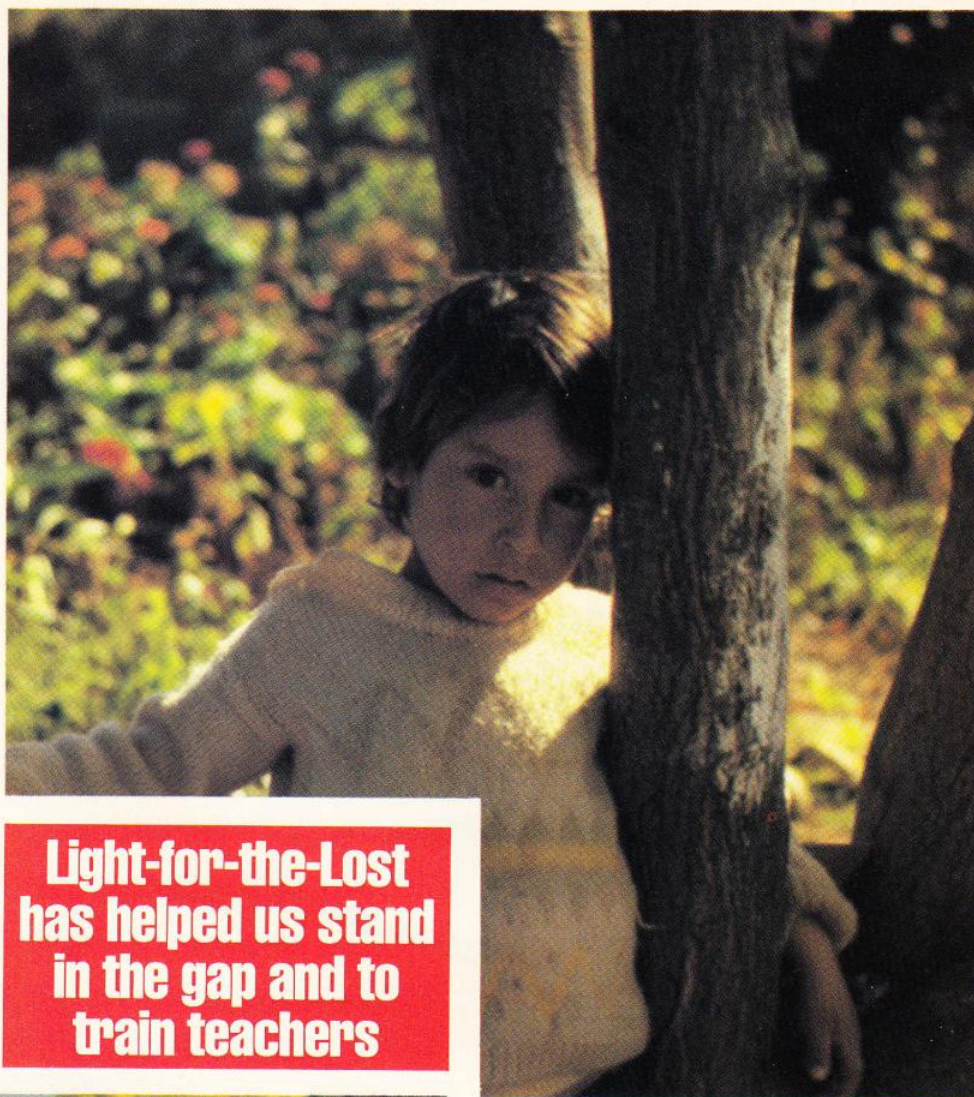
Here are some stories of two young people who have found Christ as the result of this ministry:

### **Tiago**

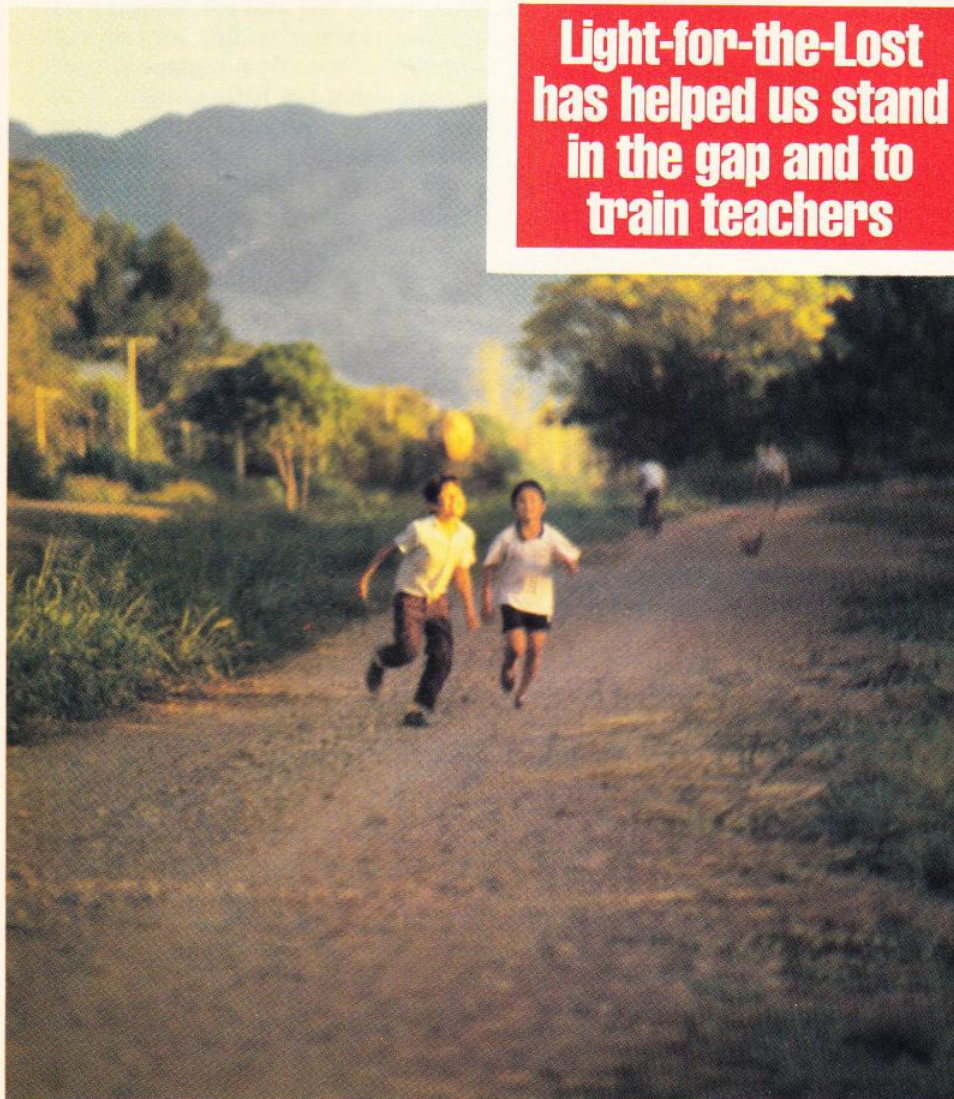
Tiago (Timothy) is 9 years old. He recently accepted Jesus because his teacher taught him that he did not have to fear evil. The teacher told Tiago that in the name of Jesus, the devil would have to flee.

A few weeks later, Tiago's friends took part in a spirit ritual. As he watched from a distance, he saw the glass on the table start to move. His friends called out to the spirits. But when the evil spirits started answering, the children got scared and began to cry. Tiago remembered what his teacher had said. He got close to the table and said, "Flee from us in the name of Jesus."

The glass broke. Tiago could hardly wait to tell his teacher about the practical way he had experienced Bible truth. He wrote, "I thank God for this chance to learn so much."



**Light-for-the-Lost  
has helped us stand  
in the gap and to  
train teachers**



### **Louis**

Louis Carlos is a teenager. He attended a Christian retreat led by his teacher. At the end of that meeting, Louis opened his heart to the Lord. He asked Jesus for peace, help to live a better life, and to be made a better person.

The Lord saved Louis that night. Louis wrote: "I thought money would make my happiness and resolve my problems. Now, with Christ as my Savior, I am happy. I have a life with joy, love, and peace. Now I'm trying to win my friends and family to Christ."

Can you imagine the challenge of ministering to 100,000 children a week? It's a great task we enjoy. God has opened a marvelous door of opportunity for us. And Light-for-the-Lost has helped us stand in the gap to train teachers, to develop materials, and to organize this outreach.

Without your prayers and financial support, this ministry would be only a dream instead of reality.





# Major bummer!

*An ongoing series about Jonathan B. Flounder*

*By Robb Hawks, national programs coordinator*

"Awe, do I have to?" Jonathan groaned.

"Now, Jon Jon, he's your cousin," Jonathan's mother reminded him.

"Yeah, but he's just a kid!" Jonathan responded.

"Like you are an adult?" his mother replied.

"Okay, okay," Jonathan groaned. There would be no escaping this time. Jonathan was about to become the baby-sitter. *Ahhhhh!* The silent scream roared through his head.

A few minutes later the doorbell rang, and in walked Aunt Rita, followed by little Robby. Robby immediately

broke away from this mother and ran straight to Jonathan.

"Hi, Jonathan," said Robby with a gleam in his eye. "What are we going to do today?"

Jonathan moaned silently as he thought how all his plans had been interrupted. He and his Rangers patrol had planned to fish for perch at a nearby creek. Now he would have to drag along his little cousin. Jonathan finally found his voice and replied, "I guess we're going fishing."

"Fishing! Alright!" exclaimed Robby.

**Then, lacking all grace and form, Jonathan fell head over heels into the creek.**





Major bummer, thought Jonathan. Soon after Jonathan had packed his gear, the doorbell rang, and they were all off to the creek. The rest of the patrol kept giving Jonathan a questioning look, wondering who the little kid was. Jonathan managed to ignore them, though.

"Wow, what a neat creek," Robby exclaimed as the Rangers approached the beautiful waterfront.

"Try not to fall in," Jonathan said to Robby as they unpacked their fishing gear.

A few moments later Robby whined, "I can't get my bait on the hook."

"Okay, I'll help ya," Jonathan said as the others snickered at Jonathan.

Finally everyone had their hooks baited and in the water—everyone except Jonathan, that is. Each time he began baiting his own hook, little Robby had something for him to do or see. Jonathan was about to stick his bait on the hook when Robby let out a squeal. Jonathan looked over to see Robby's fishing pole bent over in a U shape. Robby was hanging on for dear life but had no idea what to do next. The other boys laughed and called out instructions.

"Don't give 'em any slack, kid," said Jamie.

"Play it easy!" yelled Sammy.

"Work 'em; wear 'em out!" explained Shelton.

Jonathan ran to Robby's side. Robby's glance at Jonathan showed both excitement and panic. Jonathan helped hold Robby's rod and slowly began to reel in the fish. Before long the fish was splashing about in the shallow water near the creek bank.

Jonathan ran for the net and began to lean over the creek bank to catch the fish. Farther and farther he leaned. Then, lacking all grace and form, Jonathan fell head over heels into the creek.

Once again Jonathan found himself being laughed at as he surfaced. He ignored his friends and waded over to where the fish was flopping about and scooped it up with the net. Robby cheered as the others stood with gaping mouths. Instead of catching a

little perch, which was the norm for that fishing hole, Robby had caught himself a 4-pound bass.

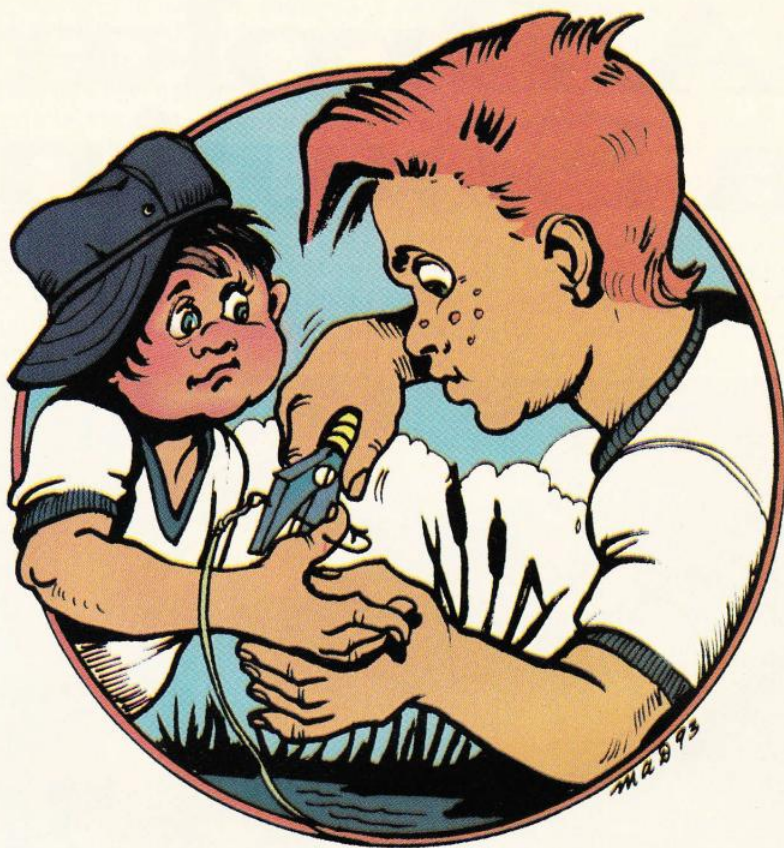
As others were still stunned, Robby couldn't wait to try and catch another. In the hurry to bait his hook, Robby speared the hook right through his thumb. Everyone ran to Robby as he screamed with pain. Each began to give his opinion what should be done, but Jonathan stood silent as he began to think.

Jonathan had recently taken a first aid course with some other Rangers from his outpost. As he pondered, the thought finally struck him. "Okay guys, stand back," Jonathan ordered. He then grabbed his fishing tackle box and pulled out a pair of wire cutters.

"Don't cut off my finger!" Robby yelped.

"Trust me; I know what I'm doing . . . I think," Jonathan replied. He then carefully cut the hook in two where the hook was attached to the string. Next Jonathan carefully grabbed the sharp, pointed end of the hook and, pulling from that end, pulled the hook out of Robby's thumb.

"Ouch!" Robby cried. Then, realizing the hook was out, he exclaimed, "Wow, that was neat!"



"Hey, no problemo!" Jonathan said with relief. Jonathan took from his first aid kit a tube of antibacterial cream and applied the cream to the wound. Then Jonathan skillfully bandaged Robby's thumb.

After they arrived back at the house, Robby ran through the door, waving his fish in the hand with the bandaged thumb. Robby talked nonstop as Jonathan plopped onto the couch. He was exhausted from spending the entire day baby-sitting his little cousin. On top of that, Jonathan didn't catch a single fish.

Robby began to tell the whole story to Jonathan's mother. Jonathan just sat on the sofa, feeling disappointed about the entire day.

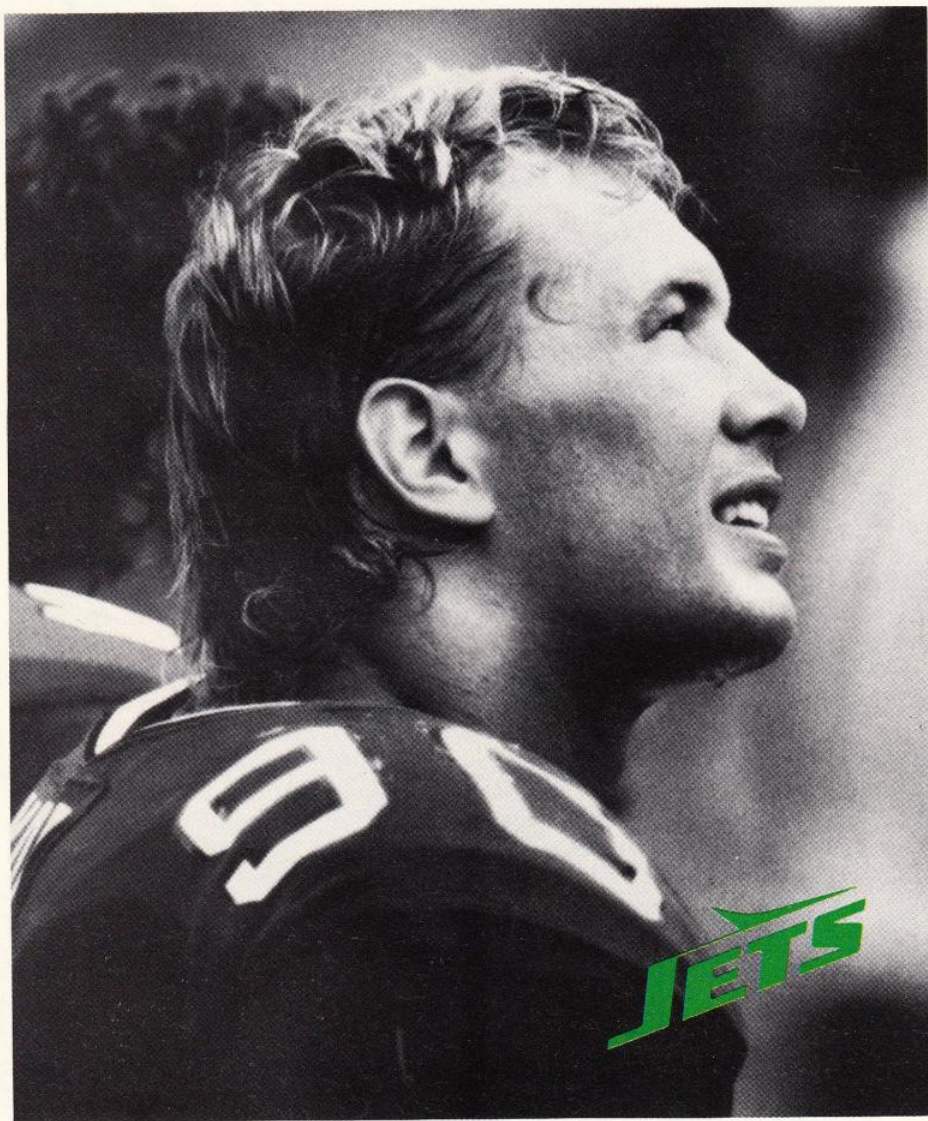
"You should have seen how Jonathan rescued me," Robby began. "There was this monster hook stuck in my thumb, and Jonathan got it out without even hurting me. Jonathan's my hero!"

Suddenly Jonathan's weariness and frustration were melted away with a warm sense of pride. *Hmmm, Jonathan thought to himself, I guess being ready for anything, including kid cousins, is all part of being a Royal Ranger.*



# A Broken Jet, a Soaring Life

By Rev. Lauren Orchard



The big defensive end heard the snap count, caught the motion of the center, and crashed through the Kansas City Chiefs' line. Bearing down on Chiefs' quarterback Dave Krieg, Dennis Byrd—number 90—lowered his shoulder for the tackle.

Krieg stepped up into the pocket. A sickening "crack" was heard as Byrd's helmet plowed into teammate Scott Mersereau.

On November 29, 1992, New York

Jets' 26-year-old defensive end, Dennis Byrd, fractured his fifth cervical vertebra. His world came tumbling down.

Dennis Byrd wasn't a superstar on the field. But he was a real-life hero to the community. Cheerful and friendly, he readily helped charity interests. He helped high school students grieve over the death of a classmate. He touched peoples' lives by making them feel special—people

confined to hospital beds or wheelchairs.

Now Dennis lay in the hospital—his wife's tears falling on his hand. But he refused to go for surgery until he heard the final play of the game.


Before he underwent 7 hours of surgery to clear the pieces of bone from his broken spinal column, Dennis prayed to his Master: "God, I know You allowed this for a reason. I'm Your messenger." And into the hands of God and the surgeons, Dennis placed his life.

One week later, following a game between the Buffalo Bills and the Jets, something happened that rarely is seen: Team members from both sides joined in prayer on the football field for Dennis.

As the days and weeks passed, scores of family and friends came to see Dennis. They came to encourage him ... but left with their spirits being uplifted.

Dennis says he drew his strength from the Bible verse written in black marker on white cardboard, which hung above his bed. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

It was the first thing he saw when he woke up, the last thing as he went to sleep. Though not sure of his physical future, he was sure of his spiritual relationship with God.

In February 1993 Dennis Byrd, with the aid of crutches, walked before an astounded sports press corp. By his life and testimony that day, he gave all the glory to his real-life hero: Jesus Christ. 

*Information gathered from Sports Illustrated, Dec. 14, 1992, issue; and American Broadcasting Co.*



## The Character of a Champ

"Dennis Byrd was named the first winner of the newly created New York Jets Most Inspirational Player Award," noted the New York Jets. The award is now named the Dennis Byrd Award. "The award is given to the player who, through his dedication and hard work, inspires his teammates to higher achievement on the field and who gives of himself off the field as well."

Byrd's outstanding character was further noted in this December 14, 1992, *Sports Illustrated* article:

"All last summer, Byrd reported late to a defensive team film session because he wouldn't leave the field until he had fulfilled every request

for his autograph, which took 45 minutes. 'The day I don't have time to sign an autograph for a kid,' he said, 'is the day I get out of football.' "

The article also notes Byrd's relationship with the Lord and with a teammate:

"On the Saturday night before the fateful game against the Chiefs, Byrd and Washington, roommates on the road and whenever the Jets stay in a local hotel the night before a home game, prayed together in their room . . ." Then after they had watched television and had talked for an hour, these words followed just before turning off the light to go to bed:

" 'I love you, Marvin,' Byrd said.

" 'I love you, Dennis,' Washington said.

"Every week we say that to each other before we go to sleep," Washington told the *Sports Illustrated* reporter.

It takes a real man to say, "I love you," and to mean it. But it takes an even greater man, like Dennis Byrd, to say through his life, "I love You, Jesus," as the whole world watches.

Be like Byrd: Don't be afraid of what others may think or say. Don't be afraid to be a living testimony for Christ. And don't be afraid to show love and compassion to others.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12,13, NIV).



# Buckle Up!

By Dr. Stephenie Slahor

Each time you ride in a car, always buckle your seat belt! Several states have laws that require people to buckle up and to put small children in car safety seats. This is because buckling up helps reduce the chance of injuries if there is an accident or a sudden stop.

Most accidents happen within 25 miles of home and at fairly low speeds. So even if it is just a quick trip with Mom or Dad to the store or to the park, buckle up.

For a fun, but important, art project, get some construction paper and markers or crayons and make little tags or signs for each of your family cars. These signs could say, "Buckle Up!" Or use a rhyme or jingle you've

made up, which reminds everyone to buckle up.

If you have a brother or a sister who can't yet read, collect pictures from magazines showing people inside cars. Using crayons or markers, draw in the seat belts and shoulder belts.

You and your family can help one another stay safe when riding by reminding one another to buckle up on every trip!





By Shirley Zebrowski

**F**all is coming, and so is the chance to have lots of fun: collecting leaves. You can collect the leaves themselves or make leaf prints from the leaves.

### Leaf Collection

For more perfect leaves pick the leaves in early summer, before insects damage them. If you wish to collect your leaves after they have colored in the fall, pick them just after they have turned. If you wait too long, they will be too dried out to use.

After collecting your leaves, place them separately between a few sheets of newspaper. Then place heavy books on top of the newspaper to flatten the leaves. The newspaper will absorb some of the excess water in the leaves, which allows the leaves to dry flat.

After about 24 hours place the leaves in fresh newspaper and replace the heavy books. Let the leaves dry completely. Then you can place your dried leaves in a photo album or glue them to a large sheet of cardboard. Identify each leaf by writing its name below the leaf.

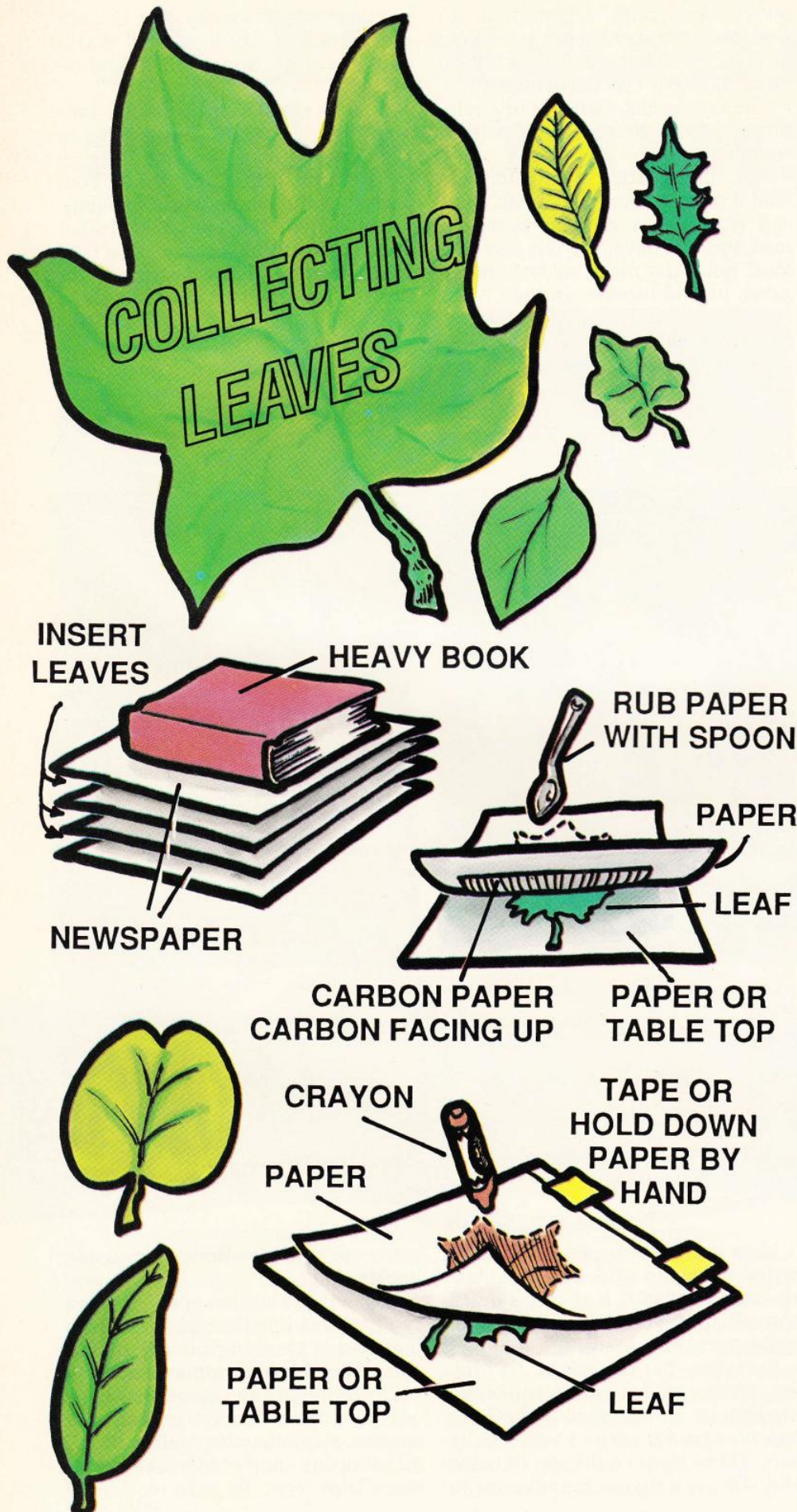
### Leaf Prints

**Color Print Method:** Another method of leaf collecting is the leaf prints. Place the leaf, vein side up, on a table top. Cover it with a piece of typing paper. Holding the paper firmly in place, rub a crayon—or colored pencil—over it. Make your strokes back and forth, and rub only hard enough to bring out the leaf's details. Once finished the paper will have an outline of the leaf's edges and the veins within the leaf.

**Carbon Paper Method:** Place the leaf on a table top. Place a piece of carbon paper on top of the leaf, carbon side up. Cover the carbon paper with a sheet of white paper. Use a teaspoon to rub over the leaf this time. The complete picture of the leaf will come out on the underside of the white paper.

Either type of print can be stored in a three-ring binder. Again, make certain to label each leaf.

Challenge yourself to learning more about nature by beginning a leaf collection. Before long you can identify every leaf in your area—something few boys can do.





# Comedy Corner

A boy was helping his father clean the car windows. "Don't be so wasteful with the paper towels," his father told him. "Do you think money grows on trees?"

"No," responded the boy, "but paper does."

*Dominic Procopio  
Weymouth, Massachusetts*

"Now children," said the Sunday school teacher with a smile, "I want you to be so still you can hear a pin drop."

After a silence that seemed endless to the children, one small boy in the corner shouted, "Okay, let 'er drop!"

\* \* \*

"This fellow Skinner told me he has had the same car for 5 years and has never paid a red cent for repairs on it," said a man to the mechanic. "Do you believe that?"

"Yes," the mechanic sadly replied. "I'm the man who did his repair work."

\* \* \*

*Old Gentleman:* "How old are you, sonny?"

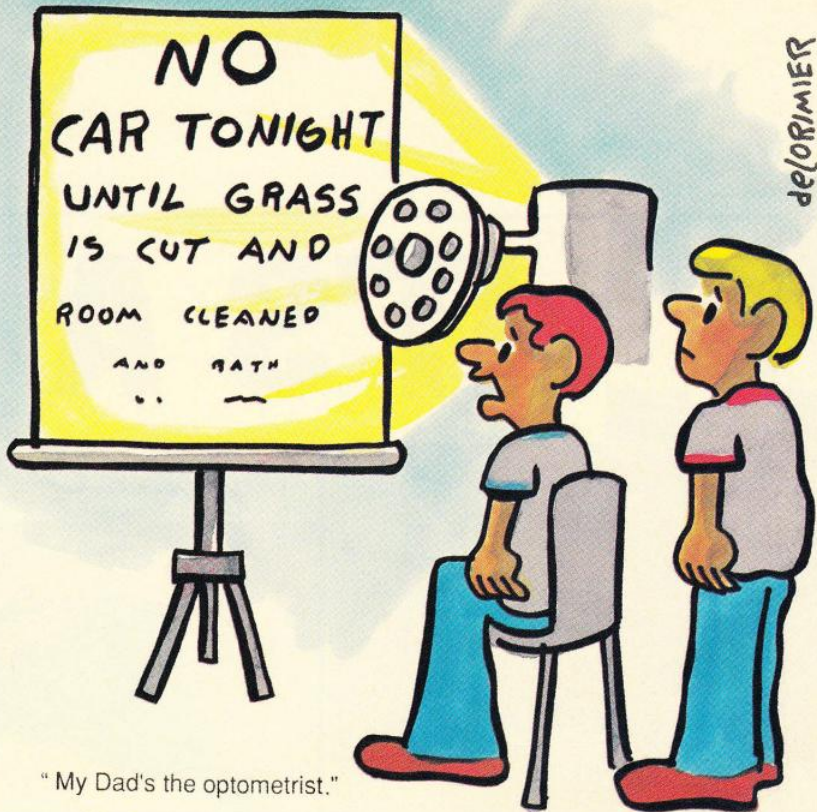
*Small Boy:* "Six."

*Old Gentleman:* "Six! Why you're not as tall as my cane."

*Small Boy:* "How old is your cane?"

\* \* \*

*Jack:* "What kind of fellow is Brown anyway?"



"My Dad's the optometrist."

*Bill:* "Well, he's one of those fellows who always grabs the stool when there is a piano to be moved."

*Thomas LaMance  
Prewitt, New Mexico*

Why do electric currents shock people?

Answer: They don't know how to conduct themselves.

\* \* \*

*Sign seen in front yard:* You may use our lawn mower, providing you don't take it out of our yard.

\* \* \*

What is dark but is made by light?  
Answer: A shadow.

*Juliana Lewis  
El Paso, Texas*

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I add to that that some photographs I have taken of my pals are worth a thousand laughs.

\* \* \*

Remember the sunburns you endured during the summer Royal Rangers outings? If so maybe you'll recall this: A sunburn is what changes you from a paleface to a redskin to a peel face.

\* \* \*

I always say grace before dinner . . . except when we're having leftovers. Then all I say is, "Lord, thanks again."

\* \* \*

"You're always in my office asking me for a raise," scolded the stingy boss. "You must be money-hungry."

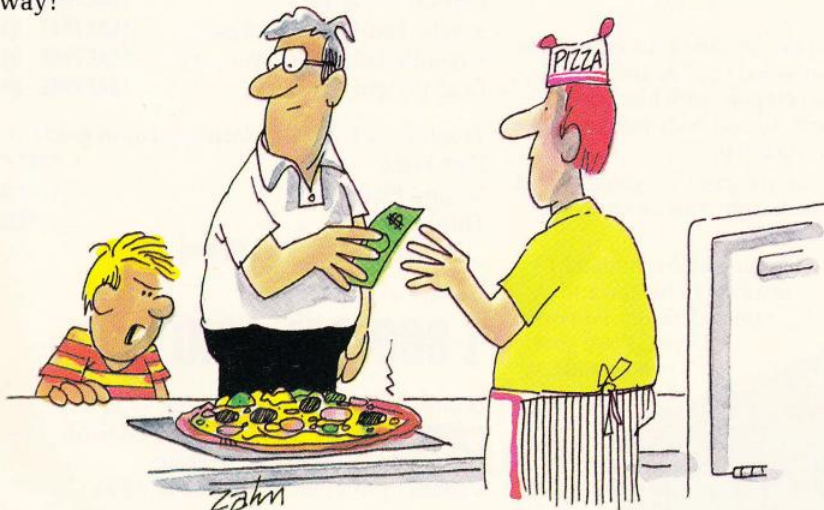
"You'd be money-hungry too," retorted the underpaid employee, "if you worked for starving wages!"

\* \* \*

Know what you get when you cross a turtle with a cow?

Answer: A turtleneck Jersey

*Dominic Procopio  
Weymouth, Massachusetts*



"WE ORDERED A PIZZA WITH EVERYTHING... WHERE ARE THE M & M'S?"



# IT'S A RACE

*And Everybody Wins!*



Complete Kit  
**ONLY**  
**\$1.65**

Shouts and cheers! Ooohs and ahhs! They're all part of the exciting fun of having your own Pinewood Derby.

And this year you can be part of the excitement with Royal Rangers Pinewood Car Kits and accessories. Each kit comes complete with black plastic wheels, axles, and a soft pine car body ready to carve and shape into a racing original.

And the six-color acrylic paint kit, graphite lube and lead weight help make sure your cars not only look good, but go fast, too.

Get your whole command involved in the fun and camaraderie of a Pinewood Derby. Place your orders today.

## RACING SUPPLIES

Pinewood Car Kit	18AE7540	\$1.65
Acrylic Paint Kit, 6 mini-pots	18AE7541	\$1.35
Graphite Lube, Micro-fine, .21 oz.	18AE7542	\$1.25
Lead Weight, 3.5 oz.	18AE7543	\$1.35

Trophies, 3 1/2" tall, plastic, vacuum gold finish	
First Place	17AE0374
Second Place	17AE0375
Third Place	17AE0376

\$1.95 each

Call toll free

**1-800-641-4310** (\$5 minimum)

Or write:

**GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
1445 Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802-1894

Add postage and handling charges: Less than \$10.00, 15%; \$10.00-\$49.99, 10%; \$50.00-\$99.99, 8%; \$100.00 or more, 7%. Add state sales tax: CA, 7.25%; MO, 5.975%. For shipments outside the U.S., actual postage costs are billed. Prices are subject to change without notice. MasterCard, VISA, and Discover accepted. Please provide card number, signature, and expiration date.

