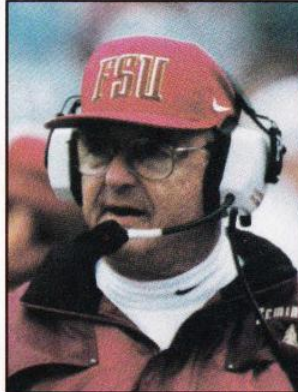
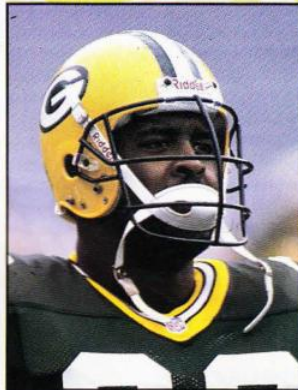


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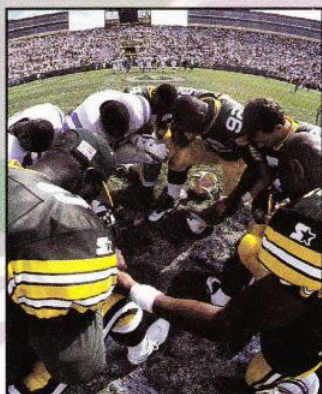
LEADER'S EDITION



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**Reggie White: Minister of Defense
Encounter in Zimbabwe: A Baseball Story
Face-to-Face with Brett Butler
Conversation with Bobby Bowden (Leader)**

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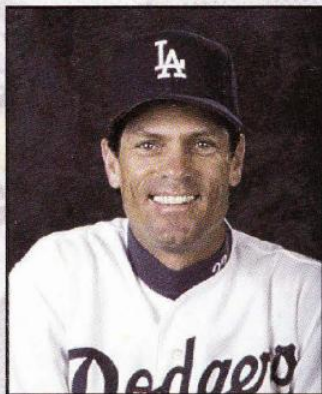


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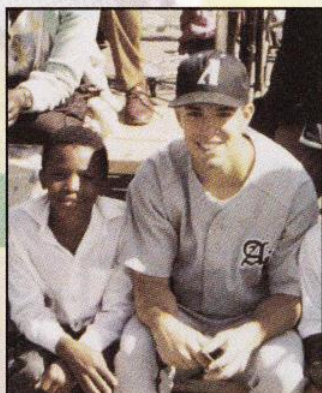


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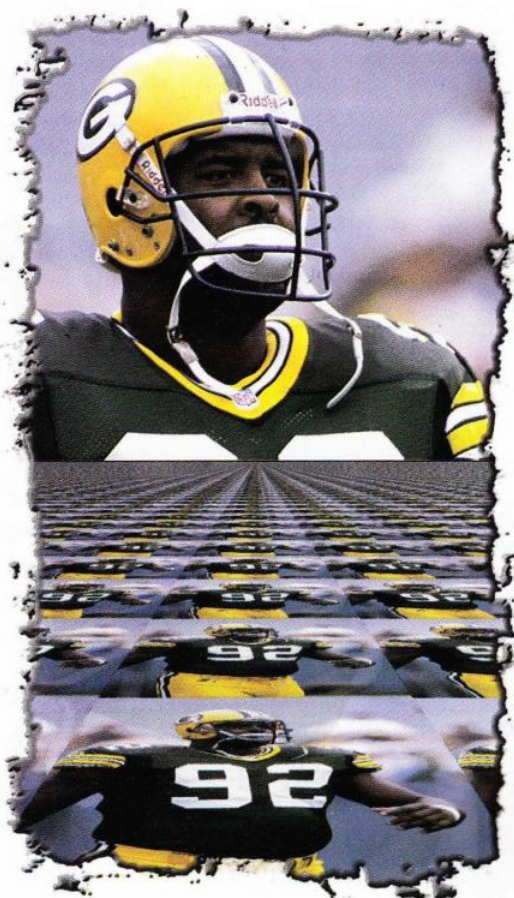
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REGGIE WHITE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE

'LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE REAL REGGIE WHITE, THE ONE UNDER THE PADS AND HELMET.'

In 1987, I was selected for the Pro Bowl in Hawaii after my first complete season in the National Football League with the Philadelphia Eagles. Man, was I excited!

Then came a bombshell: Two young people who were working on a roast in my honor were killed in a car accident. I told my wife Sara that I was going to play as hard as I could and win the Most Valuable Player trophy for their family.

By the fourth quarter of the game, I had sacked the Broncos' John Elway twice and the Dolphins' Dan Marino once, tying the Pro Bowl record. But I was determined to break that record for sacks.

As Elway again broke out of

the pocket, I took after him like a man possessed. He tried to shake me, but I ran him down, caught him from behind, and forced him to the ground.

A few moments later the announcer said I had just won Most Valuable Player. As I accepted congratulations from my teammates, I also prayed that God would be with the family of those friends who died in the car mishap.

Why think about God at a time like that? And how in the world could I, a little guy from the projects in Chattanooga, Tennessee, make it to the Pro Bowl nine times and also share the 1994 defensive lineman of the year award from the NFL Players Association?

I'll answer the second question

first. When I was in seventh grade, I remember getting really excited about watching an NFL highlights film featuring O. J. Simpson. Right then I made two important decisions: first, I really wanted to play professional football; and, second, I wanted to play defense and not get knocked around like running backs do. Dreams combined with hard work really can come true.

But what about God? Let me tell you about the real Reggie White, the one under the pads and helmet.

HERE COMES JESUS

I was playing in a controlled scrimmage against the Detroit Lions one hot, muggy, summer day in Detroit. I had outmaneuvered a frustrated Detroit rookie for most of the day from my left

defensive end position. Then our helmets accidentally locked together on a play.

This guy used foul language that I would not let my dogs hear. I can take losing a game, but I cannot tolerate being cussed out to my face.

I looked him right in the eye and announced, "Jesus is coming back soon, and I hope you're ready." But he just tossed more choice words into my face and returned to his huddle.

I was angry. Again I shouted to him across the field, "Jesus is coming back soon, and I hope you're ready."

My teammates were urging me back to our defensive huddle. But instead I eyeballed this rookie and shouted to my teammates, "Jesus is coming back soon, and I hope he's ready."

The next play, I lined up in front of this same rookie and said, "Jesus is coming back soon, and I don't think you're ready."

The ball snapped, and I announced, "Here comes Jesus!"

I thrust my entire 6-foot, 6-inch tall, 285-pound body right into his chest and drove him back about 5 yards. He plopped to the turf just in time to see me sack his quarterback. My teammates and coach often asked me after that if Jesus was coming back on the next play.

JESUS AND ME

Talking about my relationship with Jesus Christ is as natural as breathing for me. I say relationship because it's a day-by-day, night-by-night, ongoing communication between Jesus and me.

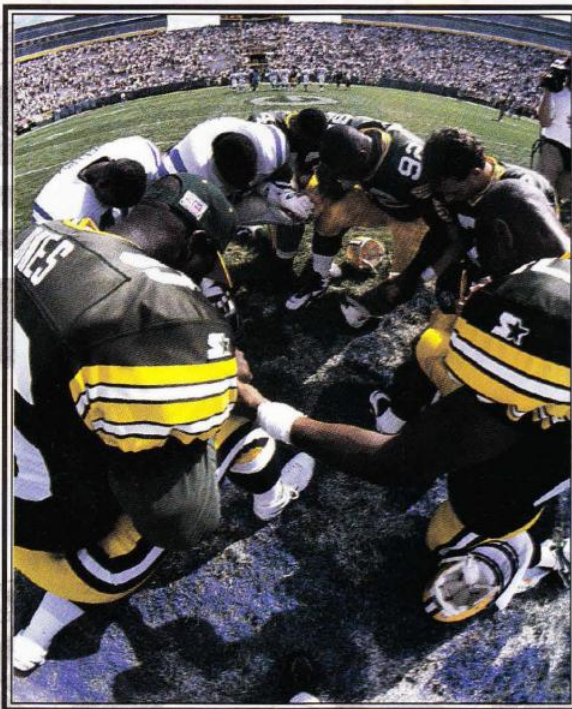
I'm not saying that any person

can use the name of Jesus and beat every opponent. If that were true, I could skip all my practices and forget about my weight training and conditioning.

JESUS AND YOU

The wonderful thing about this relationship with Jesus is that you can have it too. How? Let me explain.

A coach usually prepares a



game plan ahead of time. God also designed a plan for our lives before the world began. He created us to love Him, glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever. But why don't we?

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from God. What is sin? Sin means missing the mark, falling short of God's standard. We are all sinners not only when we do wrong, but also in our human nature. And worst of all, the penalty for our sin is death. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NIV), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

We face God's judgment

because of our sin. But God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ as the holy and perfect substitute to die in our place. Three days after Jesus died for us, He rose from the dead to defeat death. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,...he was buried,...he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3,4). But knowing a lot about a sport and talking the game doesn't make you a member of a team. The same is true about becoming a Christian. It takes more than knowing about Jesus; it requires faith in Him. The Bible also says, "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12, NIV).

Are you willing to admit your sinfulness to God and trust in Jesus Christ alone as the payment for your sin? If you are not sure how to express your heart to God, following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. I realize I'm a sinner and I can't save myself. I believe that You died on the cross for

my sins and rose from the dead. I repent of my sins and put my faith in You alone as my Savior. Take control of my life and help me to follow You in obedience. I Jesus' name, Amen.



By Reggie White with Terry Hill. Adapted from Reggie White: Minister of Defense, Thomas Nelson Publishers. Reprinted with permission from the American Tract Society in Garland, Texas, and the Pentecostal Evangel. Photos courtesy Tim Umphrey Photography



DARBY SEES THE LIGHT

BY ROBB HAWKS

Hi! I'm Darby Jones. Well, actually, I'm Darby Jones, Junior. My Dad's the original Darby Jones, but everyone just calls him Commander. And this is my diary.

It all began when my dad almost killed a kid named Jonathan. Dad had been drinking heavily and crashed into the car Jonathan was in. Dad was never the same after that. He said that he had seen the Light. Before we knew it, he had stopped drinking, we were going to church, and he had become a Royal Rangers commander.

At first I didn't understand what he meant about seeing the Light, you know, what it meant to be a Christian. My first Royal Rangers camp-out changed all that.

Take a look and see what happened!

Darby squirmed in his sleeping bag. Around him he could hear the soft, breathing sounds of the other Pioneers in his patrol. It had been a great day. Commander Jones and the Pioneers outpost had spent the day exploring the woods and setting up camp. But now it was late at night, and Darby had to go! He had drunk one too many soft drinks. Darby climbed out of his sleeping bag, slipped on his shoes, and then crawled out of his tent.

It was dark outside and the moon was shining overhead. Darby really had to go,

so he quickly walked away from the tent to find a tree. Darby had just finished when a rustling sound in the bushes startled him. Then there were sounds from another bush! Suddenly a baby raccoon waddled out of the bushes and disappeared down the trail. Darby couldn't believe his eyes. Without stopping to think, he chased after the raccoon.

It was dark—too dark to really see what he was doing. He began to crash into bushes and branches. Without warning, Darby tripped over a tree root and pitched head over heels. Suddenly the Pioneer was airborne. And just as suddenly he crash-landed on



his back. But Darby kept on bouncing. His trip sent him tumbling down a steep hill. Darby finally came to an abrupt stop. His head was spinning and he was seeing stars! And boy, did he hurt!

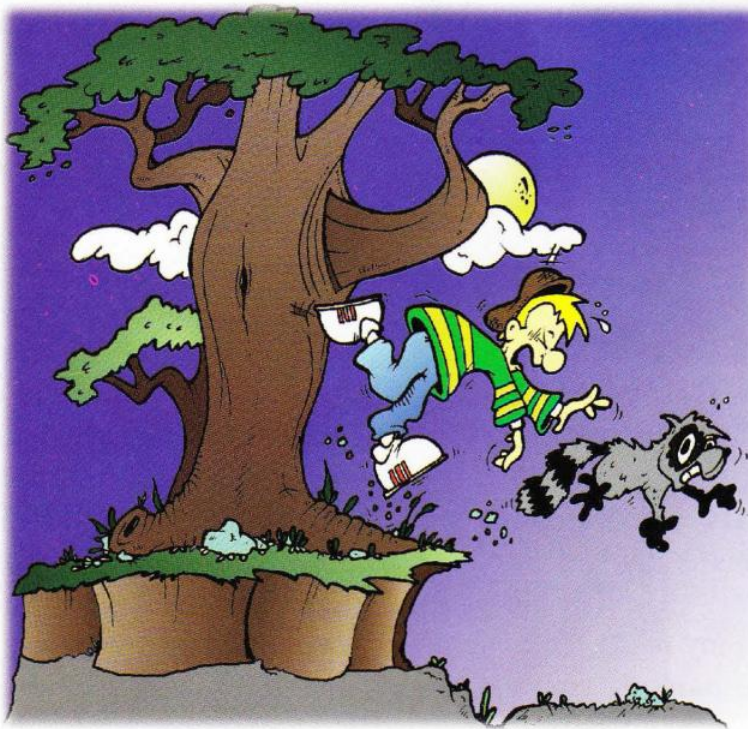
Darby slowly stood up. He was at the bottom of a ravine. Which side had he tumbled down he wondered? Which direction was it back to camp? It was so dark! Darby was lost. And if that was not bad enough, he could barely make out the shapes of the trees nearby.

The little Pioneer panicked. He began to frantically climb up the hill. Was it the right hill? He couldn't tell. Everything was dark.

To make matters worse, Darby couldn't remember what to do when lost in the woods. He did the wrong thing. He panicked. Instead of staying where he was and waiting for help, he plunged deeper and deeper into the woods. He screamed and called for help. But there was no answer.

Darby finally sat down

on a large rock and began to cry. He had never felt so alone in all his life. He was without hope. Darby's dad had once said that that is why he was an alcoholic. Darby, Senior, had said his life was without hope and filled with fear. Well, Darby, Junior, could finally understand



what his dad had been trying to tell him. He was alone in the dark and terrified!

What was it his dad had said? Darby, Senior, had seen the Light. He had given his life to Jesus. The boy in the car wreck had told him that Jesus was the Light of the World. Darby had not understood why his dad had started crying. But he did know that from that day on, his father had never been the

same. Could Jesus be the Light of his World too? Darby closed his eyes and began to pray.

"Jesus, I need your help. I am in darkness, and I need your light! Please forgive me of my sins and be the Light of my life. Amen."

As Darby prayed, suddenly all the panic and fear seemed to melt away. He didn't know why, but he was no longer afraid. Even the darkness around him didn't seem so dark anymore.

Suddenly, Darby saw a bright light shining through the trees. He leaped to his feet and began to run toward the light. In only a matter of min-

utes he pushed through the last trees and bushes and into the Pioneer's campsite. Commander Jones was standing up on the picnic table, tying a shining Coleman lantern up to a branch on the tree.

"Darby! I was getting worried about you, Son!" Commander Jones said.

"It's alright, Dad," Darby answered. "I saw the Light!"

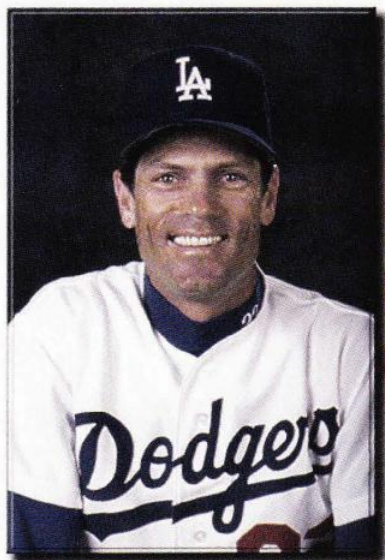
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A New Look at Life

**The Story of the Healing
of L.A. Dodger Brett
Butler**

by Jamie Bilton

Brett Butler is an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He was diagnosed with throat cancer in May 1996, but, after months of therapy and treatment, returned to the playing field at the end of the season.

Briefly describe what happened to you.

In January 1996 I had a sore throat, so I went to a doctor friend who told me I had tonsillitis. He gave me an antibiotic just prior to spring training, saying the condition should be gone in 7 to 10 days.

Well, it never went away. During spring training, through our team physician, I changed antibiotics a couple times, and it still didn't go away. Eventually, the same doctor, who looked at me the first time, came to see me in Vero Beach, Florida, where the Dodgers train. He said the swelling had gotten bigger, and he gave me stronger medicine than before, but he also said that eventually I'd have to get my tonsils taken out.

About a month into the reg-

ular season, the pain was still getting worse. Finally, my wife said, "Brett, something is really wrong." So I flew home to Atlanta and went to see my doctor friend. He hadn't seen me in about 5 weeks, and when he looked at my throat he almost passed out. My tonsils were about the size of a plum. So my friend and an ecologist dislocated my jaw, removed the lump, and found that it was cancer. On May 20 I had a total neck dissection done. They removed 50 lymph nodes; one of them was malignant. Then I proceeded to go through 32 rounds of radiation.

I then headed to American Biologics in Tijuana, Mexico, for some alternative medicine to enhance my immune system. This was because the doctors thought my cancer was caused by a chronic fatigue virus. I received treatment there for 3 or 4 days, and I then took the medicine back to the States with me. I worked with my physical fitness expert in New Orleans for 3 weeks. As I con-

tinued to take the alternative medicines, I gained back 18 pounds in 19 days. I returned to the Dodgers on September 6.

You mentioned often to the media that your faith in God was vital to your swift recovery. Was your faith challenged during the rehabilitation process?

Well, I've been a born-again Christian since 1973. I've had some other miracles happen in my life, but when you hear "cancer" you think "death." Yes, my faith was challenged. First, when all this happened, I got mad at God, and then I questioned God. Everybody has a right to question God, as long as, during that time of questioning, we allow God to take care of the situation. When I gave God my life I didn't do it with a closed fist; I did it with an open fist. But even still, I tried to come to an understanding of why this would happen to me.

Then one day it seemed as though God opened my eyes to remind me that He'd taken me as a 5-foot tall, 89-pound high school freshman and put me in the big leagues for 16 years. Then the focus shifted to my wife and kids. God revealed to me that there was no way I could love my family as much as He does.

"Let me use you; trust me," God seemed to tell me.

Then I began to grasp that my cancer situation was bigger than I am and I said, "Lord, use me in whatever manner you want."

HIGH Adventure

LEADER



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Graphics Designer/Managing Editor

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One-on-One

As the 35th anniversary of the Royal Rangers ministry comes to a close, I tend to reminisce back on the 20 years I have spent in ministry with Royal Rangers, dating back to 1977 when I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior at the tender age of 7. Leader, do not underestimate the influence you have on the lives of boys who look to you on a weekly basis for an influx of information, guidance, and spiritual nourishment, of which I am a product.

For many boys in Royal Rangers, their lives are a precarious balance of school, family and peer pressure, emotional struggle, and a need to love and be loved. As a leader, a lot of responsibility falls on your shoulders to be able to assess the situation of each boy under your supervision and to guide him to the best of your ability. Of course, the ultimate goal is to see every boy saved and receive his "key" to the Kingdom, and you play a huge part of this scenario.

In the past 20 years, God has played an active part in my life, and has been merciful to me on more than one occasion! He has guided me to His will, sometimes gently, sometimes with a big nudge. He has miraculously healed me of a grave injury, brought me up from the pit of despair during trying times, and through it all has revealed to me I am more than the lowly wretch I so often tell myself I mimic. Praise God for His grace and mercy! Where would we be without the Lord?

All of this to say our primary goal on earth is to lead sinners to Him; reaching them with the knowledge that is God-given and the boldness that is Spirit-led; to hold their hand while they are learning the "ropes" and teaching them the ways of God and how to walk as Christ did; to impress upon them the urgency of how important they are to God's kingdom, and the part they will play in His final plan revealed to us in Revelations.

My heart cries out when I see the condition of our youth today, but what a mission field we have before us! Never in history have we witnessed such a hunger for answers, answers we know can come from only one Source. Through training, reading the Scriptures, much prayer and dedication, you will be looked upon as a provider for these answers.

Remember the day you accepted Jesus? Take a minute and reflect upon the most momentous time in your life. Would you deny others the same experience?

Encourage your boys today to take this issue of *High Adventure* and to give it to a close friend who is not saved, and encourage him to bring his friend to the outpost. From that point it is up to you and the Lord—are you up to the challenge?

Meet the Holy Spirit

by Brenda Bone

Leaders, the following story is an excellent example of expaining the power and glory of the Holy Spirit in a new Christian's life. Use this article as a feature for devotions, especially when you have boys in your outpost who have recently accepted Christ.

David, a new Christian, was alone in his bedroom. He put on his favorite CD and started to curl up on the bed to wait for a phone call he expected. Hard-sounding drumbeats, guitars working up to a frenzied pace and immoral lyrics filled his room just as the song had done many times in the past.

"It's profane. Get rid of it."

Suddenly David jerked and his jaw twitched. Who spoke? There was a voice in his mind! Or was it a thought? His own? A spirit's? God's? He wasn't sure. Yet a new feeling swept over him. It made him no longer like the song. He saw everything in a new light since he'd accepted Christ.

David felt like a guide, counselor, or teacher had entered his soul. It was quick to point out, *"This is evil,"* or, *"This is a sin,"* or *"You're not doing things to please or glorify God,"* any time he slipped into patterns of his old life. His conscience—or something he wasn't quite able to identify—addressed him often. Whatever this was inside him, it was definitely alive!

Before David had

been born again, he never felt like anyone—spirit or earthly—watched his every move or tried to protect and direct his life. Now, though, there was a Presence with him at all times. Yet it never intruded unless it was for his own good.

David liked the change and felt comforted by this Presence inside him. He was never lonely anymore. It gave him hope.

Have you accepted Christ and had encounters like David? This is how it feels when the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. The Bible says we can expect the Holy Spirit, but often people are caught off guard by it like David.

Are you familiar with the Holy Spirit? Do you feel the Holy Ghost at work in your life?

The Holy Spirit brings about this new birth by God's Word, Christ's resurrection and redeeming grace. (See James 1:18 or 1 Peter 1:3). Of the will and mercy of God, the Holy Spirit helps the sinner change into a

new creation with a new heart or spirit that is more like Christ. Those who are "born again" hate sin and delight in God's law even if in their old lives they enjoyed sin.

The name of *Holy Spirit* is used only twice in the Old Testament in Psalms. In the New Testament it means the Spirit of God. The Old Testament promised an outpouring of the Spirit in the end when the Messiah would come.

The children of Israel associated the Spirit with prophecy and divine illumination or insight, or with God purifying His people in the end time. The New Testament speaks of the Spirit as a person, just like the Father and Son.

The author of Psalm 51:11 (KJV) pleaded, *"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me."*

Christ said in John 3:5 (KJV), *"Except a man be born...of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

Paul said Christ saves *"by the washing of regeneration, and re-*

newing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5, KJV).

The Holy Ghost is the Third Person in the Trinity and is equal in power and glory with the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit continues where Christ left off on earth, teaching people while leading them to salvation.

Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit. Peter declared that He had come (Acts 2:16-33). The power of the Holy Spirit works through individuals. The job of the Holy Ghost is to convict of sin, to lead sinners to repentance through Christ Jesus, to instruct or guide believers, to reveal and glorify Christ, to comfort, to strengthen, to sanctify both the individual soul and the Church.

None can enter heaven without this new birth. After Adam and Eve let sin into the bloodlines of all humans to follow, only Christ's blood can redeem us. You are "born again" by God through Christ and by the conviction of the Holy Ghost.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1 2-14 KJV).

Jesus said in John 3:8 that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. You hear it. When it is present, you know it but can't tell when it first comes or where it goes.

As Christians it is our duty to invite the Holy Spirit to reside in our souls and to live a pure lifestyle. When you say "yes" to Christ's invitation to salvation, you can expect to meet the Holy Spirit!

Flooding in Grand Forks

by Brian Rogers

The people of Valley Christian Center Assembly of God in Grand Forks, N. Dak., reached out to their community even while they needed outside assistance to cope with the havoc wreaked by flood waters this spring.

The entire Grand Forks population of 50,000 evacuated the city, beginning April 18, just before the makeshift dikes broke, leaving the city defenseless before the raging waters. Flood victims found shelter in surrounding communities, as well as in airplane hangars at nearby Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Many people from the church lost everything last April as rising water from the Red River mixed with sewage from the community's treatment plant flooded their homes and businesses. Enduring 8 feet of water standing in the basement for over a week, the church building sustained over \$300,000 worth of damage.

The people of Valley Christian Center reached out to their fellow residents by using their church parking lot as a distribution center for supplies that were flown in from other parts of the country. Strengthened by God, they helped the hurting residents of their city even while they also suffered. According to Rev. Larry Reed, senior associate pastor at Valley Christian Center, the church has been able to witness to about 4,000 people every Saturday for 7 consecutive weeks while handing out supplies to disaster victims.

Reed says of the flood: "Every experience that we go through either becomes a stumbling block or a stepping stone. In the midst of this tragic flood, so many people have used this as a stepping stone."

People from all over the nation helped by donating their resources to lessen the shock on the city. Truckloads of supplies and hundreds of volunteers helped provide food and shelter.

Disaster relief teams from the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Lutheran

Services, Southern Baptist Convention, and other organizations were on hand to distribute food and other supplies, as well as to aid in cleanup.

Several teams from various Assembly of God churches have also taken part in the disaster relief. Teams have gone into people's houses to clean out the mud and debris and to begin drying out the homes.

The need for housing and child care was still critical by the end of June. Many people still had to commute from



as far as Fargo, 70 miles away. Child care was scarce, as 205 of about 265 child care facilities were out of service.

Further assistance is still greatly needed. Some of the relief teams will be staying in North Forks for a year to help complete the process of returning the city back to normal.

God's love is evident as His people reach out to those who are in need. Many have served as His hand extended to the hurting people, and there is still an opportunity for others to reach out to the flood victims of North Forks, as well as others who suffer from natural disasters.

Editor's note: If you are interested in serving on a national HonorBound team of disaster relief workers, contact Marshall Bruner; Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield, MO 65802.

He Found a Way

by Senior Commander Ernie Statuto

I serve as senior commander of urban Outpost 222, Seagoville, Tex., North Texas District. Ours is an urban outpost that serves as a missions outreach.

I knew there had to be a way to reach the urban boys of my community whom we could not get to come to church. So we prayed real hard and decided that if they would not come to us, we would just have to go to them.

We started holding our Royal Rangers meetings at the local rec. center on Thursday nights. Thank God for a great way to reach these unchurched boys. Our urban outpost was 4 months started when we decided to go to the North Texas District Pow Wow—no money or a way to get there, but we kept planning because we knew the Lord would provide a way.

One week to go, and we still did not have the means to attend. We started sweating it. Three days before the Pow Wow a local food store donated the food we needed for our meals at Pow Wow ... but still no way to get there. Then, with just 1 day before the Pow Wow, our pastor called and said he located a van that we could use. Praise the Lord!

We made it to the Pow Wow. For many of these urban boys, that was their first-ever camping trip. The great news is that 10 of the 11 boys who had attend accepted Christ into their lives, and 5 were filled with the Holy Spirit! They will remember the Pow Wow forever.

Our outpost is growing with every weekly meeting, and we hope to continue reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ. Hopefully we can get more people aware of the need to reach urban boys.

Northwest Region Conference

Linda Sisson, of Molalla, Oreg., spent hours of volunteer labor creating a 6- by 9-foot quilt, which has the

Royal Rangers emblem centered, for the auction of the Northwest Region Conference. The conference was held in April. The quilt, also containing key Scripture verses and signed by our national office staff, helped raise \$280 for the region. The interesting story is this: Linda and Jack, husband and Royal Rangers commander, spent \$180 on materials. Then, to ensure that the quilt raised a good sum of funds, Jack bid on the quilt himself. In short, the Sissons invested \$460 into the Royal Rangers ministry. That explains clearly why this ministry is so successful: Because it consists of dedicated men and women—such as the Sissons—who give of their time, talents, and finances so that boys can be reached for Christ.

Thank you, Jack and Linda, for giving!

Good News From Doug Marsh:

Dear National Commander Ken Hunt,
Trust you are doing well.

Kerry and I are winding down our time here in Costa Rica as this our first tour of duty is already coming to a close. We return to the States on June 25, to Shawnee Mission, Kans., (suburb of Kansas City) where we will itinerate from.

One of the greatest victories of this term is that we were able to secure the piece of land for the Latin American Royal Rangers Training Center—Camp Summit. I owe you so much thanks as you have taken this burden of ours on your shoulders as if it were your own. I wanted to write you this brief note and express a heart-felt, "Thank you," to you personally and to every man and boy who has stood with us to make this come true. Thank you!

We are trusting God to help us raise our budget, which has nearly doubled, by the end of April '98 so we can return soon to develop the center and its evangelistic and discipleship ministries.

Again, Ken, thank you so very much. God bless!

—Doug Marsh, missionary to Costa Rica

Swedish Rangers Rendezvous

The Sweden Royal Rangers celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Swedish Rendezvous, where 130 leaders, junior leaders, and international guests gathered

with Danish National Commander Per Hansen. Those gathered erected Swedish military tents and built open fires. Following the Friday evening pageant, Gerd Erdseld, national commander of Germany, presented a challenging message to leaders.

Saturday was filled with various activities such as wool making, forging, juggling, and wall climbing. Yngvar Aarebrot, national commander of Norway, brought a challenging message that day. The evening concluded with a special 10th anniversary celebration council fire, presenting the story of Royal Rangers being launched from the United States to Switzerland and eventually to Sweden. Swiss National Commander Hanspeter Neck spoke that evening on the importance to carry out God's vision for us to reach the "promised land" He has given us.

On the final day, the Swedish Royal Rangers assembled to celebrate and to give special recognition to individuals and groups.

Swedish National Commander Eber Axelsson states, "We thank God for 10 years of Royal Rangers ministry in Sweden, and we look forward to the next 10 years."

NEW ITEMS

Royal Rangers Advancement and Training Record Folder: This Royal Rangers item now includes the new Pioneers, Trailblazers, and Challengers Trail Rangers Advancement Trails. To order call 1-800-641-4310 and re-request item 08-0444.

Thumbs Up Football Game: Did you see the Thumbs Up Football Game demonstration at the 1997 National Royal Rangers Council? If so, you likely saw both boys and leaders playing this "funtastic" game. It could be the next best game and com-

petition to follow the Pinewood Derby. And it is a great fundraiser. The game is a great year-round activity for the outpost and can be used for a tournament playoff that begins at the outpost level and concludes at district finals—proceeds, for example, could be designated for urban ministry or a scholarship fund.

West Florida conducted a Thumbs Up football tournament earlier this year to generate funds for a new urban outpost in Tallahassee, which was begun as a result of a Royal Rangers Harvest Task Force trip. The Rangers had a great time playing the game, and the entry fees enabled the district to generate funds for the new urban outpost. Great idea!

The items can be easily ordered by calling 1-800-641-4310:

Thumbs Up Football Pack

12 individual games

Cost: \$35.95, Item: 729NZ300

Thumbs Up Football Pack

24 individual games

Cost: \$69.95, Item: 729NZ301

Thumbs Up Football Game Set

1 playing board

Cost: \$15.99, Item: 729NZ302

Thumbs Up Outpost Starter Packet

3 playing boards

Cost: \$39.95, Item: 729NZ303



Royal Rangers Departmental Items



National Royal Rangers Office; 1445 Boonville Ave.; Springfield, MO 65802-1894

National Office Items Now Available

Call 1-800-641-4310

Below are several Royal Rangers products that are ideal for outpost application. Prices below do not include shipping fees. Order direct by calling 1-800-641-4310.

● *Reaching Boys for Christ*

The 3:38-minute promotional video conveys the problems today's youth face while focusing on our unique approach to reaching boys for Christ.

Item Number: 729NZ128

Cost: \$10

● *Harvest Task Force:*

Reaching Urban America

The 5:28-minute video promotes the National Urban Leadership Conference and focuses on the urban thrust of the Royal Rangers ministry.

Item Number: 729NZ129

Cost: \$10

● *Harvest Task Force:*

Breaking Powers Through Prayer

The 5-minute video promotes the National Harvest Task Force efforts. The Royal Rangers HTF is designed to target key areas where commanders gather to fast and pray and to participate in evangelism efforts. The national Royal Rangers Office hosts yearly HTFs in addition to the district-sponsored HTFs. This video is ideal for commanders who want to promote the Harvest Task Force.

Item Number: 729NZ064

Cost: \$10

● *The Book of Hope*

The Book of Hope is ideal for urban evangelism in African-American communities. The Book includes the story of Jesus, based on the New International Version of the Gospels, and includes preface pages on God's answers for today's urban issues.

Item Number: 729HC120

Cost: \$.55 ea. per 500-plus

\$.65 ea. per 100-400

● *Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Brochure*

The full-color brochure is ideal for promoting FCF. It describes the FCF program, lists membership requirements, and includes an area for listing the distributor's address and telephone number.

Item Number: 729NZ018

Cost: \$.10 ea., min. order 100

● *Rangers WinTracker*

The software program for DOS computers with Windows enables a commander to effectively track the advancements and profiles of his Royal Rangers. The program includes both the old and new Advancement Trails.

Item Number: 729NZ140

Cost: \$55

● *Rangers Trailtracer*

The software program is designed for DOS computers without Windows. It enables the commander to create profile sheets for each Royal Ranger and to track his advancements under the new Advancement Trail.

Item Number: 729NZ141

Cost: \$45

● *The Ten Commandments*

The Ten Commandments (leader's guide and group guide) offers 13 Bible study lessons on the Ten Commandments and the study topics of "Preparing My Heart," "Law and Grace," and "The Mission Statement."

Item Number: 729NZ150

(leader's guide)

Cost: \$10

Item Number: 729NZ151

(group guide)

Cost: \$8

● *Gold Medal of Achievement Bulletin*

The 11- by 8 1/2-inch format, which folds in half, enables the user to print the GMA ceremony schedule and service activities on the opposite side, which has a full-color design.

Item Number: 729NZ069

Cost: \$15, per 100

● *The Youth Bible*

Contains numerous devotional topics ideal for any outpost group meeting. Commanders now have a host of youth issue devotionals at their fingertips.

Item Number: 729NZ106

Cost: \$17

● *Walk Thru the Bible*

An excellent method for teaching Rangers about the Books of the Bible and their central themes. Colorful cartoons associate the theme with the name of each book in a bright, fun, and unforgettable way.

● *Old & New Testament Coloring Book*

Item Number: 729NZ114

Cost: \$10.95

The coloring book is ideal for Straight Arrows and Buckaroos groups.

● *Old Testament Flash Cards*

Item Number: 729NZ118

Cost: \$6

➤ **New Testament Flash Cards**

Item Number: 729NZ119
Cost: \$6

➤ **Old & New Testament Overheads**

Item Number: 729NZ117
Cost: \$79

The flash cards, used to reinforce learning, are ideal for all age groups. The overheads enable the commander to address the entire group as he/she teaches—also ideal for all age groups.

- **The Ultimate—English**
Item Number: 729NZ007
Cost: \$.05, min. order 100 *

- **The Ultimate—Spanish**
Item Number: 729NZ010
Cost: \$.05, min. order 100 *

The brochure highlights the "ultimate experience" for a boy, then presents the salvation message. This evangelism tool is ideal for canvassing neighborhoods to invite boys to Royal Rangers. The brochure is designed so that the outpost number and telephone number can be printed on the back of it.

* Both English and Spanish versions of *The Ultimate* brochure may be obtained free of charge by outposts unable to afford the cost or by outposts conducting outreach ministry. Such outposts must request the items through the national Royal Rangers Office and must pay for shipment.

- **Urban Commanders Training Guide**

A 66-page training manual that offers new insights to penetrating urban America with the Royal Rangers ministry.

Item Number: 729NZ009
Cost: \$6.50

- **Urban Rangers—Dallas, Chicago**

The video highlights urban Royal Rangers in Dallas and in Chicago—an excellent tool for

promoting urban ministry.

Item Number: 729NZ052
Cost: \$10

- **Insight Group: Commander's Guide**

Item: 729NZ049
Cost: \$9

- **Insight Group: Ranger's Guide**

Item Number: 729NZ050
Cost: \$7

The *Insight Group* curricula is ideal for groups Pioneers age and up. *Insight Group* provides 13 sessions that are ideal for monthly meeting features or a weekly 30-minute values/Bible study. *The Commander's Guide*, a 104-page guide, instructs the leader how to use the curriculum along with the materials that are presented in the *Ranger's Guide*.

- **Victor's Victories**

For Straight Arrows and Buckaroos commanders: Contains 13 stories with Bible studies and discussion topics that address issues today's young boys face: the single-parent home, death is not the end, controlling anger, peer pressure and gangs, friendship, the importance of winning, and much more.

Item Number: 729NZ057
Cost: \$18

- **The Solid Rock**
Video & curriculum series

- **Kids 'n' Gangs**
Item Number: 729NZ100
- **Streets of Pain**
Item Number: 729NZ101
- **Finding God's Will for Your Life**
Item Number: 729NZ104
- **Looking for Life in All the Wrong Places**
Item Number: 729NZ105

Cost Each Packet: \$32.95

Each packet contains a video on the youth issue and a leader's

workbook that can be duplicated.

- **Meeting Feature Videos:**

- **I Didn't Do It**

Topic: Telling the truth
Audience: Straight Arrows, Buckaroos
Item Number: 729NZ107
Cost: \$14.99

- **Strangers**

Topic: Child Abduction Prevention
Audience: Straight Arrows & Buckaroos
Item Number: 729NZ108
Cost: 14.95

- **Decisions & Consequences**

Topic: A look behind prison walls; teaches the consequences of sin
Audience: All age groups
Item Number: 729NZ109
Cost: 19.95

- **Incest: Solving the Pain**

Topic: Child abuse prevention
Audience: Commanders
Item Number: 729-110
Cost: \$19.99

- **Urban T-shirt**

Size L: Item Number: 729NZ058
Size XL: Item Number: 729NZ059
Size XXL: Item Number: 729NZ060
Cost: \$9

- **Urban Cap**

Item Number: 729NZ067
Cost: \$8.50



CONVERSATION

BOBBY BOWDEN

Bobby Bowden, football coach at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, recently spoke with James Bilton, promotions coordinator for the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

Evangel: Tell me about Christ coming into your life.

Bowden: I was fortunate enough to be raised in a Christian home. As soon as I was big enough to be put in a basket, my parents carried me to church. I was raised in a Southern Baptist church.

I made a profession of faith when I was 10 or 11 years old. In the Baptist church, that means you walk down to the altar, profess your faith to the pastor, and tell him you want to be baptized and join the church. So that's what I did. I got baptized, joined the church, and began to grow in the Lord.

However, it wasn't until I was 23 that I really dedicated my life to God. By then I began to understand what grace is and what it means to be saved. I knew I had to be saved and confess my sins, but I also realized I had to do more than just be a member of the church.

Evangel: In what ways do you attempt to convey a Christlike spirit to other members of one of the country's greatest college football programs?

Bowden: The best thing I can do is try to live how Christ wants me to live. He instructs us to follow His example. That's the big thing: Doing things the way Jesus himself would do them. When I'm faced with a tough decision, I always try to stop and think, "Now how would Christ handle this situation?"

Doing things the way Christ would do them sets the greatest example of all. If you try to live like Jesus wants you to and handle situations the way He would, it speaks volumes. People realize true disciples of Christ are indeed different. It's that Christlike lifestyle that sets them apart.

So I let my lifestyle minister to my players and fellow coaches.

Evangel: Describe your relationship with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. What kinds of FCA activities are you involved in?

Bowden: I have been a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since 1963—when I found out they existed.

Everywhere I have coached—Samford University, West Virginia University, and Florida State University—I have appointed a coach on my staff to handle FCA matters. We have an active FCA program here at Florida State. Many of our players are involved. We participate in outreaches and I speak at banquets occasionally.

Evangel: Coaching a top-notch college football team has to be stressful.

Bowden: The thing I have to be careful about is not to do something out of desperation or excitement that I'm not supposed to do. I constantly remind myself to keep my cool with three words: Don't blow it.

Jesus faced some extreme pressure when He was on earth and He came through. We, likewise, should come through for Him.

Evangel: What feedback do you get from players who have accepted Christ as a result of your influence?

Bowden: I've been coaching college football 42 years now. I've seen a lot of kids come and go. It's always a thrill to get a letter from an ex-player thanking me for my instruction in the ways of Christ. I've had quite a few boys write and tell me I said or did something on such-and-such a date that really ministered to them. I love to hear how I helped them do something for the glory of God.

We have had quite a few players get saved in our Fellowship of Christian Athletes program. I hear testimonies from them and I thank God.

reprint courtesy Pentecostal Evangel



Outpost Commander's Award Evaluation Form

The Outpost Commander's Award is a special achievement award for outpost commanders who have demonstrated outstanding service. Except for the *Leadership Training Course* and national training events, all points must be earned for service rendered during the current calendar year.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Section: _____ Outpost Number: _____

Fill in blanks below with the number of points earned.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. An up-to-date chartered group: 20 points _____ | 14. Outpost group using the patrol method program: 5 points _____ |
| 2. Completed <i>Leadership Training Courses I-V</i> : 20 points _____ | 15. Gold Bar meetings: 1 point for each meeting of boy/adult leadership planning outpost meetings and activities _____ |
| 3. Advancement participation: 25 points if at least 50% of boys in your outpost group received an advancement and if at least 4 Council of Achievements were conducted _____ | 16. Current Red Cross type cards: 2 points for each card _____ |
| 4. Outpost camp-outs: 2 points each _____ | 17. Outpost group service project: 2 points for each project _____ |
| 5. Outpost outings: 2 points for each except for camp-outs _____ | 18. Active FCF member: 2 points _____ |
| 6. Attended a National Training Camp: 5 points _____ | 19. Leadership meetings: 2 points each for attending area, sectional, or district Royal Rangers leadership meeting. _____ |
| 7. Attended other national training events: 5 points _____ | 20. Outpost group visitation program: 2 points for each home visited _____ |
| 8. Outpost group participation in a district Pow Wow: 5 points _____ | 21. Light-for-the-Lost involvement: _____ |
| 9. Boys won to Christ: 5 points each _____ | a) 2 points for attending a LFTL rally or banquet _____ |
| 10. New members: 2 points for each _____ | b) 2 points for an outpost group pledge to LFTL literature _____ |
| 11. Ranger of the Year program: 5 points _____ | c) 4 points for paying in full an outpost group pledge to LFTL literature _____ |
| 12. Wearing proper uniform at all functions: 5 points _____ | |
| 13. Outpost group meetings: 1 point each meeting conducted _____ | |
| | TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____ |

Requirement for Award

1. The outpost must have an up-to-date charter.
2. The commander must have completed the *Leadership Training Course*.
3. The commander must have a minimum of 180 points to qualify for the Outpost Commander's Award.

All outpost commanders who meet the above qualifications will be eligible to receive and wear the Outpost Commander's Award. Time period in which points must be accumulated: January 1 through December 31 of a given year.

NOTE: Please complete your copy of the *Outpost Commander's Award Evaluation Form* and mail it to your district commander, not the national office.

Your district commander will supervise the awarding of the Outpost Commander's Award. The amount of \$_____ should be attached to cover the cost of the medal and postage. Additional year pins are \$_____ for the pin and postage. (Prices for the award and year pins are subject to change by the Gospel Publishing House without notice.)

If all commanders in one church earn this medal, the senior commander may also wear an Outpost Commander's Award.

Please complete the following information: This is for the year of _____. This award is my (indicate how many times you have earned this award) _____.

FOR OFFICE USE

REC:

DUE:

SNT:

**NATIONAL TRAINING
CAMP
APPLICATION**



PLEASE PRINT

PERSONAL GPH ACCOUNT NO. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____

OCCUPATION _____

DISTRICT _____ OUTPOST # _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

APPLICANT'S RR POSITION _____

You must be 18 years old or older to attend this camp.

+++++

CAMP LOCATIONS FOR 1998

1 []	FLORIDA	FT. MEAD (CAMP WILDERNESS)	FEBRUARY 5-8,	1998
2 []	N. CALIFORNIA	EMIGRANT GAP (DONNER MINE CAMP)	MAY 14-17,	1998
3 []	TENNESSEE	GOODLETTSVILLE (CAMP AMBASSADOR)	MAY 21-24,	1998
4 []	IOWA	BOONE (A/G CAMP GROUNDS)	MAY 28-31,	1998
5 []	ARIZONA	CEDER CREEK (FORT APACHE A/G)	JUNE 25-28,	1998
6 []	WASHINGTON	CLE ELUM (KOINONIA)	AUGUST 23-30,	1998
7 []	S. CALIFORNIA	CASTAIL (VERDUGO OAKS CAMP, B.S.A.)	SEPTEMBER 3-6,	1998
8 []	NEW JERSEY	WOODSTOWN (CAMP ROOSEVELT, B.S.A.)	SEPTEMBER 10-13,	1998
9 []	MICHIGAN	GRASS LAKE (FA-HA-LA CONF. CENT.)	SEPTEMBER 17-20,	1998
10 []	MISSOURI	EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK)	SEPTEMBER 24-27,	1998
11 []	ALABAMA	SPRINGVILLE (CAMP LONE EAGLE)	OCTOBER 15-18,	1998

You must be in good health in order to participate in the strenuous activities of the training camp. Therefore, you must have a physical examination. After examination, please sign the following statement: **"After consulting with my physician, I know of no physical limitation that would restrict me from participating in the camp activities."**

Any medical facts we should know: _____

(SIGNATURE) _____ DATE: _____

Because of the limited size and the advanced cost of setting up these camps, a **\$50** preregistration fee must accompany this application. This will be applied toward the total camp fee, which will be approximately **\$115**. A **\$5 discount** will be given at the camp for those who preregister **4 weeks** prior to the camp date. **NOTE: To cancel** you must notify the national office at least **3 weeks** prior to the beginning of the camp. Your preregistration fee will be refundable (minus a **\$10 clerical fee**). Cancellation after this date is nonrefundable! In the event of low enrollment, these events are subject to cancellation and total refund. Cancellation will be made **3 weeks** prior to the event. Please submit your application as early as possible. A map and additional information will be sent after you register.

MAIL THIS FORM TO: Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield, MO 65802-1894

CREDIT LEDGER: 001-01-031-4001-000

c:\camps\ntc\ntc_ap97.doc rev 03-18-98

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1998

Royal Rangers national training events are designed to give leaders the best training for all phases of the Royal Rangers ministry.

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP is designed to give leaders professional training in camping and leadership, plus the opportunity of outstanding fellowship and adventure in the outdoors. See attached application for locations and dates.



ADVANCED NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP is designed to provide Royal Rangers leaders with additional training beyond that offered at the National Training Camp. It will also help inspire leaders to greater involvement in the Royal Rangers ministry. A leader must have attended NTC before enrolling. Location and dates: Woodworth, Louisiana (Woodworth A/G Camp), October 29-November 1.



BUCKAROOS/STRAIGHT ARROWS TRAINING CONFERENCE is designed to give leaders training in various techniques and methods of leadership. Leaders will also receive training in various aspects of the Straight Arrows and Buckaroos ministries. Locations and dates: Lake Wales, Florida (Masterpiece Garden), January 29-February 1; Grass Lake, Michigan (Fa-Ho-La Conference Center), April 30-May 2.



NATIONAL ACADEMY is a national training school designed to train selected leaders to become staff members for national training camps. Locations and dates: Phase 1—Eagle Rock, Missouri (Camp Eagle Rock), May 6-10; Phase 2—National Staff School: Emigrant Gap, California (Donner Mine Camp), September 17-20; Phase 3—Eagle Rock, Missouri (Camp Eagle Rock), May 4-10.



NATIONAL CANOE EXPEDITION is designed to give leaders specialized training on how to conduct canoe trips and to provide outstanding adventures in some of the most beautiful canoe country in America. Locations and dates: Jackson, Maine, June 11-14; Great Falls, Montana, August 12-15.



NATIONAL URBAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE consists of 3 days of workshops, interaction sessions, special inspirational services, special speakers, coupled with tours of urban areas. For locations and dates in your area, contact your district commander or regional coordinator.



WINTER NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP offers professional training to leaders in winter camping, camp craft, and various winter-related activities. The camp will be conducted in an appropriate winter setting. The WNTC is designed to inspire leaders to provide more activities for their outposts during winter months. Location and dates: Mineral, California (Mount Lassen Camp A/G), January 29-February 1.



NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

CLOTHING

- 1 Complete Class B Royal Rangers uniform (long sleeve khaki shirt: khaki trousers, khaki Royal Rangers belt—no dress coats or ties are worn)
 - 1 Royal Rangers jacket
 - 1 Royal Rangers sweatshirt (for colder areas only)
 - 1 Pair army fatigue trousers, jeans, or other work-type trousers for casual wear
 - 2 Royal Rangers T-shirts
 - * Extra uniforms or fatigues for fresh change
 - 1 Pair heavy shoes or boots for camp activities and hiking
 - 2 Pairs heavy socks (navy or black)
 - 1 Poncho or raincoat with hood
 - * Underclothing and handkerchiefs
 - * Pajamas
 - * Please note: No cap or hat is needed. A special beret will be issued. (Every item except emblem, name tab, and district strip should be removed from uniform).
- * As desired

PERSONAL ITEMS

Sleeping bag
Air mattress or foam pad
Toilet kit and mirror (no outlet for electric razor)
Towels and washcloths
Mess kit (plate, bowl, and cup)
Silverware kit (knife, fork, and spoon)
Canteen
Pack and lightweight pack frame (for overnight hike)
Small lightweight tent (for overnight hike)
Ground cloth (waterproof)
Flashlight with extra batteries

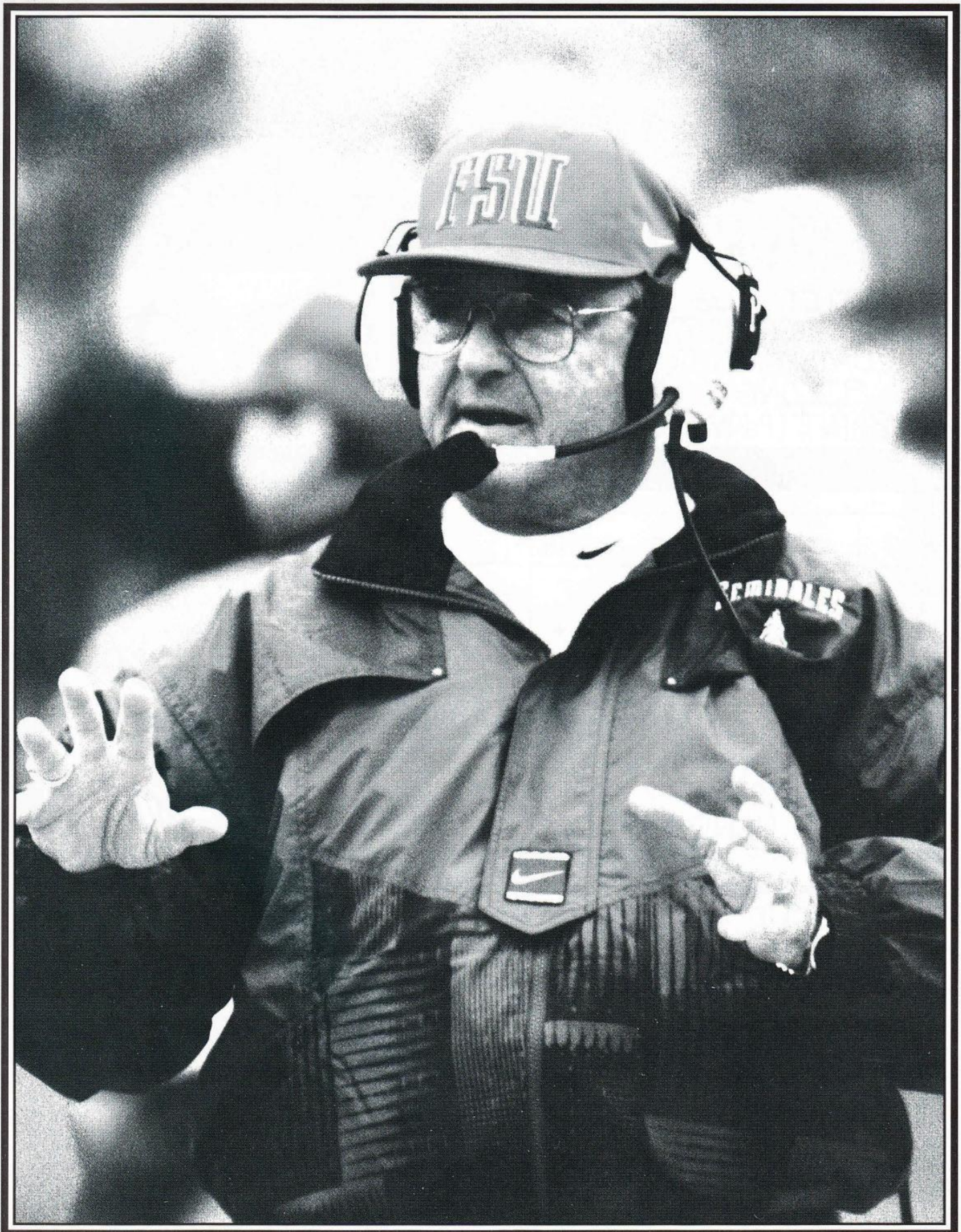
Personal first aid kit
Pocket knife and whetstone
Hand ax
8-inch mill file
Compass (Silva style preferred)
Waterproof match container with matches
Adventures in Camping handbook
Royal Rangers Leaders Manual
Small Bible
Pen and pencil

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Ditty bag to carry small items
Insect repellent
Folding plastic cup
Thermal underwear (for colder areas)
Small package of facial tissues
Nail clippers with fingernail file

Compact sewing kit
Survival kit
Camera
Suntan lotion
Sunglasses
Pillow

COACH BOBBY BOWDEN



Craft

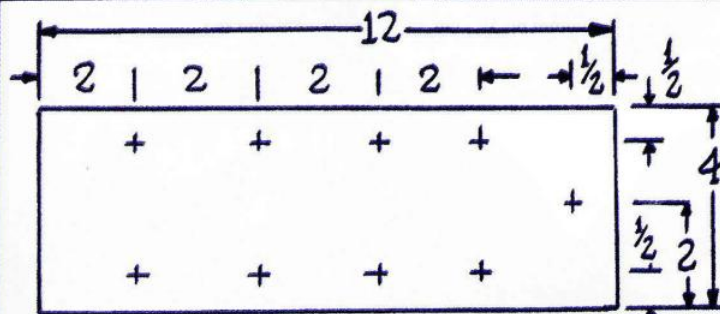
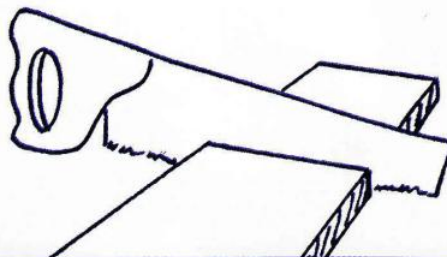
KID ACTION

LETTER LOADER

MATERIALS NEEDED.

- 1-PIECE OF WOOD, $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x 12"
- 4- COAT HANGER WIRES, 9" LONG
- PAINT (ANY COLOR)

FIND A PIECE OF $\frac{1}{2}$ " THICK WOOD AND CUT IT TO A 4x12 INCH SIZE.



LAYOUT 9 HOLE POSITIONS ON THE WOOD THEN BORE 9 HOLES USING A $\frac{1}{16}$ " DIAM. BIT AND HAND DRILL.

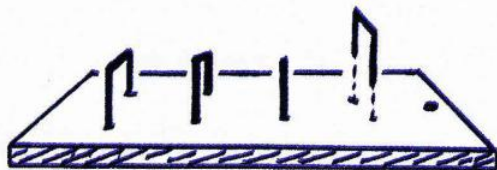
PAINT THE WOOD ANY COLOR AND ALLOW TO DRY.



BEND THE 4 PIECES OF WIRE AS SHOWN.



INSERT THE WIRES IN THE HOLES.



BEND THE WIRES UPWARD AND LOAD UP THOSE LETTERS.

MZANCO



Game

K ACTION



CARD CAN game



EACH PLAYER DRAWS 21 CARDS FROM A DECK THEN TRIES TO THROW EACH OF THEM INTO ONE OF THE THREE CANS. ALL CARDS IN THE CANS COUNT FOR SCORE. ALL FACE CARDS COUNT FOR 10 POINTS AND THE OTHERS, 8 POINTS. THE PLAYER WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL WINS.

 ZANCO

BOYS ARE NOT FOREVER

by Paul Stanek

Our society has traded truth for political correctness, biblical principle for materialism, sanctity of life for self-centered irresponsibility. We have excused misconduct of violators as victims of our society. We have whitewashed immorality and called it human rights. Child abuse is a stigma that is eating at the moral fiber of our American society.

Our courts are log-jammed with child abuse dockets; our jails and rehab institutions are overcrowded by child molesters. We speak of child abuse in four terms: child neglect, emotional neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. We as a church need to protect our children from such demonic violators. However, there is another hideous type of child abuse which is not brought to light in our society. That is CHILD SPIRITUAL ABUSE.

The lack of spiritual teaching, Christian nurturing, and adult example leads to child spiritual abuse. Proverbs 22:6 states that we as the church have a responsibility to our children: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Parents and church workers

must commit themselves to godly training and discipline of their children. Christian training has as its purpose the dedication of our children to God, and His will, separating them from the evils of worldly influences and by instructing them in godly conduct, relationship, biblical values, and spiritual



growth. Every child has specific expectations and rights. We, as laborers together, must provide opportunities for these rights to flourish in our children.

Defense Bill of Spiritual Rights

The Right of Entrance

John 1:12: "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Every child should have the opportunity to become a child of God. We as the church must provide to every child the

opportunity to become a child of God.

The Right of Fellowship

Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me."

It is important that children feel and know they are part of a family; a family that will provide love, self-value, and purpose; a family that will provide and help a child to develop socially and ethically with his peers; a family that will share in the development as a member of the body of Christ.

The Right to Discipline

Proverbs 19:18: "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope...."

Children have the right to be disciplined at a young age while there is opportunity to mold their lives for good purpose and to teach them the ways of Christ. Teaching them early will develop Christian ethics and values. Not doing so will lead to rebellion and destruction. Discipline will develop hope, faithfulness, and character.

The Right to a Christian education

Psalm 78:5: God "estab-

lished the law..., which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children....”

Teaching our children the godly principles and concepts of God’s Word is not an optional thing. The Word of God is the foundation for faithful living and relationships and is the right of children to be taught the concepts of the Scriptures.

The Right to be Nurtured

Luke 1:17: “He will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

The core of Christian nurture is this: The heart of the father must be turned to the heart of the child in order to bring the heart of the child to the heart of Jesus Christ. Nurturing is giving of one’s resources, faith, love, and time to our children. A child has the right to be nurtured in a Christian home.

The Right of Spiritual Growth

Establish your children in a spiritual church where God’s Word is honored and proclaimed, where righteousness and holiness is the order of the day, where the Holy Spirit is manifested and biblical principles are elevated for right liv-

ing. Our children have the right to be exposed to godly principles in a Spirit-filled church.

The Right of Spiritual Bonding

Children have the right to spiritual bonding. Joint family



conversation, family affection, family devotions, family prayers, and biblical exhortation will encourage children to devote their lives to God, church, and family. These relationships will help our children to face life’s challenges and disappointments. Spiritual bonding with Christ, the church, and

the family is the core of spiritual life.

Our children have spiritual rights. The lack of access to these rights is spiritual child abuse. Spiritual child abuse is more critical and damaging than other abuses that may happen to a child. What if the courts of our land began to try people for spiritual child abuse? What would be the sentence? Guilty of spiritual child abuse.

There is a saying, “Boys are not forever.” This is true. They grow up to be adults—adults of the world or adults of the redeemed. One thing is certain, boys are not forever, but their souls are. The spiritual rights for children can only be implemented through and by men of God devoted to “reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ.”



1997/98 Harvest Task Force Calendar

The first Saturday of each month is dedicated to prayer and at least 1 hour of fasting for the Royal Rangers ministry.

December							January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	⑥								1	2	3	4	5	6	⑦
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29	30	31							



Devotionals For Boys

by
Rev. David
Boyd

Object Lesson: Stock Up and Stand Up

Supplies: Marbles, clear plastic glasses, an electric fan

Place an electric fan on one end of a table. Set five clear plastic glasses on the table in front of the fan. Fill one glass full of marbles. Fill one glass three-quarters full. Fill one glass half full. Fill one glass one-quarter full. Turn on the fan. Which glasses fall over? (It will depend upon the strength of the fan and the weight of the marbles.)



Discuss with the boys. The more marbles there were in the glass, the less the wind affected the glass. The glass represents each Christian. The marbles represent time spent in prayer, reading the Bible, going to church, etc. The fan represents the attack of the enemy Satan. God wants us to stand firm against the attack of the enemy. We can do that by fortifying ourselves against his attack by filling ourselves with the power and strength

that comes from God.

Read Ephesians 4:14, where it talks about not being blown around by every wind of doctrine (KJV).

The Word of God is full of God's heroes whose lives have been recorded for us to learn from. The more time we spend reading God's Word and going to church, the stronger we become to face the trials ahead. God wants each of us to stand up for Him. He wants us to resist temptation and to bravely stand and witness for Him. The more we spend time in His presence, the more He is able to help strengthen us so that we can stand firmly for Him.

Object Lesson: Which Bug Are You?

Supplies: Flashlight and pictures of bugs.

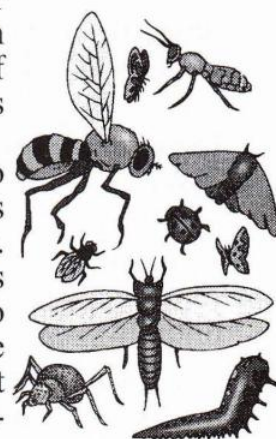
Turn off all of the lights in your room. If there are windows, block them so the room can be as dark as possible. Hold up the flashlight. Talk about light and darkness. Read John 1:3-5. It says in verse 5, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Talk about the meaning of this verse. Jesus is the light. Sinners are liv-

ing in darkness. Some sinners living in darkness don't understand that Jesus has come to help them.

Hold up a picture of some bugs. Talk about bugs. Did you know that some bugs will run away from the light and other bugs will run or fly toward the light. Talk about different types of bugs and which ones you think run toward the light and which ones run away. Note: Bugs like moths and other flying bugs are attracted to light; bugs like roaches come out in the darkness.

Talk about people. Christians are supposed to try and get as close to Jesus and His light as possible. Non-Christians usually try to stay as far away from the light of Christ as possible.

We are to tell others about Jesus. God wants all people to come to the saving light of the knowledge of His Son Jesus. People are living in darkness. Rather than running away from Jesus, we need to help them to run toward His light! When we share Jesus with others, we are following the examples



of the great heroes of the Bible. When you have the opportunity to lead others to Christ, you are becoming God's hero too.

Object Lesson: Following the Greatest Map

Supplies: Identical road maps (the type that you unfold)

Divide your group into teams of three or four and give each team a road map. Play a game with your class for a while. Ask them to find a certain city. Ask them to find a certain place or landmark. Ask them to find a river, lake, railroad tracks, etc. After they have become familiar with the maps, challenge them to find the fastest way to drive from one particular city to another.

What you are causing the children to do is to become familiar with the symbols on the map. The more they study the map, the more they will learn to understand it. They will learn to recognize symbols. They will learn the meaning of mileage numbers, interchange symbols for exiting the freeway, etc.

After they have experimented for a while, compare the map to God's Word. To begin to learn God's Word you have to open it. Then you have to begin to familiarize yourself with the books, the chapters, the purpose of the books, which ones tell about Jesus, etc. The more you read and use God's

Word, the more familiar you become with it. As you read His Word, you soon find that it is a map that will guide your life down the correct road which leads to our ultimate destination heaven.

God's Word is a map which can lead our lives on the correct path God wants us to walk. Like a map however, we have to open it, read it, become familiar with it, and use it.

Object Lesson: Standing Firm

Supplies: Blindfold, masking tape

Make a 3-foot circle on the floor with masking tape. Stand a small Ranger in the center of the circle and then blindfold him. Tell him to try and not let anyone push him out of the circle. Choose a small boy to try and push him out of the circle. You will find that a small boy can push the person out of the circle because of the element of surprise. The boy in the middle won't know from which direction the shove will come and won't be able to prepare for the sudden push. The circle is small enough so one step in any direction will cause the boy to leave the circle.

Take the blindfold off of the boy in the circle. Again, ask him to try and push the

larger boy out of the circle. Now it is difficult to try and push him out, because the child in the circle is able to

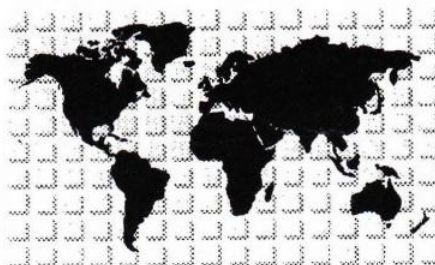
prepare for the push that is coming and shift his weight and firmly set himself to resist the

push that is coming.

Moses, speaking to the Children of Israel in Exodus 14:13, says, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." God is instructing Christians to stand firm against whatever attack comes our way. We have to keep our spiritual eyes open and set ourselves against any attack that comes our way and tries to push us off target and away from God's plan. If the enemy can catch us off guard, it is easier to fall.

Many of our heroes in God's Word had to stand firm against opposition. Some of them even failed God at times because they didn't see the attack coming and they fell into sin.

God wants us to firmly set ourselves against any temptation that comes our way. He wants us to keep our spiritual eyes open and keep our spiritual minds fed by His Word and presence. We must be ready to stand firmly for God at all times.



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CAMPORAMA

Tell us about your salvation experience.

During my sophomore year of high school, I went to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes conference in Fort Collins, Colorado. As we were all gathered in an auditorium together, the question was asked, "If you die tonight, would you go to heaven?" I thought I was a pretty good person, I didn't hurt anybody, but I didn't have that confidence deep down in my soul that I would go to heaven if I died. So I claimed Revelation 3:20, where God says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (NKJV). So I got down on my knees and asked Christ into my life.

What does Brett Butler do to let his light shine to his peers in the Major League Baseball community?

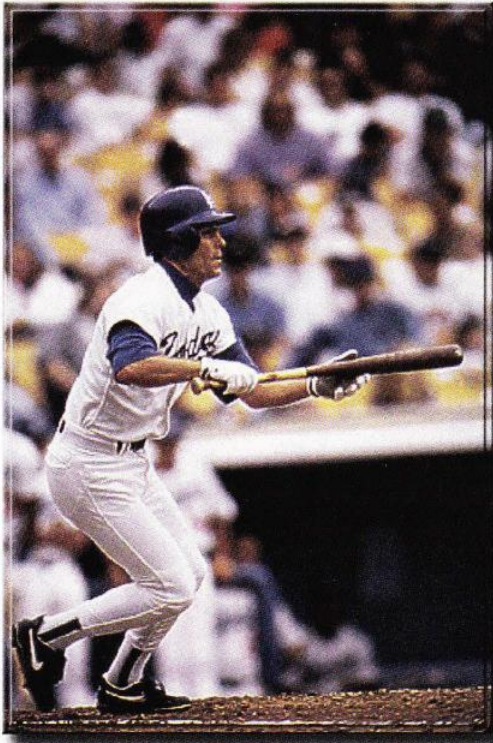
I'm on the board of an organization called PAO, Professional Athletes Outreach. It was started in the early 1970s and has grown considerably. Basically, it's pros ministering to pros. Christian athletes seek out other pro athletes, share Christ, and tell them how they can effectively minister the gospel to others.

I've been involved with Baseball Chapel for as long as I can remember (Baseball Chapel is an organized ministry for baseball players that

consists of chapel services on Sunday mornings). I met my Christian mentor in Baseball Chapel, a guy named David Swanson. I've been the chapel leader on my team for many, many years.

Describe your life before Christ.

Well, I was a good person,



brought up in a Christian home. I was head-conscious of God, but not heart-conscious. I did not become a bond slave of Christ until later in my life. I liken this to the Old Testament stories about masters and slaves. After 7 years the master had to let his slaves go, and if the slaves chose to stay with the master, the master would pierce their ears to signify that they were bond slaves of the master. And now I try to signify my bond slave relationship with Christ by wearing His mark on my life, by my words

and actions.

As Christians, we know that God does not always choose to heal, as He did you. What advice do you have for others who are battling cancer or other life-threatening diseases?

One thing I learned in all of this is I don't have any control over my life. When I gave God control of my life, He took control of it. But for those battling cancer, faced with the thought of death, I would tell them to understand that to die is gain. Paul said to the Phillipians, "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (NIV).

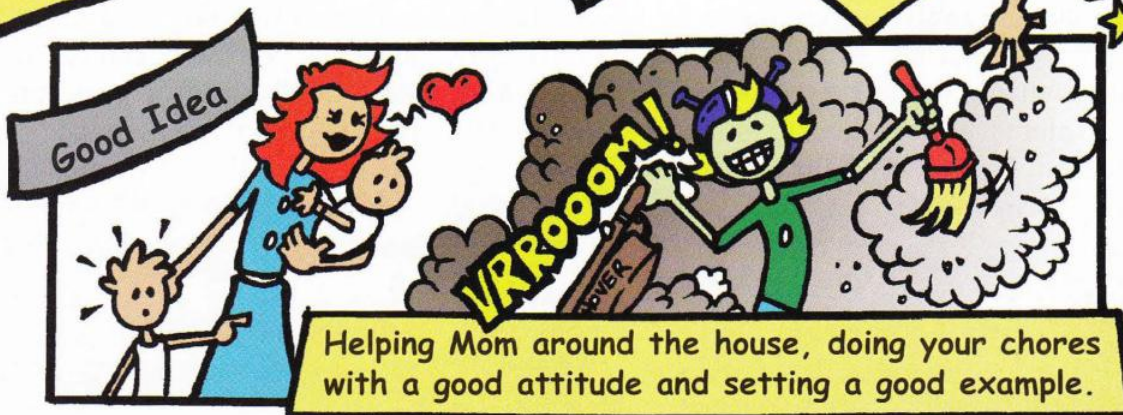
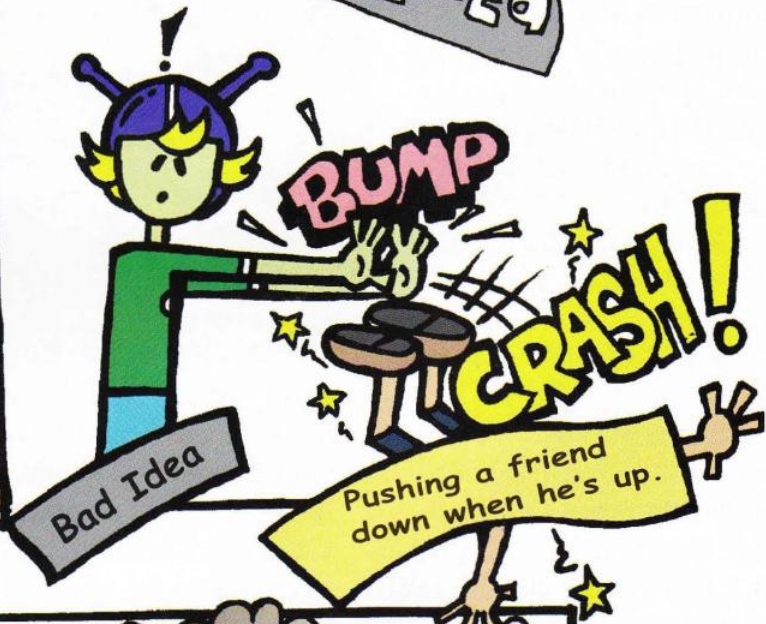
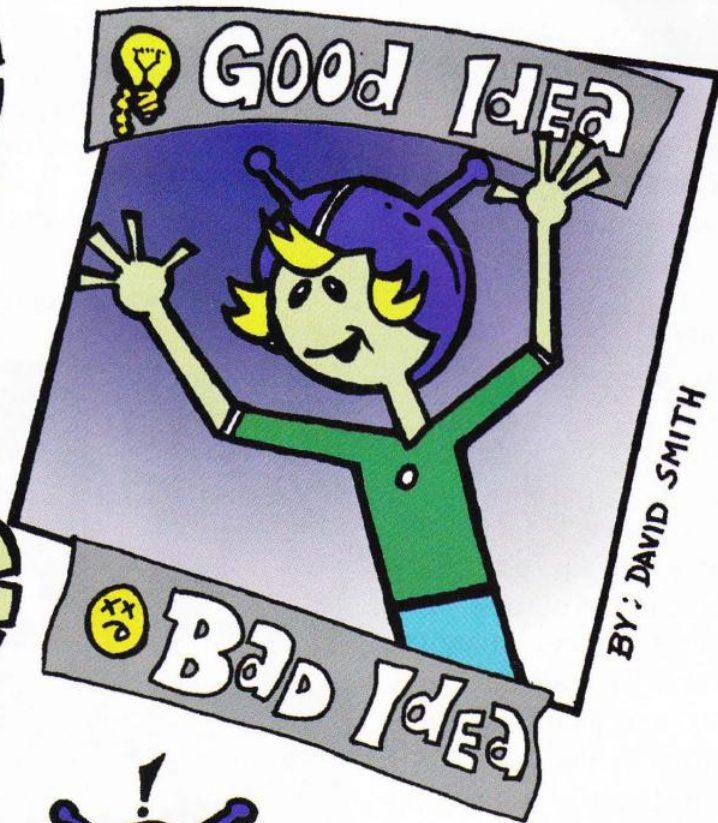
I lost my mother to brain cancer in August 1996. That was a tough time for me. My prayer was always, "Lord, if you're going to take her, please don't let her suffer." And her doctor told me that she was the only cancer patient he'd ever had that didn't experience pain, until 2 days before she died. That really strengthened my faith. And that situation can be related to others this way: Maybe God's plan of death for you can bring others to a saving faith. Have the courage to say, "Lord, whatever your purpose is for me in this situation, please fulfill that purpose." And trust God to do what's best.

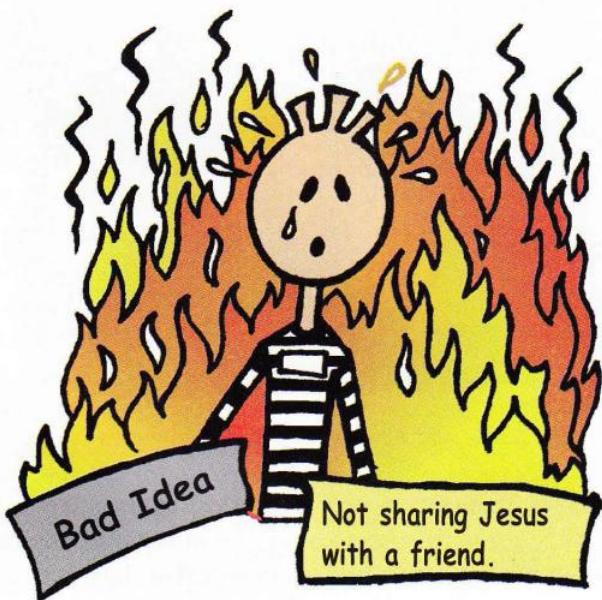
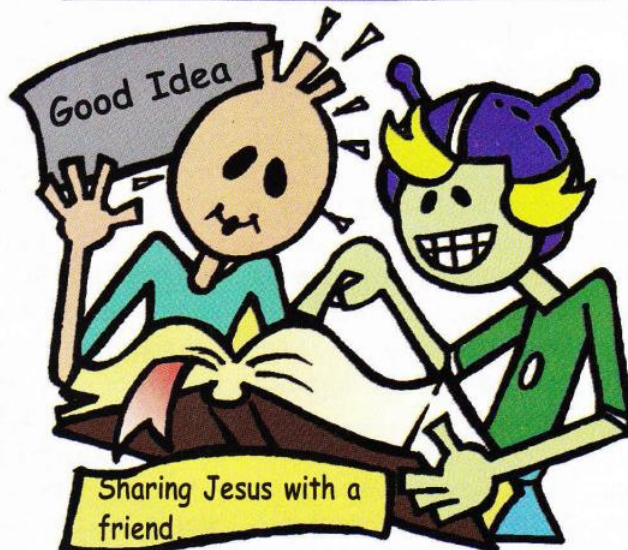
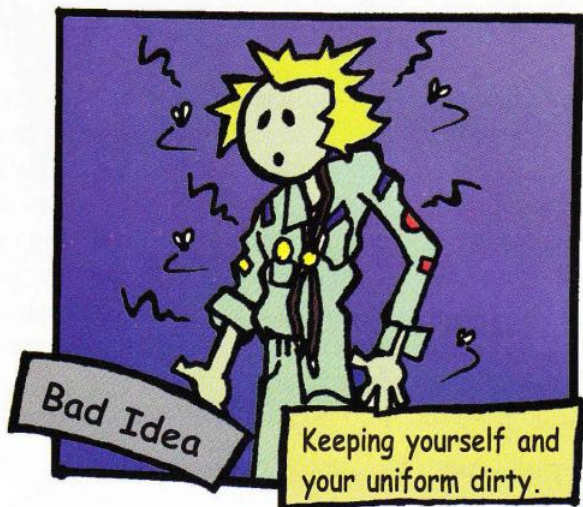
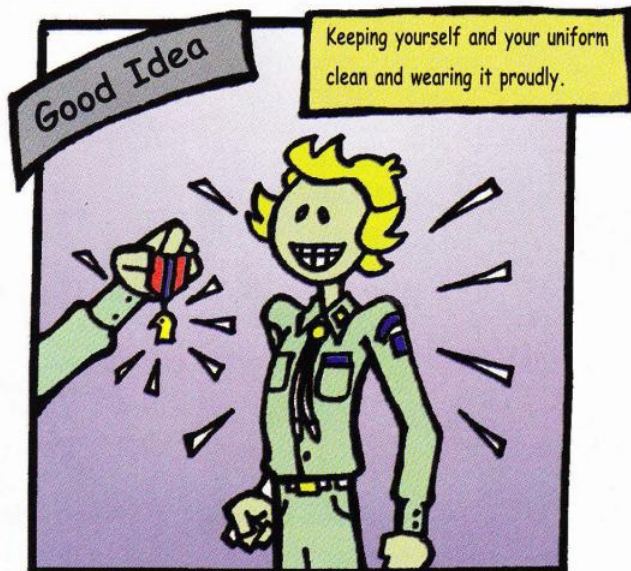
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RASCAL RANGERS

A Royal Ranger is
LOYAL. He is
faithful to his
church, family,
outpost, and friends.





A Royal Ranger is always LOYAL to good ideas that come from God. He is a shining example of being faithful to his church, family, outpost, and friends. James 2:17 says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead." (NIV)



Encounter in Zimbabwe

A Baseball Story by Jamie Bilton

We had been told that we would encounter men like this one.

He was unmistakably poor, a product of the streets. His clothes were stained and dirty, as were his bare, callused feet. He walked with a slight limp. His hollow, bloodshot eyes represented a man in desperate need of hope.

He had come to see what all the commotion was about. He and hundreds of others had gathered in a downtown square of Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, a country in southern Africa. They came to watch us, the American Athletes in Action baseball team, play a form of baseball game in a batting cage that had been erected in one of Harare's most bustling areas.

Athletes in Action is an athletic/missions team sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. We had come to Africa in the summer of 1995 to spread goodwill through baseball, and also to share our faith in God.

As I stood near our team's bench before the game that day, I made eye contact with the man as he made his way through the crowd.

He's heading right for me, I thought to myself as I started to tremble.

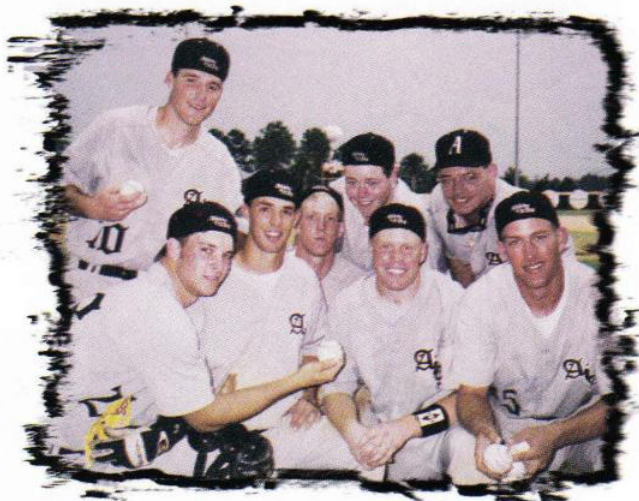
We had been trained for moments like this. Our team had undergone extensive evangelism and cultural adaptation training in Orlando, Florida, before flying to Zimbabwe for a 2-week stay (we would later spend 4 weeks in South Africa). The words of our team director echoed through my head as the man approached me:

"People will ask you for money to help support their families, but many want the money only to satisfy their alcohol dependency."

We had been the center of attention everywhere we went in Zimbabwe. We stuck out like roosters in a dog kennel. We were con-

stantly hounded by hawkers, who attempted to sell us everything from ceramic animal figurines to stolen jewelry. We had ample opportunity in our many street excursions to share our faith in God with the people. After a few days in Zimbabwe, witnessing had become rather easy, quite natural.

We had also learned to ignore the



Jamie with Athletes in Action teammates

people who asked us for money. If we were to give in just one time, we would get swarmed by the other people on the street. That is what con-

cerned me about this man at the batting cage in downtown Harare.

It was obvious the man was in need. My first impulse was to ignore him, turn the other way. But as my eyes met his, I found myself strangely attracted to him. Some indescribable, irresistible force seemed to be drawing us together.

My heart throbbed with compassion as the man stumbled to our bench. The wrinkles on his forehead and the gray hairs on his head gave testimony to the streets. He was a veteran of them. Those streets seemed to beckon, "Here, see what you can do with him."

People will ask you for money....the thought wouldn't leave me.

Don't give in! I told myself.

I held my breath as he began to speak to me.

"If you have some extra change, please help me," he said very quietly with a distinct, broken African accent. "I have no money for bus fare, but I must go across city to my wife and children. I come to the city today to look for food, and now I must go home. Can you help me?"

I was speechless. I had been at ease talking to other people on the streets. But the burden that I felt for this man overwhelmed me so much that I couldn't find the words to say. All I knew about him was his physical appearance, but something inside of me told me that his real need could not be satisfied by money or physical food, but by spiritual food. I knew what I had to do: tell him about Jesus.

But, Lord, I don't know what to say! I silently protested.

I felt so inadequate. I was afraid to fail God. The main reason I had decided to go on this trip was to fulfill my desire to be an effective witness. I had been a Christian my whole life, but never before had I made the effort to step out of my

comfort zone and make a significant contribution to the kingdom of God.

This trip gave me the perfect opportunity to do that. It gave me the chance to utilize my talents in baseball to establish a platform from which I could proclaim Christ to people who needed to hear the truth. Oh, how I wanted to take advantage of it!

We had talked so much about how to handle situations like this

*I felt so
inadequate. I was
afraid to fail
God...*

during our 2-week training camp in Orlando. I was confident then that if I was presented with a situation like this in Africa I would have the courage to share my faith. Now, I wasn't so sure if I could.

But before I could react, a Scripture verse flashed through my mind: "I will help you speak, and will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:12, NIV).

I swallowed the enormous lump in my throat and led the man across the street, away from the crowds. Pete, a teammate, joined me. We had been instructed to witness in groups of two or three. I was nervous but energized.

When we came to an empty parking lot, I asked the

man to repeat what he had said to me before. After he told me once again that he needed money for bus fare for transportation to the other side of Harare, I asked him about his children. He told us their names, ages, and hobbies. I told him a little about myself, why I was here, and what our team was doing. Before long, the three of us were engaged in friendly conversation.

"I will help you speak..."

The Scripture verse whispered to me again. I knew the conversation needed to turn serious. I sensed that God was at work.

"Sir, has anyone ever told you about Jesus?" I asked him.

He paused, cocked his head to one side, and studied my eyes. I stared intently into his, my resolve growing stronger with each passing moment.

"No," he said.

"...and I will teach you what to say."

I smiled and opened a gospel tract that our team members always kept handy. I shared with him the good news of the gospel. The more I got into the message, the more relaxed I became. It was almost as if someone else was speaking through



Jamie gets to know some campers at a baseball clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa.

me. God was helping me speak, and was teaching me what to say.

When I finished presenting the message, Pete and I prayed with the man. He wasn't ready to accept Jesus as His Savior right then and there. But he told us that he was eager to learn more about "this Jesus."

Thank you, Lord, I prayed silently.

We wanted to show him in a tangible way that Christians really do care. So Pete and I reached into our pockets to pull out some change for him. He smiled as I stretched my hand out to his. Before he took the money, however, I paused.

"We'll give you this money for your bus fare if you promise to do one thing," I said.

"Yes, my friend," he said.


"You must promise to go home and tell your kids about Jesus," I said as I handed him one of our tracts.

The man's smile seemed to confirm to me that God had done a work in his life on that street in Harare. Just minutes earlier, this poverty-stricken African had limped to our bench as the picture of hopelessness. Now, his blood-shot eyes gleamed with joy, his lethargic countenance had changed to one of vigor, and his smile invoked the kind of relief that shines brightly on one who has learned the secret to a great mystery.

He looked me in the eyes and said, "Yes, I promise I will."

At that moment I thought I'd reached the pinnacle of fulfillment and joy. I was wrong. That came after the man took our money, thanked us, and said, "I will never forget what you have told me here today."

Through misty eyes, I watched the man walk about 3 blocks and get on a bus. For a brief second, as he was limping away from us, I shook with the idea that he just might spend our money on beer. But that thought



James Bilton

STATISTICS

Evangel College, 1993-1996

Hitting, Baserunning Totals

GP—156	RBI—81
AB—489	TB—222
R—121	SLG.—.454
H—151	BB—71
2B—27	HBP—23
3B—13	SO—45
HR—6	SB—31
OB%—.415	AVG.—.309

Honorable mention all-Heart of America Conference (1994,1995) • First team all-Heart of America Conference (1996) • 1995,6 Team Captain • 1995,6 Evangel President's Award Team Golden Glove award (1996) • Academic all-Heart of America Conference (1995,6) Baseball America Scholar-Athlete (1996) • NAIA Academic All-American (1996)

School Records set: Single-season triples, 8 (1995) • Career Triples, 13 • Single-season HBP, 13 (1996) • Career HBP, 23 • Single-season assists, 124 (1995) • Career double plays, 60

was quickly put to rest as he made his way to the bus stop.

No way, I thought. That man just met the Savior.

For days after the encounter I couldn't stop thinking about him.

What if he doesn't know how to tell his kids about Jesus? What if he forgets? Can God really use him, just like He used Pete and me, to share Christ?

But soon it hit me: God is the One who does all the work—not us. Because Pete and I were obedient, God worked. I learned that God doesn't look for people who try to do it all themselves. He simply looks for willing hearts through whom He can work.

I am confident that man went home and shared Christ with his kids.

People often ask me what the

highlight of that trip was for me. As I ponder the question, the outstanding events of that summer rush back to me in a wave. We met hundreds of wonderful Africans; went on a 2-day safari in Zimbabwe; swam in the Indian Ocean; climbed a mountain in Cape Town, South Africa; and finished the trip with a record of 23 wins and 4 losses on the baseball field. However, nothing compared to what happened on that sunny afternoon in Harare.

As a hitter, I had always measured success in terms of batting average, runs batted in, and runs scored. But on one day of my life, the only statistic that mattered was *saves*. I believe God helped me get one.

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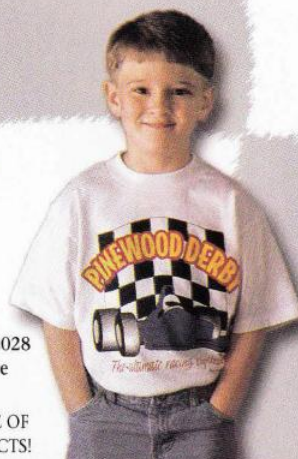
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