

BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER. Ephesians 6:10

HIGH Adventure

Leaders Edition

<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

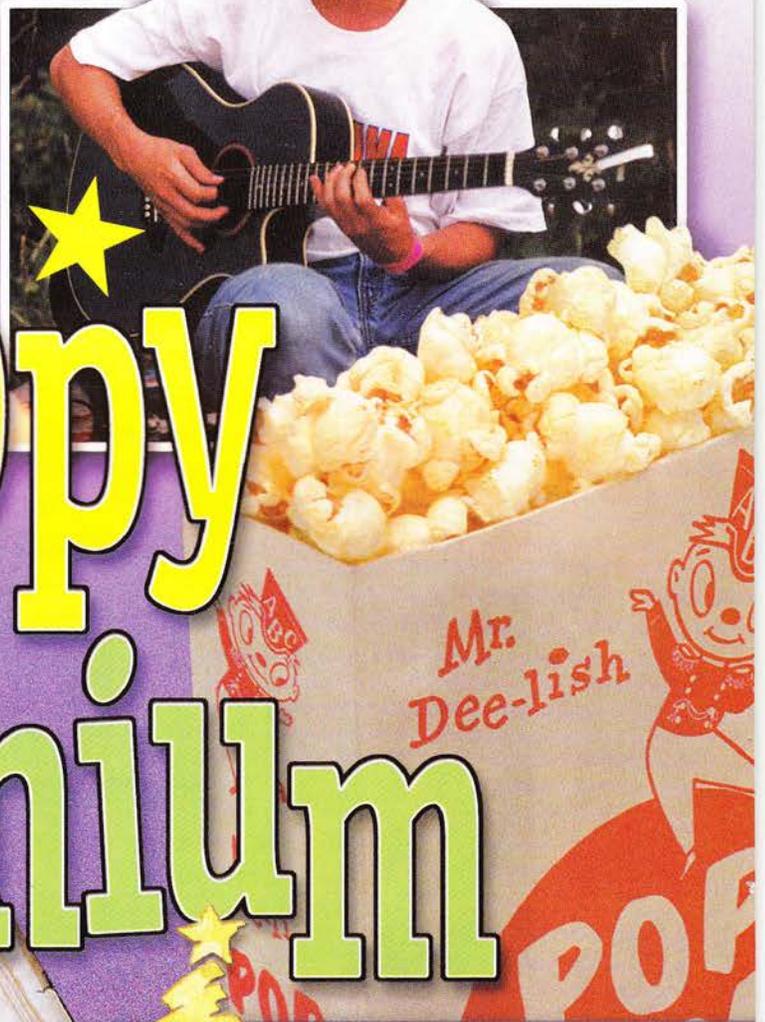
Winter/1999

FUN FACTS

From The Last

TWO MILLENNIA

A Happy Millennium



CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Powder Plunge

The Diary of DARBY JONES

...of the natural state
...will according to the
...the body over all things in the
...the body, but also the
...all in all.

CHAPTER 2
...you look like a good person, who were dead in
...the power of this world, in the eyes of
...the children of disobedience.
...Along some days you all had our hearts
...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in

...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in

...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in
...the body of the world, even in

HIGH Adventure



Christmas at Home

3

**Royal Rangers
National Competition**

4

Powder Plunge

6

A Happy Millennium

8

Rascal Rangers

10

Darby Jones

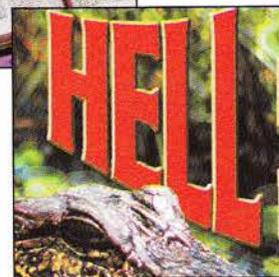
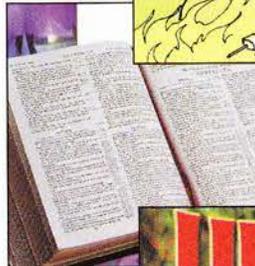
12

How To Get To Hell

14

Comedy Corner

15



HIGH ADVENTURE—Volume 29, Number 3 ISSN (0190-3802) published quarterly by Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield MO 65802-1894. Subscription rates: (*High Adventure Leader* only) single subscription \$9.95 a year; bundle (minimum of five subscriptions, all mailed to one address) \$9.00 a year, \$13.95 (foreign mailing address).

©1999 General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., Gospel Publishing House. Printed in USA. Periodicals postage paid at Springfield, Mo. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *High Adventure*; 1445 Boonville; Springfield, MO 65802-1894.

RICHARD MARIOTT, *Publications Manager*

MARSHALL BRUNER, *Editor-in-chief*

BROTHER JONES ARTWORKS, *Design*

JAMES ERDMAN, *Technical Editor*

SHIRLEY SPEER, *Technical Proofer*

LAURA MARTINEZ, *Special Assistant*



My name is Viorel, and I'm from an Eastern European country. I am 12 years old, and although I'm a boy I cry easily. Some boys laugh at me, but my mother says I have a good heart. After all, wouldn't you cry in my place? I am at a boarding school in Resita, miles away from my home town of Iasi. This was the only school in the country that would accept me where I could learn a craft. I'm training to make musical instruments such as violins, mandolins, and flutes.

My best friend is Florin. He's an orphan.

One day he told me, "I've never seen inside a house. I always wanted to see one."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"I have never once left this boarding school. I have spent almost 13 years within these gates."

"Don't you have anyone?" I asked. Florin shook his head.

I cried a lot for the next 2 days. I would soon be going home for Christmas vacation. How could I leave Florin here?

"I will see if I can take you home with me for Christmas," I told Florin.

He looked at me with a ray of hope in his eyes. I went to the director and asked him, "Sir, can Florin come home with me for Christmas?"

"Impossible," said the tall, strong man who had a mustache and metal teeth. "These are the president's children. You will have to ask permission from him!"

With my cap in my hands, I bowed and made a quick exit. He might have thought he was finished with me, but he was wrong.

I went to the dormitory leader and made the same request.

"Foolish thought," he said. "Don't



Christmas at Home

by Genovieva Sfatcu Beattie

bother me. He is the property of the government."

Suddenly I remembered how my older brother would get away with anything with the help of a doctor. So I knocked at the doctor's office door.

"Please," I told her with tears in my eyes, "can you give Florin a note that he needs to see a specialist? I want to take him home for Christmas. You see, my city has the best medical school in the country."

"Well," the doctor said, "Florin is indeed a sick boy. He has terminal cirrhosis of the liver. I could do that, but it's very complicated."

My mother, a Christian, had taught me always to pray, which I did right then.

Then I heard the doctor talking on the phone. My heart was beating fast as she talked with all sorts of people. One moment I was full of hope, and the next moment I thought it was in vain. Then she talked with my mother. After a while,

a secretary came and typed all sorts of papers, which all had to be stamped and signed. It took ages.

"He can take Florin and go," I heard. I couldn't believe my ears.

I rushed into the dormitory, and soon the two of us were on the train to Iasi.

When we arrived at my home, my two sisters, brother, and parents were all excited to have Florin. We showed him around the house, and he looked for a long time at the Christmas tree in the corner.

"Do you like it?"

"It's nice in your home," he said as we sat around the table with the smell of freshly baked cakes and all sorts of good things on the table.

Perhaps this Christmas you will never again take for granted the important things in life: a home to live in, loved ones who care for you, and most importantly the Christ who came to earth to live and die for you. †



... we sat around the table with the smell of freshly baked cakes and all sorts of good things on the table.

Hi! I'm Jeremy Hahn.

In 1998 one of my life-long goals was fulfilled: I won the title National Royal Ranger of the Year for the Gulf Region. This article is all about helping to answer some of your questions about competing in the Ranger of the Year program.

Becoming a National Ranger of the Year is not easy. The task requires a lot of hard work, determination, and knowledge to win... or even to compete. Over the years of competing for Ranger of the Year, I learned so much about Rangers, the outdoors, how to work with others, and most important why knowing Jesus is both necessary and exciting.

When I first began competing as a Pioneer, I was excited just to meet competitors from the other churches. I never really imagined that I would someday achieve National Ranger of the Year. When I was younger I looked at the National Rangers of the Year as nearly perfect; but what I know now is that it does not take a perfect person but a committed one.

Today many people tell me they are afraid for my generation because the youth

THE RANGER of the YEAR and You

today are so rebellious and destructive. But I don't worry. I simply see a greater divide between those committed to evil and those committed to righteousness.

When I met with the other seven National Rangers of the Year, I found that those young men were not just into the Rangers program, but they were into Jesus. They were, and still are, committed to righteousness and holiness. When the eight of us gathered to pray for the evening services at the 1998 National Camporama, God's presence was strong because we had all made God's presence strong in us. I feel like this is what Rangers is about—not if one wins the competition or even earns the Gold Medal, but if he “achieves” Jesus. This is winning the greatest award ever. And when you find Him and commit to Him, you indeed have already won the competition.

If you have any questions you would like to ask about participating in the Ranger of the Year program, write me and I'll try to respond. You can write to: Royal Rangers; Ranger of the Year Questions; 1445 Boonville Ave; Springfield, MO 65802-1894—or e-mail RANGERS@AG.ORG with an earmark of “Ranger of the Year Questions.” Hope to hear from you soon! ✦

EIGHT ROYAL RANGERS WIN NATIONAL COMPETITION

by Marshall Bruner, ministries and publications coordinator

Following months of competition, eight finalists surfaced in July to earn the title “1999 National Royal Rangers of the Year.” The winners were presented special awards in Springfield, Missouri, July 19, 1999, during an executive luncheon at the General Council Headquarters. General Superintendent Thomas Trask, newly appointed National Commander Richard Mariott, and Ministries Coordinator Marshall Bruner presented the Rangers their national awards.

The National Rangers of the Year are as follows: Dustin Hunter, Great Lakes Region; Stan Smith, Gulf Region; Caleb Nance, North Central Region; Nathan Dennis, Northeast Region; Jake Garrison, Northwest Region; Timothy Inwood, South Central Region; Jason Cowan, Southeast Region; Sergio Gonzalez, Southwest Region.

The winners had begun competition the year before in their outposts then went on to area, sectional, district, and regional competitions. This tradition began in 1978 with the awarding of the first National Royal Ranger of the Year. From 1978 to 1989 the award was presented to only one national winner among the eight regional finalists. In 1990 the decision was implemented to award the national title to each of the eight regional finalists, so all could share the title and represent their regions as National Rangers of the Year.

This recognition, which only 92 young men have earned, is one of the highest and most prestigious awarded in the Rangers ministry. The honor will afford the winners special recognition during 1999: They will serve as honorary members of the National Royal Rangers Council, serve as national staff members, and be honored as guest speakers at various Royal Rangers functions.

“Few things are worthy of a ‘Lifetime of Recognition,’” states National Commander Richard Mariott. “Being selected as a National Ranger of the Year recipient is such an accomplishment. This achievement is a highlight for these national winners and an attribution to the quality of boys participating in Royal Rangers. During our Honor Luncheon, General Superintendent Thomas Trask challenged these young men to be men of God, to find God's will for their lives, and to follow that design for their lives. Our thanks to Brother Trask for this challenge toward integrity and to reverends Crabtree, Bridges, and Wood for being our guests at the Honor Luncheon with these young men.”

COMMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL WINNERS

Dustin Hunter: Rangers has pushed me to do all I can and to do it in the name of God. It is with God's help alone that I became the 1999 National Ranger of the Year for the Great Lakes Region. Christ and the Rangers ministry have given me the confidence to believe in myself and to become what I am today.

If it weren't for the Rangers program, I wouldn't know all I know today about God and our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been challenged spiritually by many leaders as I have advanced through the program. And it was at the Illinois Winter Camp in 1995 where I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. This has given me the self-confidence to believe in myself and to become what I am in Christ today.



TOP: Richard Mariott, Stan Smith, Sergio Gonzalez, Jason Cowan, Marshall Bruner
BOTTOM: Paul Stanek, Nathan Dennis, Timothy Inwood, Dustin Hunter, Jake Garrison
PICTURED SEPARATELY: Caleb Nance

Stan Smith: Royal Rangers has taught me how to study God's Word and how to trust God in everything. Also, Royal Rangers has taught me not to give up, no matter what. It has also taught me to keep a positive attitude about my life.

If you are striving to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement and to become a Ranger of the Year, I encourage you to never give up. You can't win everything, but always give your best, and God will bless you for it.

Caleb Nance: Growing up in Royal Rangers has always given me something to lean back on and to support myself. There have always been times when I could just relax around other Royal Rangers boys. Royal Rangers has given me a desire to explore and to search... not just in the woods but also in Christ. Royal Rangers has made a profound impact upon my life. It was in Royal Rangers that I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Many times when I have needed prayer, I could go to Royal Rangers and they were there for me.

Nathan Dennis: Through the love that my Royal Rangers commanders have shown me over the years, I have seen what it means to have a genuine heart with a servant's attitude and how to live sacrificially for the salvation of boys. Through Royal Rangers, I have come to understand what it takes to be a committed person and how to take initiative and responsibility. I am more thankful every day for the spiritual foundation that Royal Rangers has given me. I realize that I may never know the fullest extent of the blessings and benefits that I have received on account of the ministry of Royal Rangers.

If you want to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement or become a National Ranger of the Year, I suggest that you begin by having the proper attitude. God will not honor a person who selfishly pursues these things at the expense of his family or his spiritual walk. Also, the key to your success is in your perspective: Always remember that as you focus on Christ that pins and titles will disappear and that you will be seen for the condition of your heart.

Jake Garrison: In my last year of Trailblazers, I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at a great Pow Wow. Having the Holy Spirit in me has given me strength for my Christian walk and a new desire to work for the Lord. Since being baptized in the Holy Spirit, I've participated in two missions trips to Mexico.

commander, Richard Garza, could see I was getting tired and he carried my pack and I carried his camping stove. His willingness to carry my pack touched my heart. I had never seen anyone show that much kindness. I now look back and can see how he really has a servant's heart for the ministry. Seeing his service to God and his dedication to the ministry gives me the strength to, as he says, "adelante," which means to "press on." I want to serve God with the same heart he does.



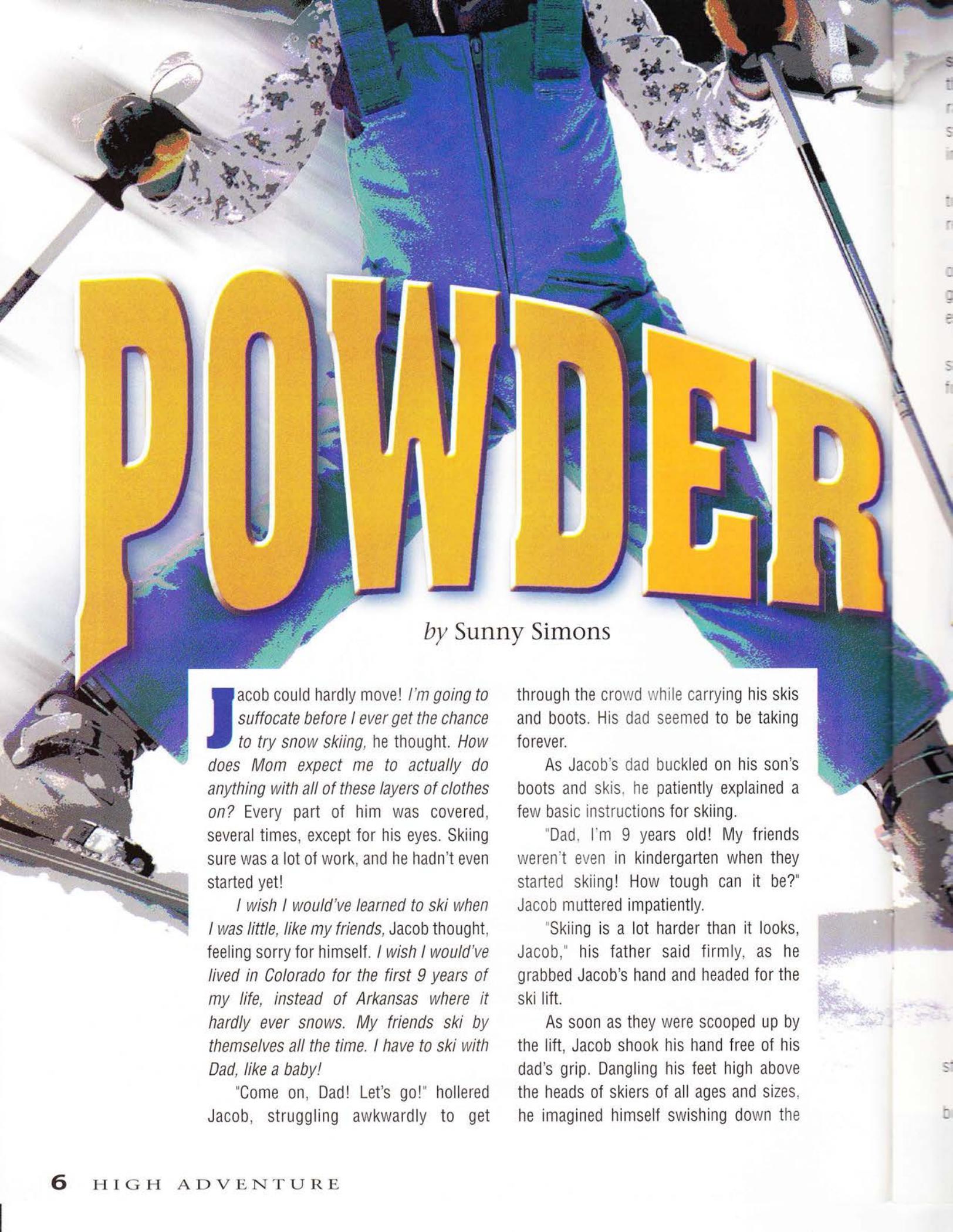
Jason Cowan: I wasn't able to get involved in Royal Rangers until age 13. So I tell all the young boys I work with in Rangers that if I could go this far in Royal Rangers that they have a head start and can advance just like I did. With that I add that they can only go as far as they want to.

To earning some of the Royal Rangers merits, I was required to read the Bible. By studying the Bible, I drew closer to God. Also, as I prepared my devotionals and Bible studies for each week's meetings, I learned new things about God. Royal Rangers has had a huge impact on my life. The ministry has opened up windows of opportunity in various ways. I have been able to impact the lives of many boys, in return. I have been able to apply my skills in different situations that would have seemed hopeless without them. The largest impact Royal Rangers has made on me, though, has been the countless number of friends I have met.

Sergio Gonzalez: Royal Rangers has and is making a major impact on my spiritual life. It started as a Straight Arrow, because I would pray and read the Bible regularly as a Straight Arrow. As a Buckaroo I knew many Bible verses and I would try to apply them to my life. But one of my greatest experiences with God was at the Pacific Latin American District Pow Wow. At one of the night services the Holy Spirit touched me; I will never forget that feeling. I was crying and I felt this wonderful warmth all over my body. Wow! Also, through the Royal Ranger of the Year program, my spiritual life has blossomed. My prayer time has grown as well as my time reading the Bible. A few months ago I had been going through some problems that I wanted to give up. But people prayed for me and God changed me. Thanks to the Lord I am alive—spiritually and physically. At the 1999 Pow Wow, God touched me and healed my heart. And now I am fighting the good fight with God's help.

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened to me if God had not had a special plan for my life and had not placed me in the family He had. (I was born August 31, 1982, and 4 days later went home with my adoptive parents, Bev and Bill Garrison.) I can only thank the Lord and be grateful for the life I now lead. I know that Royal Rangers has been a real asset to me in my walk with God.

Timothy Inwood: Royal Rangers has made an impact on my life. It has taught me to have a relationship with God and to search for His will for my life.... The program has also given me spiritual leaders to look up to. I attended the Junior Training Trails 4 years ago in Johnson City, Texas. I had never been on a 10-mile hiking trip before and, consequently, I overpacked my backpack. On the second day of the hike, my pack was too heavy for me to carry. My district



POWDER

by Sunny Simons

Jacob could hardly move! *I'm going to suffocate before I ever get the chance to try snow skiing,* he thought. *How does Mom expect me to actually do anything with all of these layers of clothes on?* Every part of him was covered, several times, except for his eyes. Skiing sure was a lot of work, and he hadn't even started yet!

I wish I would've learned to ski when I was little, like my friends, Jacob thought, feeling sorry for himself. *I wish I would've lived in Colorado for the first 9 years of my life, instead of Arkansas where it hardly ever snows. My friends ski by themselves all the time. I have to ski with Dad, like a baby!*

"Come on, Dad! Let's go!" hollered Jacob, struggling awkwardly to get

through the crowd while carrying his skis and boots. His dad seemed to be taking forever.

As Jacob's dad buckled on his son's boots and skis, he patiently explained a few basic instructions for skiing.

"Dad, I'm 9 years old! My friends weren't even in kindergarten when they started skiing! How tough can it be?" Jacob muttered impatiently.

"Skiing is a lot harder than it looks, Jacob," his father said firmly, as he grabbed Jacob's hand and headed for the ski lift.

As soon as they were scooped up by the lift, Jacob shook his hand free of his dad's grip. Dangling his feet high above the heads of skiers of all ages and sizes, he imagined himself swishing down the

slopes. His heart beat faster and harder as they neared their destination halfway up the mountain. His dad was rambling on about snowplowing and turning and stopping, but all Jacob could think about was how impressed his friends would be with his skiing.

"Okay, Jacob, this is it! Remember all the things I told you about on the ride up." Jacob's dad smiled reassuringly at Jacob as he grasped his hand once again.

They sat on the edges of their seats, then gently slid off to begin their skiing adventure. Jacob flashed a quick grin at the man towering above him, then focused his eyes on the white powder ahead.

"Why are we going so slow, Dad? Can't we just go straight down the mountain instead of crossing back and forth so much? We've done it about a million times!"

Jacob muttered.

Guiding Jacob carefully down the hill with his strong arm, Jacob's dad reminded him, "It's important to learn the basics

PLUNGE

of skiing before you actually try it on your own. Be patient; we've got all day to practice. Your friends didn't become expert skiers in just a few minutes!"

Jacob's mind began to wander as the pair slowly made their way across the mountain. However, his thoughts were jerked back to skiing within a few seconds. As they carefully turned once again, Jacob's hand suddenly slid out of his dad's hand! Before either he or his dad realized what had happened, Jacob was speeding straight down the mountain—alone!

"Aaaahhhh!" rang across the hillside as a small blur bumped uncontrollably toward the trees.

The cold air brought tears to Jacob's eyes and turned everything in front of him to a smear. His arms flapped in the air. I must be going 900 miles an hour! *Where's Dad? What do I do? How do I stop? What if I hit a tree?* Jacob's thoughts were full of panic.

As the last thought whirled through his head, the edge of his ski caught on a bump of snow, and he flew head first through the air. He bounced a time or two, turned a few somersaults, then landed facedown with a thud.

But he didn't stop there! He twirled around until his head was facing toward the bottom of the mountain and his skis were pointed toward the top. He finally slid to a stop with his face buried in the crusty snow, his tangled arms and legs going several different directions.

By the time he pulled his head out of the snowdrift, his dad had gracefully swished down the slope to meet him. He stuck out his hand toward Jacob and joked, "So, Hot Stuff, are you ready to teach your friends a thing or two about skiing?"

Jacob just rolled his eyes, still amazed that he had survived such a tremendous crash. His problems

were not over yet. Trying to stand back up again was also a challenge. As soon as one foot was untangled from the pile, the ski would start sliding down the hill backwards. Then the other foot would head down the mountain the other way. Finally, with the help of his dad, Jacob stood up with both feet facing the same direction.

While his dad brushed the snow off of him, Jacob flicked more snow out of his pockets, mittens, cap, scarf, boots, sleeves, and pant legs. All this he did, holding as still as he could, trying to be careful not to start sliding down the hill again.

"Dad," Jacob said smiling, a little embarrassed about his predicament, "do you think you could give me a few more pointers about skiing before I try it again?" Then he quickly shoved his hand into his dad's hand and hung on tight.

A Happy Millennium

by Doris Schuchard

Happy Third Millennium! Or is it really? Years on our calendar are counted from 1, not 0. So the first millennium was A.D. 1-1000, and the second was A.D. 1001-2000. The third millennium actually starts in 2001—next year!

Or maybe the third millennium has already begun. Our calendar starts with Christ's birth in A.D. 1. But some Bible teachers now think Jesus was born anywhere from 3 to 5 years earlier. In that case, the new millennium began in the mid-1990's, and we missed it!

With the start of each new millennium, people have predicted wars, earthquakes, and even the end of the world. But, no matter what the future holds, don't worry: God is with you—yesterday, today, and forever.

So while you're celebrating the new year, test your wits on a few past events. You may know that A.D. stands for the Latin "anno Domini," or "the year of the Lord." But do you know what special school was started in A.D. 1780? Try answering these fun facts from the last two millennia:

A.D. 325 Which holiday was chosen to be celebrated the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first full day of spring?

(Easter)

367 A letter written by the Bishop of Alexandria contains the earliest list of what 27 books?

(The books of the New Testament)

1095 What land did Christian armies from Europe try to take over in the Crusades?

(The Holy Land—Israel)

1160 What well-known children's prayer was written?

("Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep")

1181 What tradition did Francis of Assisi (born that year) introduce to remember the true meaning of Christmas?

(Nativity scenes)

c.1380 Who first translated the Bible into English?

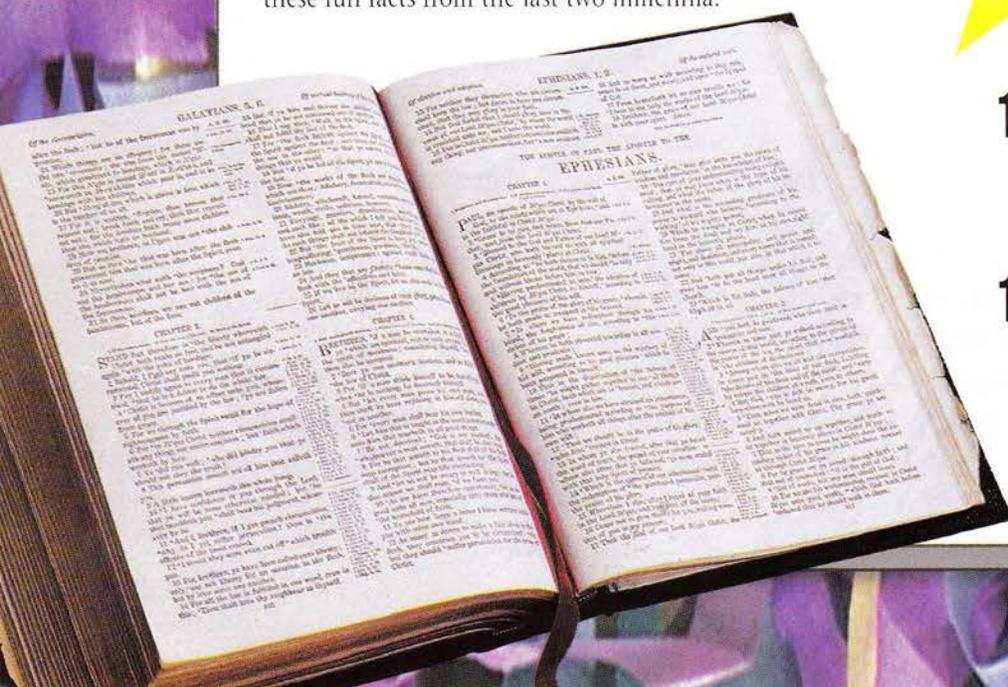
(John Wycliffe)

1455 What was one of the first books printed on Gutenberg's press?

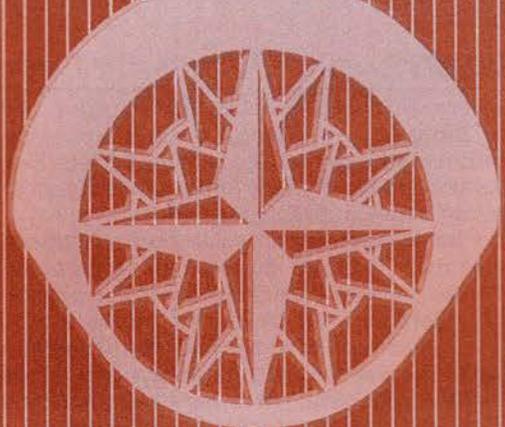
(The Bible)

1517 Where did Martin Luther nail the document that listed his disagreements with church leaders?

(On the church door in Wittenberg, Germany)



HIGH Adventure



Leader

VOLUME 29 — NUMBER 3 — WINTER '99

ONE-ON-ONE

Our Y2K Plan for the New Millennium

by Marshall Bruner



National Royal Rangers Office
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802-1894

Phone: (417)862-2781 ext. 4181

Fax: (417)831-8230

E-mail: rangers@ag.org

Marshall Bruner, editor-in-chief

Writing these thoughts is in itself like writing history. Once you read this page, that which I wrote in August 1999, the Y2K scare of computer failure and potential economic catastrophe may have come and gone. At this moment of writing, one can only speculate. However, one thing is certain in life and the other is apparent:

The certainty is that regardless of what comes our way, God is in control and we must rest in His care ... regardless of what tomorrow may hold. The apparent—though painful as it may be and relentless unless Christ becomes the Lord of peoples lives—is that men across this nation are abating their God-given responsibilities to their families.

To illustrate, let me share some statistics I've borrowed from a new HonorBound manual called *Dad's Coaching Clinic*:

- 85 percent of all youths sitting in prison grew up in a fatherless home.
- 85 percent of all children who exhibit behavior disorders come from fatherless homes.
- 90 percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.
- 71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- 75 percent of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.
- 63 percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
- 71 percent of teenage pregnancies are to children of single parents.

But there's a silver lining to this darkened cloud: God is raising up a standard through His people, and He is demonstrating the love of Christ through Royal Rangers commanders. In short, we commanders are serving as the surrogate fathers to the fatherless.

Case in point: Royal Rangers leaders everywhere are serving as "father figures" to their Rangers each week at their local churches. They are concerned and loving toward their Rangers, many of whom come from single-parent homes. They take their Rangers fishing and camping. They teach the boys computer skills and people skills. They care for these Rangers as though they were their own boys.

I've gone into many of the inner cities of our nation and talked with children who've been abandoned by their natural fathers. Most every child I've met or saw demonstrated an overwhelming need to be accepted and loved—even though I was a total stranger. As we conduct our evangelism efforts (in Royal Rangers we call these outreaches "Harvest Task Force" efforts), children will come up to us, grinning from ear to ear. Within minutes they are holding our hands, even embracing us. Even the teenagers express their longing to be loved.

So where am I going with all of this: No matter what the year 2000 may bring, we know God will empower us to be the greatest witnesses man has ever seen. As we invite boys to our mid-week meetings, we will demonstrate God's love to many who've been abandoned by their fathers. As we go camping with boys whose fathers were never there to camp with, we will build strong their character as they see God's men in action. And as we go from neighborhood to neighborhood, spreading the gospel message during our Harvest Task Force efforts, we may reflect the "only Jesus some may ever see."

So plan that next outing, that next campout, or the next trip to the mall with the wanting boy in mind—the one who's looking for a positive male role model, a father figure if you will. Take him under your arm and demonstrate the love of God as a man of God.

What will the new millennium hold? That, my friend, depends partly on your response to God. The canvas of boys' lives is ready. Now paint a picture of God on their hearts!



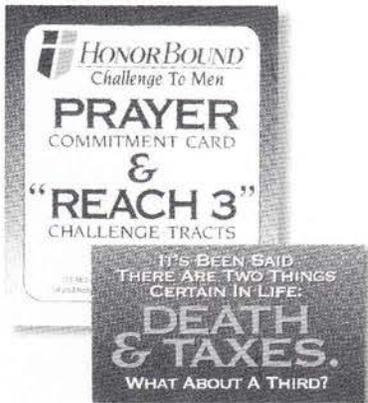
Leader ON LINE

Funds Needed for Urban Ministry — Thanks to the FCF ministry, thousands of dollars worth of Royal Rangers curricula have been donated to urban outposts that are limited financially. Now, however, all funds for such assistance are depleted. If your district wishes to participate in this ongoing benevolent cause, please send your offerings to the national Royal Rangers Office, marked "Inner City Funds, account 001-01-031-4149-000." Your help is much appreciated by the urban commanders who want a successful Rangers ministry. *Thank you!*

Boy Scouts of America Growing — In the February/March 1999, *BSA Today*, the Boy Scouts of America reported an all-time high of membership.

"Last year was an outstanding year for growth in the Boy Scouts of America," states the newsletter. "Youth membership reached an all-time high of 4,757,184, an increase of 183,563 members, which reflects growth of more than 4 percent.

"What's behind the surge in membership? Strong positive relationships the BSA has forged with its chartered/participating organizations. Scouting is a proven and effective resource for helping chartered/participating organizations meet their need."



Reach 3 Commitment Card

The HonorBound Office has launched a national campaign called "Reach 3," a noteworthy challenge in which every commander should participate. The Reach 3 challenge is for each man to do the following:

- Prayerfully select three non-Christian men from your work/community.
- Pray daily for the salvation of these men.
- Invest casual one-on-one time with each man over a meal (or with spouses). Get to know them. Be a friend.
- Invite your three men to an outreach event where a clear presentation of Jesus Christ will be given.
- Once a commitment to Christ is made, help them become involved in church and begin the discipleship process of following Jesus.

To obtain copies of the Reach 3 commitment cards, contact Customer Services at 1-800-641-4310 and request item 72-6102. For further information, contact the HonorBound office—phone: 417-862-1447, ext. 4170; E-mail: honorbound@ag.org.

PAST EVENTS

Spanish Eastern District Conducts Third Annual Junior Councilmen Banquet — According to Ellison Fuentes, public relations coordinator for the Spanish Eastern District, 54 boys became Light for the Lost Junior Councilmen at the district's Junior Councilmen Banquet.

"For the last 3 years now we've been conducting a Junior Councilmen Banquet during our District Leaders Conference," says Ellison. This 12th annual conference was held on Long Island.

"Prior to the banquet, the boys had completed most of their requirements. Luis Santaella, a sectional commander for the Connecticut area, oversaw the requirements program to ensure the boys met the qualifications."

Ellison states that some 150 people attended the banquet. During the banquet meal, the Royal Rangers acted as servers. Nine Royal Rangers from New Haven, Conn., were invited to serve as Honor Guards. The district superintendent, Rafael Reyez, was also invited. A missionary from Bombay, India, was the guest speaker.

Ellison notes that at the first LFTL Junior Councilmen banquet held 3 years ago that 20 joined the ranks of Junior Councilmen. Last year 30 boys completed their requirements at the banquet. The district's goal is to double this year's record of 54 boys. Ellison attributes the success of these banquets to Deputy District Commander Carlos Cobos, who initiated the banquets in conjunction with the annual District Leaders Conference.

LEGAL UPDATES

Child Abuse Prevention Services — CAPS, a non-profit organization established in 1982 for the purpose of preventing child abuse, states the following:

The Numbers Staggering

- Every abused child is a human tragedy, but the number of children suffering from abuse points to an immense societal problem.
- Over 3.1 million children are abused or neglected each year nationally; more than 12,000 are reported in Nassau and Suffolk counties alone.
- Over 90,000 incidents of child sexual abuse are reported each year with more than 800 reported cases on Long Island.
- 2,000 children die annually from child abuse and neglect nationwide.
- By the time they reach the age of 18, one in four girls, and one in seven boys, will be victims of sexual abuse.

The Shocking Impact on Society

- 33 percent of all convicted murderers in New York State have a history of child abuse.
- 97 percent of all delinquents have a history of severe physical abuse.
- 80 percent of all prostitutes and 50 percent of all female drug users were sexually abused as children.
- Many abusive parents were victimized themselves as children.

Prevent Child Abuse America — PCAA report indicates how child abuse affects children:

Q: *Have reports of sexual abuse increased?*

A: National data from child protective services agencies, collected in 1994, suggest that about 115,000 cases of sexual abuse enter child protective services case loads annually. Researchers estimate that approximately 109,230 new cases were accepted for service last year. And according to data from 25 states, sexual abuse reports constituted about 10 percent of all child abuse and neglect reports for 1995 and about 11 percent of all substantiated cases. While these numbers have decreased over the past year, the number is far higher than the number of cases served in the 1970's and early 1980's.

Q: *What are some of the signs of sexual abuse?*

A: Symptoms of sexual abuse may include physical and behavioral signs as well as indirect comments made by the child. There are several clues to look for when considering the possibility of child sexual abuse. A physical sign may be irritation, pain, or injury to the genital area. A behavioral sign may be nervous, aggressive, hostile, or disruptive behavior toward adults, especially parents. But remember, one sign alone may not be a positive indication. If a number of signs are present, it is wise to consider the possibility of sexual abuse.

For further information, contact PCAA at 200 South Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-2404; Phone: 312-663-3520, Fax: 312-939-8962.

*Reprint Courtesy of Office of Public Relations, General Council
AGOL NEWS SERVICE*

Insights Shared on Children at Risk in American Schools

Dr. Richard Dobbins, Assemblies of God minister and nationally known psychologist, is president and founder of Emerge Ministries. Dr. Dobbins hosts *From This Day Forward*, a daily radio broadcast produced by Assemblies of God Media Ministries. Following are some insights he offers to parents and loved ones who are concerned about the risks their children face in school.

Q: *How can we talk to our children and help them with their fears—what can we tell them?*

A: There are a number of things to keep in mind when talking to your children about violence on school campuses:

- Reassure the child that his/her fears are normal, but the chance that violence will erupt on their campus is very remote. There has been an increase in violence on school campuses, but school is still one of the safest places in your child's life.
- Remind your child that the Lord is always with us—even when we are afraid (see Psalm 56:3).
- After you have raised the subject of campus violence, let the children do most of the talking. Listen carefully. Follow the child's lead and respond honestly to their questions.
- Don't promise the child that God will protect them. If the child is bright, he/she knows that some of the children who have been killed were Christians and God didn't protect them. Promise your child that regardless of what happens to them, God will be with them—and He will help them face whatever storms life brings them (see Matthew 7:24-28). This is a safe promise.
- Remember, simply allowing your children to verbalize their fears will help lessen their anxiety.

Q: *How can we protect our children?*

A: If you can afford to put your children in private Christian schools, the risk of violence is reduced tremendously, but there is no way parents can completely remove the risk even on a Christian campus. However, reminding yourself that the campuses involved in violence each year represent a very small percentage of public schools will help you keep the risk in proper perspective.

— Continued on next page —

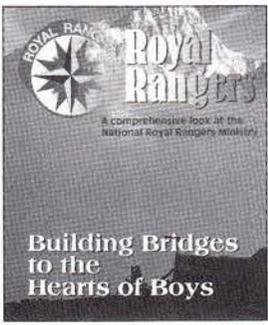


NEW!

Rangers Promotional BINDER

Ideal for section, district, and regional leaders to promote Royal Rangers in the local churches

Cost: \$18



CONTENTS:

- Instructions for church presentation
- History of Royal Rangers
- Training opportunities
- Articles of interest
- Promotional brochures
- *High Adventure/Leader* magazine

- Harvest Task Force efforts
- Order form • Catalog
- *The Last Best Thing*, Junior Councilmen project
- *Leadership Training Course* pamphlet
- *Building Bridges*, 9-minute promotional video

TO ORDER:
Call the national office, 417-862-2781, ext. 4177

Dealing with your powerlessness to provide your children with absolute protection can be anxiety provoking, but God's grace can help you commit that burden to the Lord. Encourage your children to report to their teacher any children who threaten violence and to tell the teacher what was said. Help the child understand this isn't "snitching" on their friend. In fact, by reporting what was said, they could be saving their friend's life and the lives of other classmates.

Q: *How can we identify those children who are at risk for violence—what are the signs?*

A: Some of the following characteristics should be noted:

- These youngsters feel rejected and alone.
- They are selfish.
- Usually, there is a history of violence and aggression.
- There may be drug and alcohol abuse involved.
- They want to belong to a gang and may be in one.
- They have a history of discipline problems or difficulty with authority figures.
- They have little or no regard for the rights and feelings of others.
- They are fascinated with weapons and have access to them.
- They may withdraw from others and their usual activities.
- They have anger management problems.
- They feel bullied by others and not respected.
- They talk of well-developed plans for hurting others.

Q: *How can we help these children at risk before they become violent?*

A: Engage them in conversation. Listen to their concerns. When you hear indications of violence, suggest other options for dealing with their frustrations. If they are Christians, define some biblical options for them. If they are not Christians, do your best to win them to Christ and get them involved in a good church youth program. If children see a person displaying clusters of these signs and they are resistant to any efforts to turn them away from their preoccupation with violence, children should report suspicions to their parents. Parents should contact school authorities and convey their concerns to law enforcement authorities. Keep notes of what you hear and see. Date your observations. This will lend credibility to your report.

A special message from Dr. Dobbins about crisis recovery for any victims of violence is available free of charge from Media Ministries of the Assemblies of God. If you would like a copy of this free cassette, e-mail your request to <mailto:dayforward@ag.org>. Or write to Assemblies of God Media Ministries, P.O. Box 70, Springfield, MO 65801. If you would like to designate an offering to help underwrite these cassettes, you can mail your check made out to "Media Ministries" to the above address.

NEW!

Outreach Ministries Audio and Video Libraries

The national Royal Rangers Office now offers an audio and video series on outreach ministry, which deal with various workshop topics on evangelism.



To order, contact the national office, at 417-862-2781, ext. 4177.

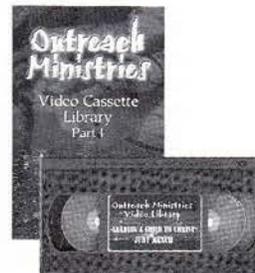
Outreach Ministries Video Library

Contains six videos on the following subjects:

- Part 1: "Reaching the Children"
"Leading a Child to Christ"
- Part 2: "Understanding the Minds of Children"
"Ministry to Children"
- Part 3: "Teen Suicide & Substance Abuse"
"Understanding the Urban Family"

Cost w/o video library holders: \$45

Cost w/ video library holders: \$60



Outreach Ministries Audio Library

Contains six audio cassettes in library holder with eight workshop topics:

- Part 1: "The Calling of God"
"Meeting the Social Needs of Inner City"
- Part 2: "Ministry to Royal Rangers in Urban Areas"
"Methods of Motivating Children"
- Part 3: "How to Share the Gospel One-on-One"
- Part 4: "The Role of the Church in Sex Education"
- Part 5: "Street Ministry"
- Part 6: "The Ministry of Drama"

Cost: \$25

Year 2000 Commemorative Gift Set

Limited Edition

Leader, here's a special Royal Rangers collectable you won't want to miss—the **Year 2000 Commemorative Gift Set**. The set includes a patch, bolo tie, and mug, each bearing the special commemorative design. This one-of-a-kind "millennial" set will commemorate 38 years of successful Royal Rangers ministry—from 1962 to 2000.

Set Cost: \$25 Cost Individually: \$5 patch, \$15 bolo tie, \$10 mug

To order, contact the national Royal Rangers Office at 417-862-2781, ext. 4177. Or send your request via e-mail—to include full name, mailing address, phone number, and GPH account number—to: RANGERS@AG.ORG.



Royal Rangers Advancing in Latin America

by Travis Spencer

Royal Rangers is not just a ministry for boys in the United States. According to missionary Doug Marsh, there are more than 30,000 boys in Latin America who are active in the Royal Rangers program.

"In 1989 we believe there were about 12,000 men and boys involved in Royal Rangers throughout Latin America," Marsh said. "Then, in 1995, our latest statistics show we have grown to about 30,000. We know we have grown a lot since then, and we're excited about it."

Marsh said the most exciting thing is to see boys come to Christ during weekly meetings, and not waiting until big events like Pow Wows and Camporamas. "If boys are coming to Christ at weekly meetings, that's an indicator our leaders are becoming evangelists to the boys," he said.

Ever since Marsh was appointed to Latin America in 1993, he and his colleagues have been working on a threefold strategy. First, they set out to establish relationships with national Royal Rangers leaders and missionaries in the 19 Latin American countries that are involved with Royal Rangers. Another goal was to continue developing training programs. Thirdly, they wanted to develop and distribute curriculum and material for the Royal Rangers program.

As part of the threefold strategy, Royal Rangers leadership in Latin America has built Camp Summit in Costa Rica to help train men to be better leaders.

"The whole idea is to develop a center that will enable us to better disciple today's boys to be tomorrow's men," Marsh said.

In 1996, missionaries Eugene Hunt, George Davis, and Marsh had the burden for the training center. In 1997, they purchased the training center after leaders in the United States raised funds to help finance the property.

Since then, Latin American leaders have been developing the facilities. Showers, rest rooms, a chapel, a cabin, teaching pavilions, and a dining facility have been built with the help of many churches and Pathfinder groups who have participated on short-term construction trips.

However, the training camp is far from completion. Marsh said there are at least 12 more projects on the agenda, and districts can help complete the projects by sending short-term construction teams.

Marsh also said there were remaining financial needs in regard to these projects. He invited individual outposts and districts to help fund the projects by providing cash offerings.

"We want teams to come down and help, but we also need money to help buy the materials," he said. "We need finances for a road system, furniture, tents,

appliances for the dining facility, and chairs for our meeting rooms."

Though Marsh doesn't hesitate to ask for support, he's also quick to show appreciation to all those who are a blessing to Latin America's Royal Rangers ministries. In that, he includes Davis and Hunt for their teamwork in Latin America, as well as all of the Royal Rangers boys and leaders in the United States for their continued prayer and financial support.

"We just want to thank everyone in the United States for their support," he said. "Thanks for having a missionary vision."

NEW!

FCF PRODUCTS

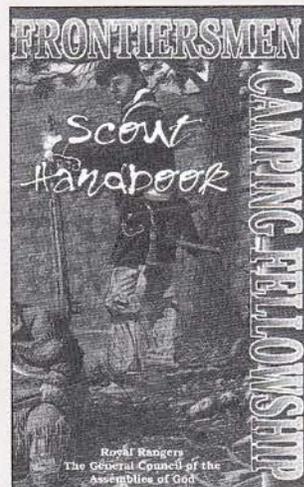
The national office, thanks to the financial backing of FCF, now has two new products of interest to FCF members: the *Pathfinder Missions* brochure and the *FCF Scout Handbook*. The brochure highlights the Pathfinder program and how FCF members can participate in this exciting overseas church construction ministry. The handbook includes needed information for FCF Scouts on the district, region, and national levels.

To Order,
Call 1-800-641-4310

**Pathfinder
Missions
Brochure**

Cost: \$0.10 ea.

ITEM NUMBER: 729-019



**FCF Scout
Handbook**

Cost: \$6.00

ITEM NUMBER: 729-026

Reaching Boys Through Camping

by Roy S. Nakai

Having been a part of five different outposts in five different states over the past 21 years, I have had vast experiences with Royal Rangers ministries. There is one constant, however: Boys are no different wherever one might go, with the exception of the way they are raised. God is working with each boy at his own pace. Some boys have that special touch and just go with it, whereas many others need to be nudged by their commanders and parents.

One boy in particular—Daniel Sandoval from Outpost 28 in Bellevue, Nebraska—is one of those special boys. However, he did not start out in Rangers that way. His parents have told me that, from Straight Arrows through Pioneers, he was an introvert, wanting to just go unnoticed. God had a plan for Daniel unknown to us, his Trailblazers commanders.

Daniel would come to the meetings as usual and participate in the meetings, but we could not get him motivated in advancements. It's hard to pinpoint the exact time we noticed a special talent that Daniel possessed. When leaders spend time with each boy at every meeting, boys will eventually come to the conclusion that they belong and they are important.

I have tried to make each boy feel special, no matter how unruly he may be or the lack of energy he may show. Daniel caught on very quickly with fire-craft, rope-craft, tool-craft, and many other camping aspects that are taught in Rangers.

From that point on, we asked Daniel to help the other boys in their campcraft skills. He was still very shy at age 13, but he excelled in the camping program. On campouts and Pow Wows, Daniel would take charge of the Trailblazers and Pioneers and lead them in building camp projects, such as a Chippewa kitchen, tool racks, and tables. This showed us that camping is what Daniel enjoyed most about being a Royal Ranger. He is an outdoor person.

When our Trailblazers group began to grow, we split it into two patrols and selected Daniel as the senior guide. At our church, one of the senior guide's duties is to bring the entire outpost group together at the end of the meeting for a devotion time. There he brings the outpost to attention, directs the color guards, and collects outpost attendance information from each group for the senior commander. Daniel was still unsure of himself at the beginning; yet with God's help and increased experience week in and week out, Daniel has become more confident in himself.

This past year, Daniel won the Outpost Ranger of the Year competition for Trailblazers. From there he went on to win the district level. Now Daniel had gone from being a member to being a leader.

Daniel was not an overnight success. Many boys are not. Time plays a big factor in our ministry, especially at the older level. God gives us each boy with whom we must do our best. We cannot waste time while we have them in our outposts, because there are so many outside distractions. We are considered fortunate at the Trailblazers level if we can minister to them through Royal Rangers for a full 3 years.

With God at the heart of the Royal Rangers program, and camping being one of our most important events, I know we will leave an impression on each boy. Out in the camping environment, each boy is on the same level, away from the safe confines of

his home. We are all at God's mercy in the outdoors. With successful campfire programs and other outdoor activities, it is a great way to get closer to each boy and to build that special relationship that lasts a lifetime. Without it, the Royal Rangers program would not be as successful as it is today. I am a true believer in what God is doing in Royal Rangers and what camping can do for everyone. Be a part of it today.

Roy Nakai serves as a lieutenant commander for Trailblazers in Outpost 18, Bellevue Christian Center, Bellevue, Nebraska. He also serves as the Nebraska District training coordinator.



FCF Corner

by James Kennedy, National FCF field advisor

RENDEZVOUS—RENDEZVOUS—RENDEZVOUS

Have you made your plans to attend Rendezvous 2000 at Eagle Rock, Missouri, July 17 - 21, 1999? It's not too late! All Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship members are invited and urged to attend.

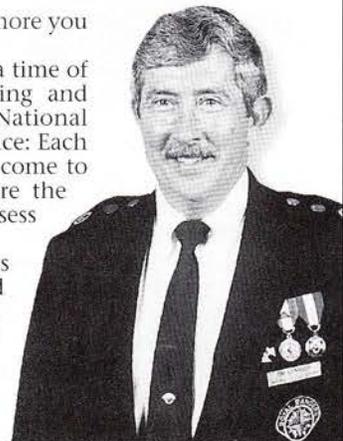
Some may ask, "What is a Rendezvous, and why should I attend?" The standard answer is to describe all the activities that occur at a Rendezvous: An outdoor event that includes black powder shooting; tomahawk and knife throwing; contests for best costume; flint and steel fire building; and trading and other frontier-related activities. There will also be colorful ceremonies, pageants, special features, unusual services, and outstanding speakers. All these exciting activities will be conducted during the National

Rendezvous. However, there is so much more you won't want to miss.

The National Rendezvous will offer a time of true friendship and a time of refreshing and renewal in the Lord. As well, the National Rendezvous will offer a learning experience: Each Old-timer and Young Buck alike should come to Camp Eagle Rock with a desire to share the frontiersmen-related skills that we possess with our brothers in Christ.

The bottom line to the answer is quite simple: Everyone who can should attend because we need more of God. And that's what we're wanting more than ever.

Come expecting great things from a Great God!



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Are you concerned about the needy? Do you see others—whether they meet your expectations or not—as God sees them? Our boys learn how to treat others by the way we do. Our actions speak louder than words.

Perhaps you will have the blessed opportunity to have a boy in your outpost who has a special need. You can teach the other Rangers how to love and respect others... even though they may not be like you are. Read this and think.

Her Name is KASSIDY

by Corrina Hyde, Durant, Oklahoma

I have worked with young children most of my adult life. Not having children of my own, I have found an outlet to "mother" and "nurture." I work with an Indian program in Southeast Oklahoma, designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Back in November 1995, something happened that changed my life. We were informed that our school was going to be admitting a "special needs child." That afternoon, before the child's mother came in to enroll her, we curiously looked over her application. I gasped as I read that at 3 years old she was a double amputee, from spinal meningitis. She was also reportedly missing several of her fingers.

When her mother came in to do the paperwork required to enroll her, we cautiously asked her where "Kassidy" was. She informed us that she was in the car—they had not brought her "legs," so she had remained in the car with a friend.

Here was a single mother with the weight of the world on her shoulders. While Kassidy was very excited about coming to school, her mother, on the other hand, was apprehensive. She shared stories of Kassidy's experiences with groups of children at day care centers and how she was shunned and how the other children were not comfortable with her, nor would they play with her.

We encouraged the mother to bring Kassidy in and show her around her new school. I was not prepared for this beautiful, smiling child who clung to her mother. Her knees wrapped tightly around her waist. Her mother set her on the floor and she took off to explore, running on her knees.

That week's curriculum was on the topic of dinosaurs, and her face lit up as she went from classroom to classroom, telling all she knew on the subject. When they left, I called the director of the



program and explained that, "I have to have this child!" Even though my classroom was full, I wanted her in it.

The next day, during learning time, I excitedly told all the boys and girls about Kassidy. I was so excited, that they became excited too. She began the next day and they loved and accepted her, because I did. Tottering on her prosthesis, she let the children touch her special legs.

A few weeks later, during an art project, she watched as we took each of the children's shoes off. She watched as we traced around their feet on a piece of paper and watched as they squirmed and giggled when the pencil went around their toes. When it was her turn, she insisted that we pull her shoes off too. That was not an easy task, but I did it. I stood her on the paper and started to trace around her perfect little plastic feet. When I started around the toes, she started to giggle wildly. I have never heard anything more beautiful, and more heartbreaking at the same time. It was all I could do to continue, and when I was through I excused myself, left my aide in charge, and left the room in tears.

You see, the art project involved drawing a flower. We traced their hands and fingers around the head of the flower to create the petals. The children's feet became the leaves of the stem. Because Kassidy only had a couple of fingers, her flower lacked all its petals. But she didn't mind. As a matter of fact, no child was more proud than Kassidy—her little flower with the missing petals! Her artwork was beautiful. The other children not only accepted her, but smothered her in love.

Kassidy taught me more that year and the next than I ever taught her. She taught me about adversity and how laughter could make even the most difficult conditions bearable.



Adventure in the Making

by Marshall Bruner, *Editor-in-chief*

What do science, computers, field trips, astronomy, and sports have in common with the Royal Rangers ministry? Plenty!

Perhaps you've not added up all the advancement opportunities we offer boys. Numerous awards and activities await Royal Rangers participation that are not included in the standard advancement trail. They offer a well-rounded opportunity to develop the total boy for Christ.

Let's start by looking at the variety of Achievement Badge activities that are ideal for the Straight Arrows and Buckaroos.

The Outing Achievement Badge is simple and fun for the boys to earn. The boys simply need to go on a Royal Rangers outing, then give an oral report after the trip. The outing can consist of a wide variety of activities. For example, many communities have nature centers that are sponsored by the state. The nature centers have trails to hike, wildlife to observe, and interesting facts to learn via video and print media. The nature center is intriguing, to say the least, and boys can learn much about God's creation.

A bike outing is another idea. Prior to the outing, instruct the boys to bring their bikes to the outpost meeting. Have an inspection to ensure each bike is in proper working condition. Invite a law enforcement officer to speak to the boys about bike safety rules.

Boys also enjoy outings that relate to the technical world, such as factories. By taking them to a factory, boys can learn how products—from tennis shoes to computers—are made. For example, if you have a newspaper company in your community, take them there to learn how the newspaper is produced.

If you want to couple an outing with a youth issue les-

son, take the Rangers to a prison, where they can go on a tour and hear a Christian law enforcement agent discuss why "Obeying the Laws of the Land" is important. Another idea is to involve the Rangers in a tour of a hospital, where a Christian nurse or health practitioner could speak on "The Body: A Miracle of God."

Many of these ideas can apply to boys in the Pioneers, Trailblazers, and Challengers programs. In addition, they have several merits at their fingertips that you can use to spice up the outpost meeting. Some of the merits require little preparation for the commander and offer a "funtastic" time for the Rangers.

Let's use the Puppeteer Merit for starters. Though you may have no experience in puppetry, your children's pastor likely does. The boys can learn this art, then apply their knowledge by conducting an outpost skit. Later they can put their experience to good use by conducting a children's crusade in the community.

The Missionettes could be invited to participate in the children's crusade, where the objective of the event is to introduce boys and girls to Christ Jesus, then to direct them into your church for discipleship. For us that spells new boys in the Rangers ministry!

The Photography Merit is another intriguing advancement boys enjoy earning. Many churches are full of men who are photography buffs and who could be invited to your outpost meetings to teach the skills needed to earn this merit.

Astronomy is another hobby I thoroughly enjoy. The study of God's sky lets me quickly understand the awesomeness of God. If you have a strong pair of binoculars or an inexpensive telescope, you can teach the Royal Rangers much about the starlit sky. The winter season offers an exceptional opportunity to view the constellations, because the sky is rid of humidity, which hinders good viewing. Arouse the interest of the boys by teaching the basics in the meeting room; then for their visual application, take them outside in an area away from city lights and on a night when the moon is not shining.

Perhaps you or some men in your church are auto mechanics. Here's an excellent opportunity for men to bond with boys by teaching them the skills needed to earn the Auto Merit. Again, I encourage you to seek out men in the church who do not normally participate as commanders. This way you can involve them in teaching auto mechanics while interesting them in the Rangers program. Many men have gotten "hooked" on Royal Rangers by first being used in areas that interest them.

There are all kinds of achievements you can offer the boys that are intriguing to them and to their commanders—even parents. Begin now by planning these outpost activities your Rangers will thoroughly enjoy.



THE KICKOFF
MILLENNIUM EVENT

National Rendezvous 2000

CAMP EAGLE ROCK
July 17-21, 2000

FRONTIERSMEN
CAMPING
FELLOWSHIP

EXPERIENCE

The Most Dynamic

National Rendezvous 2000

Date: July 17-21, 2000

Place: Camp Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock, Missouri

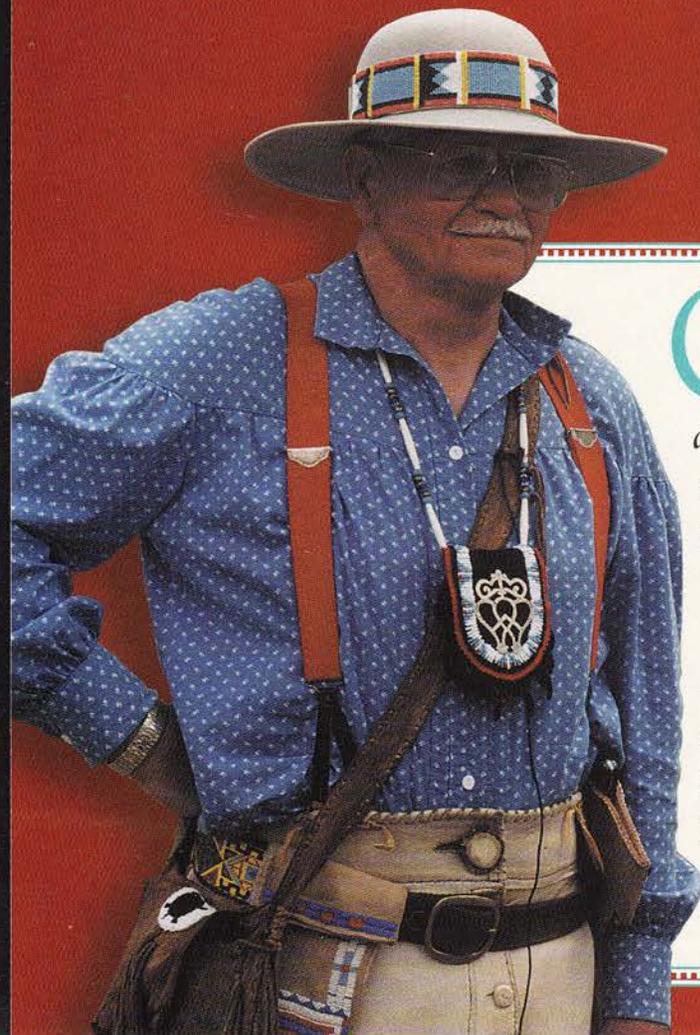
Cost: \$40 Young Bucks
\$50 Old-Timers



DYNAMIC EVENING SERVICES



FUN AND FOOFARAW



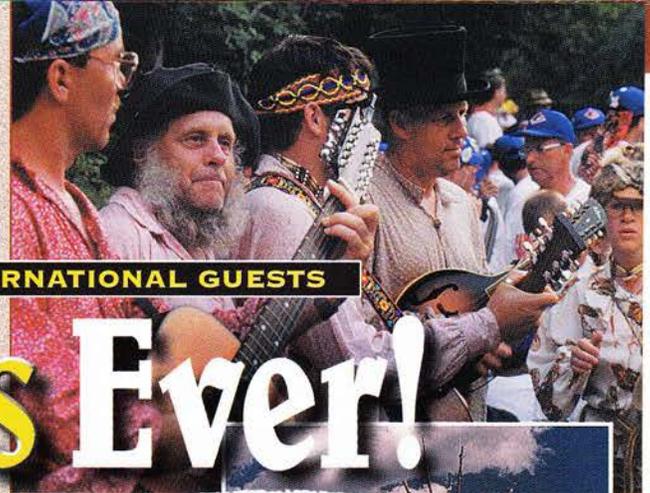
Come and experience the most dynamic Rendezvous ever! We're believing God for a great outpouring of His Spirit at this millennium kickoff event as He prepares us for the greatest Harvest challenge the Church has ever witnessed. You'll experience dynamic evening services. You'll enjoy great fellowship. And you can participate in frontier crafts and competition while relaxing in your teepee to the smell of freshly baked black kettle cobbler. You won't want to miss out!

Fred Deaver, FCF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

GUEST SPEAKERS

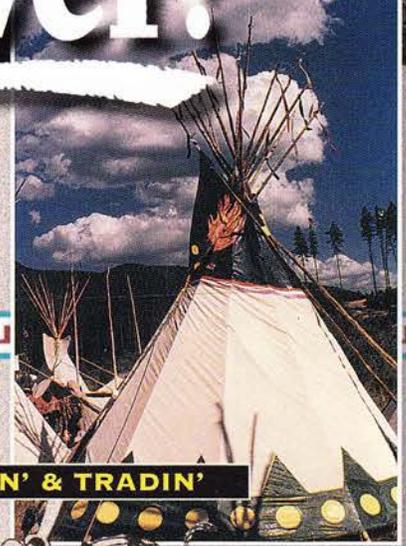
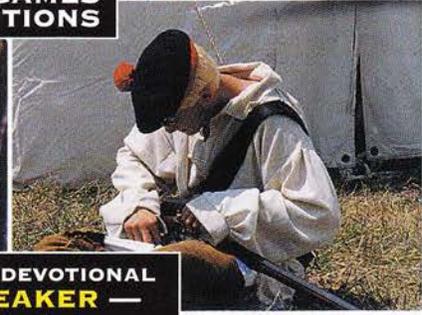
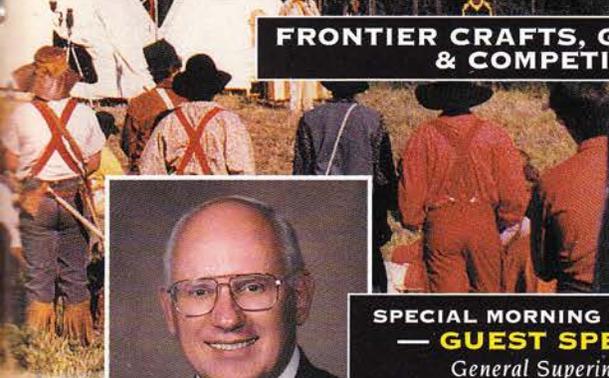


INTERNATIONAL GUESTS



Rendezvous Ever!

FRONTIER CRAFTS, GAMES & COMPETITIONS



SPECIAL MORNING DEVOTIONAL
— **GUEST SPEAKER** —
General Superintendent
THOMAS TRASK

COOKIN' & TRADIN'



SEND REQUEST FOR YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

He Directs Our Steps

by Brian Hendrickson

Division Commander Dan Kelly called me on Monday afternoon just as school ended. His first words were, "How would you like to go over to Tanner's house and congratulate him as the 1998 Straight Arrow District Ranger of the Year?"

Tanner was not only one of my Straight Arrows but was one of my first grade students, so naturally I was excited for him. Tanner and his family were not at home when we arrived, but we tracked him and his mother to her job as a day care provider. As we traveled to make the announcement, I began to remember all the things that Tanner overcame to get to this point.



In 1997 Tanner won at the local, sectional, and division levels of Straight Arrows Ranger of the Year competition. He then took fourth place in the district competition. He had accomplished so much in just 8 months. Tanner then began to plan and work hard for the 1998 Ranger of the Year competition.

However, Tanner's story of perseverance and fortitude began many years before this, when he was just a toddler. Tanner's parents had planned a trip to visit his grandma. On their way back, a deer, which are numerous in the Sierras, provided an opportunity for God to demonstrate His providence and care. The deer was in the direct path of the van. Tanner's dad tried to steer the van around the deer without success. The small deer was frozen by the light and was struck hard. It became lodged in the right front wheel well of the van.

Normally hitting a deer would cause some damage to the vehicle, but in this instance the van began to skid

uncontrollably, and eventually it rolled over and landed in a nearby ditch. The violent twisting and jerking of the van dislodged Tanner from his car seat, and he was ejected from the van onto the roadway. Tanner sustained life-threatening injuries which, if untreated, could result in rapid death.

The dad had driven a different way home than usual, and they found themselves in an unknown and deserted area. God's awesome care for His people became evident to the whole family. The deputy who was driving nearby saw



some light coming from the ditch. He stopped and heard voices and then quickly ran over to the scene. The deputy very rarely traveled this road, especially at night. Quickly, emergency services were called and Tanner was rapidly transported to a hospital. Tanner has numerous scars, which his body bears to this day as a reminder of God's sovereign grace.

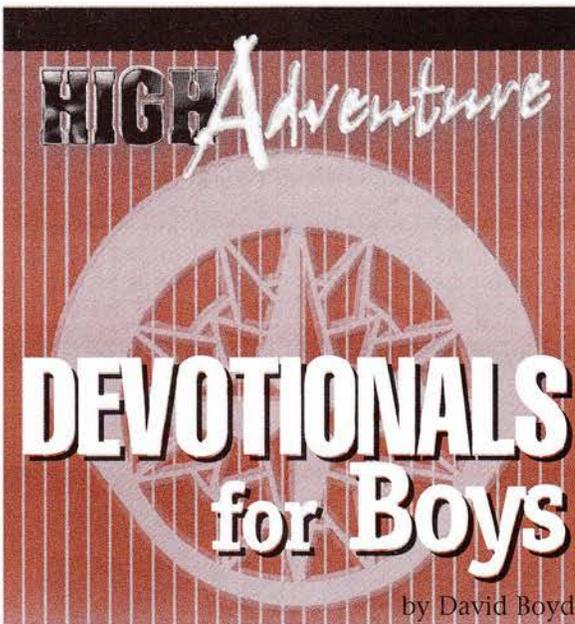
Tanner also received a severe head trauma, which has resulted in migraines that persist today. Once or twice a year I'll notice Tanner at school and see him turn white from the pain of the migraine. I'll send him home for a day or two to recover. Just 3 days before the District Royal Rangers of the Year competition, Tanner again turned that telltale white, and I sent him home. Later that night Tanner had a seizure, which he had never had before. Our outpost and his family prayed fervently for Tanner's recovery. Again God's grace prevailed, and Tanner was able to demonstrate his skill, his love for God, and his knowledge of the Straight Arrows program.



All throughout Tanner's life his family, his commanders, and he himself have planned different things in his life, but God has directed his steps. (See Psalm 16:9.)



Brian Hendrickson serves as a Straight Arrows commander at Outpost 272, Assembly of God, in Loyalton, California.



New Testament 2000 Pin



As the year 2000 quickly approaches, help prepare your Rangers for the greatest evangelism thrust known to this ministry. Begin by involving your Rangers in earning the New Testament 2000 pin. Our goal is to award the pin to every Royal Ranger for having read the entire New Testament by the year 2000. The pin will symbolize more than just the grand achievement itself: It will signify to everyone that Royal Rangers is gearing up spiritually for the year 2000 evangelism thrust.

Begin now by involving the Rangers in outpost activities related to New Testament reading. Boys can read along with an audiocassette recording of New Testament readings, for example. Whatever the approach, start today!

Here's how to order the New Testament 2000 pin:

- 1) Contact Gospel Publishing House at **1-800-641-4310.**
- 2) Order item 15-0759 and request the Royal Rangers "New Testament 2000" pin.

Prepare your Rangers today for the great evangelism trust tomorrow.

OBJECT LESSON

▶ Blameless lives

SUPPLIES

- A pitcher of water
- clear glasses
- dirt
- a tablespoon

Choose a boy as a volunteer. Try to choose the one in your outpost group who is the most squeamish. Choose the boy you don't think will want to drink the muddy water. Give the boy a glass of water. Then pour three large tablespoons of dirt into the water. Stir up the water and dirt and invite the boy to drink it. (If he begins to drink, stop him before he does. Continue on with the next glass.) After the boy refuses, give the boy another glass and fill it with water. Pour one tablespoon of dirt into the water and stir it up. Ask the boy to drink it. After he refuses, give him another glass and fill it with water. Pour a tiny bit of dirt into the glass. Ask him to drink it. When he refuses the third glass of water, pour a fourth glass of clean water and allow him to drink it. Ask the following questions: What was wrong with the water? Did less dirt in the water make the water okay to drink? What kind of water do you prefer to drink? Why is purity so important?

If the dirt represents sin and the water represents a Christian, what can you learn from this lesson? How much sin does God want us to have in our lives? Did God plan a way to purify our lives? Once we ask Jesus into our lives, does God want us to continue putting sin in our lives? Philippians 2:15 says, "so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe...." God wants our lives to be pure and holy. He wants us to be blameless. He wants us to shine brightly in this world that is full of so much sin.

<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

Learn it. Live it.

NATIONAL ROYAL RANGERS OFFICE

Phone: 417-862-2781, ext. 4181

E-mail: rangers@ag.org <http://royalrangers.ag.org>

OBJECT LESSON

▶ Salvation

SUPPLIES

- Four glasses used to represent four people

The day before the presentation place red food coloring in the bottom of one glass and allow it to dry there overnight. Place an Alka-Seltzer tablet in each of the four glasses. Pour water into the first three glasses (all except the one with red food coloring). The Alka-Seltzer will make the glasses fizz and fume. Explain the first three glasses represent people who go to church but don't allow the message to change their lives. The religious leaders of Jesus' day were much like that. They fussed and fumed about godly things. But when Jesus, God's Son, came to earth, they didn't even recognize Him. Explain that it takes more than going to church to make someone a Christian. You have to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Pour water into the fourth glass. This glass represents people who go to church and give their lives to Jesus. The blood of Jesus has washed their sins away. (The water will turn red.) Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" The last glass represents those who have been saved and who have allowed Jesus to make them into brand new persons who are washed clean through the saving power of Jesus.

OBJECT LESSON

▶ It takes both ends of the rope

SUPPLIES

- A rope

Hold a rope up and show it to the group. Tell them to imagine that a small child has fallen into an old mine shaft. The child is only about 2 or 3 years old. How could the group of kids in this class get the child out without anyone else's help? Allow them time to discuss this. Soon the logical answer will be that someone will have to go down into the shaft to grab the child since the child cannot hold onto the rope. Someone will have to go; the others will have to lower this person and hold onto the rope and pull both the person and the child out.

Compare this to missionaries. Their job is to go into the far-off places of the world. Our job is to send them, support them, and pray for them. Missionaries could not do their job without the help of people to give money to support them. When we support them financially, we become the people at the other end of the rope who support the work the missionaries are doing. They also need us to pray. When we pray and give, we are doing our part to hold the other end of the rope. We can all give and pray even if it's not our turn to go. In Mark 16:15 Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." We all have our part to do if we are going to reach the world for Jesus before He comes.

OBJECT LESSON

▶ Don't let Satan blow it out

SUPPLIES

- A candle for everyone in class
- small pieces of paper with a hole pierced into the middle of each
- matches

Give each boy a candle and a small piece of paper with the hole pierced in the middle. Have them shove the candle through the hole so the paper protects their hands from the hot wax. Light your candle at the front of the classroom. Shut off all of the lights. Ask, "How important is it to let your light shine?" Now talk about the darkness. Satan wants the Christian's light to go out. God wants the Christian's light to shine. The Bible says in Matthew 5:15, "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl." Satan tries to get us to hide our light. God's Word says in Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." God wants us to share our light by doing good deeds for others and telling others about Jesus.

Share your light with a couple of boys. Have those boys follow your example and share their lights until the entire room is lit by candles. Talk about how much brighter it is when all the candles are lit. God wants us to let our light shine to those around us so the whole world will see the light of Christ.

Explain that Satan wants to tempt Christians to turn their backs on God. As you talk, walk around the room and blow out someone's candle. Talk about how Satan tricks people into leaving Jesus behind. Satan cannot force us to leave Jesus, but he is called "the father of lies." He lies to us and tries to convince us that life would be more fun without Christ. But he is a liar!

Ask the others around the boy whose light you blew out, "What should you do if you know a boy who has stopped coming to church?" Talk about ways they can help to bring someone who has gone astray back to Jesus. Allow them to relight the boy's candle that you blew out.

Encourage the children to be on guard throughout the years ahead, because the Bible says that the devil prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour. Never allow Satan to trick you into letting your light go out.

CRAFTS for Kids

NEEDED ITEMS

- 1 - quart-size jar
- 1 - quart clear lamp oil
- 1 set of new lids (ring and flat)
- 1 glass encased fiberglass candle wick
(At the hobby store, ask for bottle converter candlewick.)
- 1 cup of Christmas scented potpourri
- 3 narrow pinecones *(approximately 2 inches long)*
- 4 or 5 sweet gum balls
- 1 or 2 silk poinsettia blossoms
- 1 or 2 Christmas picks
(such as holly and berries or nuts)
- 1 small swatch of real pine needles
- 2 or 3 cinnamon sticks

***This candle can be made for different seasons by just changing the contents. They can also be made in pint-size fruit jars and make great center pieces for banquets or gifts for friends. If any of the above listed items are not available in your area, you may substitute local dried vegetation.*

Place the potpourri in the bottom of the jar. Place the rest of the items in one by one, so that each piece is arranged to be seen, if one gets only a glimpse. Make sure the poinsettia blossoms are flat out against the glass; it will be much prettier. Leave enough room for the glass cylinder holding the candle wick to slide down into the center, but pack in the sweet gum balls and the pinecones so they will hold the other items down and keep them from floating.

Next you will need to drill a hole in the flat lid the size of the glass cylinder, so the cylinder can be inserted into the jar through the hole. The little glass bib of the holder will rest on the top of the flat. Slowly pour the clear lamp oil into the packed jar, filling it to the top, leaving only 1 inch head space to accommodate the candle wick. Insert the wick in the hole, and carefully place the flat on the jar and tighten the ring.

You can tie a colorful array of tiny ribbons in Christmas colors just under the rim of the jar at the top, or you can keep the country look by tying on a few strands of raffia, jute, or twine.



ATTENTION DISTRICT COMMANDERS...

Please send us news of your Pow Wows, District/Sectional events, and reports of ministry from the Convoy of Hope, Harvest Task Force, and other events happening in your area.

Thank You!



"Someday, son, you'll finally be old enough to do anything you want to do...but your son will have the car, so you'll have to stay home and watch television."

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR **2000**

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 a National Training Camp before enrolling.

- FLORIDA: FORT MEADE (CAMP WILDERNESS), FEBRUARY 4-7
- IOWA: OGDEN (A/G CAMPGROUNDS), MAY 20-23
- MARYLAND: WHITEFORD (CAMP SPENCER, BSA), SEPTEMBER 16-19
- PUERTO RICO: SAN SEBASTIAN, NOVEMBER 18-21



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.

- NORTH TEXAS: MAYPEARL (LAKEVIEW CAMP), FEBRUARY 26-28
- IOWA: OGDEN (ASSEMBLY OF GOD CAMP), APRIL 9-11
- WEST VIRGINIA: FALLING WATERS (ASSEMBLY OF GOD CAMP), APRIL 15-17
- UTAH: LIBERTY (CAMP UTABA), SEPTEMBER 10-12
- OHIO: BIG PRAIRIE (ASSEMBLY OF GOD CAMP), SEPTEMBER 16-18
- MISSOURI: ROCKY MOUNT (ASSEMBLY OF GOD CAMP), OCTOBER 22-24



EAGLE ROCK ADVENTURE is a 7-day, action-packed camp for Royal Rangers ages 12-17 who are accompanied by their commanders. Campers will participate in activities that will enable them to earn merits currently not available to other Rangers.

- MISSOURI: EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK), JULY 13-19



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.

- MINNESOTA: PILLAGER (LAKE PLACID CAMP), JULY 22-25



NATIONAL TRAINING TRAILS allows leaders to participate in outstanding, rugged outdoor activities surrounded by some of America's most beautiful scenery. Leaders will be on the trail 4 exciting days, carrying all their gear and food in backpacks.

- MICHIGAN: LACHINE (BEAVER LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH), MAY 27-30
- NEW YORK: BAKERS MILL, SEPTEMBER 23-26



NATIONAL ACADEMY is a national training school designed to train selected leaders to become staff members for national training camps.

- MISSOURI: EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK), PHASE 2—MAY 12-16
- MISSOURI: EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK), PHASE 3—MAY 10-16



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 region, contact your district commander.





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

- The outpost must have an up-to-date charter.
- The commander must have completed the *Leadership Training Course*.
- 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 _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 PHONE (____) _____
 RELATIONSHIP _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____
 DISTRICT _____ OUTPOST # _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ APPLICANT'S RR POSITION _____

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



CAMP LOCATIONS FOR 2000

1	[]	FLORIDA	FORT MEAD (CAMP WILDERNESS)	FEBRUARY 3-6	2000
2	[]	WISCONDIN	WICONSIN RAPIDS (CAMP ALEXANDER)	MAY 4-7	2000
3	[]	N. CALIFORNIA	MINERAL (CAMP MT. LASSEN)	MAY 18-21	2000
4	[]	INDIANA	BRUCEVILLE (CAMP ARTHUR)	MAY 18-21	2000
5	[]	MISSISSIPPI	KOSCIUSKO (INDIAN SPRINGS CAMP)	MAY 18-21	2000
6	[]	S. CALIFORNIA	FRAZIER WOODS CONF. CTR.	SEPTEMBER 7-10	2000
7	[]	S. MISSOURI	EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK)	SEPTEMBER 7-10	2000
8	[]	NEW JERSEY	WOODSTOWN (CAMP ROOSEVELT, BSA)	SEPTEMBER 7-10	2000
9	[]	ALABAMA	SPRINGVILLE (CAMP LONE EAGLE)	OCTOBER 5-8	2000
10	[]	N. TEXAS	MAYPEARL (LAKEVIEW CAMP)	OCTOBER 5-8	2000

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:\mydocs\camps\applications\ntc_ap99.doc rev 06-18-98 .dpl

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 military 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal first aid kit Pocket knife and whetstone Hand ax 8-inch mill file Compass (Silva style preferred) Waterproof match container with matches <i>Adventures in Camping</i> handbook <i>Royal Rangers Leaders Manual</i> Small Bible Pen and pencil
---	--

OPTIONAL ITEMS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compact sewing kit Survival kit Camera Suntan lotion Sunglasses Pillow
--	---

A.D. 1-2000

1551 What abbreviation for Christmas was begun by using a Greek letter which means "Christ" and which is not popular among Christians?

(Xmas)

1661 In what language was the first Bible published in America?

(Algonquin Indian)

1752 What famous bell has a Bible verse on it?

(The Liberty Bell—Leviticus 25:10)

1780 What special school was started for children on Sundays?

(Sunday School)

1818 What Christmas carol was written for the guitar when the church organ broke down?

(Silent Night)

1828 What non-religious book contained the largest number of definitions for biblical words?

(Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language)

1844 What biblical event did one church leader predict would happen that year?

(Judgment Day)

1844 Begun as a religious organization, what do the letters YMCA stand for?

(Young Men's Christian Association)

1844 What invention carried these words as its first message, "What hath God wrought!"

(Samuel Morse's telegraph)

1880 What book about a Roman commander who meets Jesus was written by a Civil War general?

(Ben Hur, by General Lew Wallace)

1898 Founded this year, what group is known for putting Bibles in hotel rooms?

(The Gideons, in the small town of Bosobel, Wisconsin)

1925 What trial debated the teaching of evolution vs. creation in schools?

(The Scopes Trial, also known as the "Monkey Trial")

1954 Written by a minister in 1892, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. Where did these two words come from?

(Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address")

SOURCES

Federer, William J. *America's God and Country*. Coppell, TX: FAME Publishing, Inc.: 1994.

Feldman, David. *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise?* New York: Harper and Row, Publishers: 1987.

Land, J. Stephen. *The Big Book of American Trivia*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: 1997.

Taylor, Mark D. *The Complete Book of Bible Literacy*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: 1992.

U.S. Naval Observatory—Astronomical Applications Dept. *The 21st Century and the Third Millennium*.
vy.mil/AA/faq/docs/faq2.html.
April 5, 1999.



I'M NOT SURE THIS WINTER SURVIVAL CAMPOUT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

ALL THIS WET, SOGGY FIREWOOD...MATCHES DON'T STAY LIT LONG ENOUGH TO CATCH IT ON FIRE!

I'M WET, FREEZING, MISERABLE AND HUNGRY-ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

HEY, GUYS, WE DID HAVE A GREAT DAY TODAY!

ME TOO!

RASCAL RANGERS



by Craig Schutt

YEAH!

OKAY, FELLAS! EVERYBODY MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT ALL YOUR GEAR PACKED UP TIGHT! IT'S GOING TO BE A COLD ONE!

LET'S SEE WHO CAN GET THERE FIRST!

GUYS, WAIT UP!

THIS IS THE LIFE!

ALRIGHT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN THAT THIRD BIG MAC!

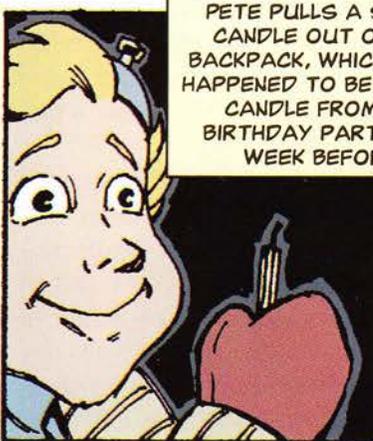


IT'S NO USE! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MATCHES, AND IT STILL WON'T LIGHT!

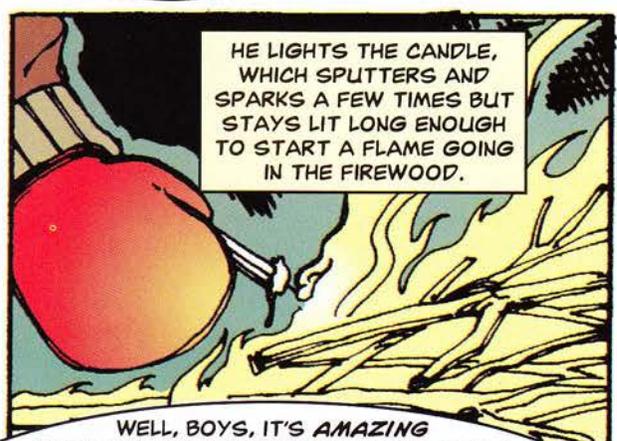
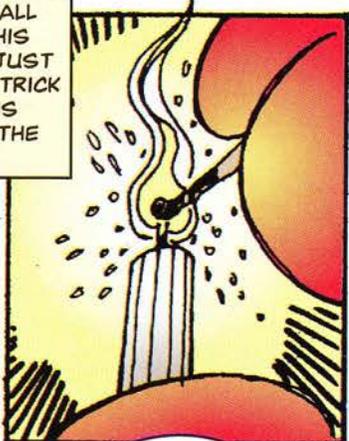
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? NO FIRE, NO FOOD!

I DON'T THINK I CAN FEEL MY FINGERS.

HEY, GUYS, WAIT A MINUTE—I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS EARLIER!



PETE PULLS A SMALL CANDLE OUT OF HIS BACKPACK, WHICH JUST HAPPENED TO BE A TRICK CANDLE FROM HIS BIRTHDAY PARTY THE WEEK BEFORE.



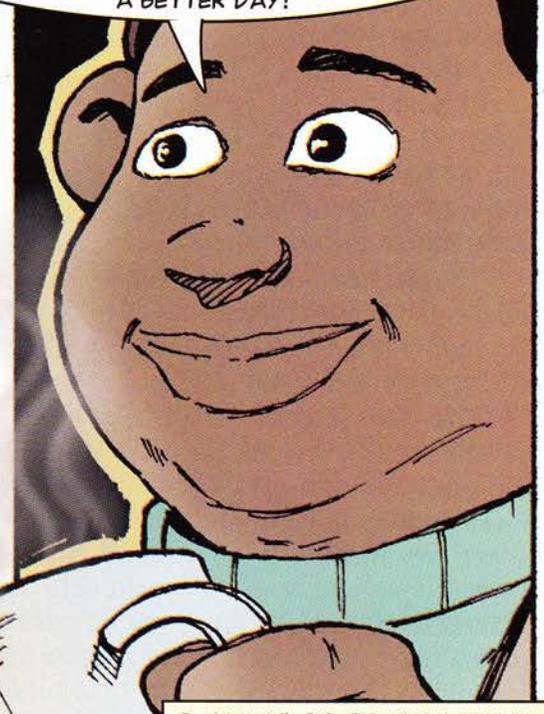
HE LIGHTS THE CANDLE, WHICH SPLUTTERS AND SPARKS A FEW TIMES BUT STAYS LIT LONG ENOUGH TO START A FLAME GOING IN THE FIREWOOD.



THAT FEELS GREAT!

THANK YOU, LORD!

WELL, BOYS, IT'S AMAZING WHAT A LITTLE CANDLE CAN DO TO MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK DIFFERENT, AND PRETTY HOPELESS. BUT WHEN JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE AGAIN, HE SPARKED A WHOLE NEW FIRE THAT SWEEP THE WORLD; THAT FIRE WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND GAVE BOYS AND MEN ALIKE A NEW HOPE FOR A BETTER DAY!



2 SAMUEL 22:29—"YOU ARE MY LAMP, O LORD; THE LORD TURNS MY DARKNESS INTO LIGHT."



by Robb Hawks

"It's got to be around here somewhere," Darby Jones, Sr. said.

"You've been saying that for 6 hours, Dad," I said in exhaustion. "And I'll say it again: It's not here."

"It is here. The map isn't wrong. All our research is not wrong. We will find it," my Dad said again.

My dad, Darby Jones, Sr., is the commander of our outpost. And me, I'm Darby Jones, Jr. The crazy things my dad gets us into have been the subject of the numerous pages of my diary. This latest adventure all started with a visit to the old county library. What started out as finding a map of the local woods turned into a hunt for buried treasure.

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!"

"Commander Jones! Commander Jones!" Ricky cried. "Did you hear that?"

We had all heard the scream. Dad was counting heads to make sure everyone was there when he discovered that Joe was missing.

The treasure hunt suddenly became a search and rescue. We divided into groups of three then began to fan out in different directions. Ricky and Henry went with me while my Dad lead another group.

The trees, bushes, and weeds were thick. We picked our way through the jungle-like growth, walking side by side an arms reach away from each other. Ricky was on my left, and Henry was on my right. When we came to a huge, ancient oak tree, Ricky and I walked around it on the left, and Henry went around it on the right. But when we came around the other side, Henry was gone—totally disappeared without so much as a whisper!

"Stop fooling with us!" Ricky yelled to Henry. But there was no reply.

"Come on, Henry. This isn't funny. We're supposed to be looking for Joe, not for you," I called out. Henry didn't answer. Ricky's eyes were as big as golf balls. He really looked scared. I probably looked the same.

What was happening? I thought. *First Joe and now Henry. Who's going to be next?*

"You go around the tree one way, and I'll go around the tree the other way," Rick suggested. "We'll meet on the other side, okay?"

"Are you nuts?" I replied. I was not liking this at all. But we had to do something. So reluctantly I agreed. I retraced the steps I had just made, walking back around the tree. Ricky walked around the opposite side, the way that Henry had gone. Within a brief moment I had pushed my way through the undergrowth and was standing at the base of the old oak.

"Hurry up, Ricky," I said. There was no reply. "Ricky! This isn't funny!" Still no reply.

This was just too much. I wasn't about to wait around and let whatever it was that got Henry and Ricky to get me! I picked up my feet and took off running back toward the last place I had seen my dad.

"Help! Help! Help!" I screamed in terror as I raced back up the path.

My dad, Harry, and Dennis soon appeared, running from the opposite direction. Panting and gasping for breath, I quickly explained what had happened. In moments we all stood before the old oak tree. My dad was not about to take a chance on losing another boy. From his back pack he took out a rope and tied it around each of our waists. I would lead off the search party, followed by my father and then the other two.

With a deep breath, I took my first step around the tree, following in Henry's and Ricky's foot steps. Nothing happened. That was good sign. I took another step. Still nothing. With a sigh of relief, I took another step and suddenly dropped through a grass-covered hole in the ground. It happened so fast I didn't have a chance to cry out.

The drop was cut abruptly short when I landed on my backside. I couldn't see a thing. It was pitch black, but I obviously was sitting in some sort of cave. A moment later there was a tug on the rope around my waist and then suddenly a shaft of light appeared. I looked up to see my father's face peering down through the hole.

"Are you okay?" He called.

"Yeah. I'm fine," I called back. "Throw down a flashlight!"

A moment later, using my dad's flashlight, I lit up

the cave. There in front of me sat three frightened Royal Rangers. And just to the right of them sat an old box. The treasure! We had accidentally discovered the hidden treasure!

We were soon out of the cave and back at the church with our prize. Our excitement was overwhelming. Dad carefully cut the old padlock off of the box, using a big set of bolt cutters. We all leaned over in expectation as the lid of the box was slowly opened.

Our excitement turned to surprise and then to disappointment. It contained no gold or treasure ... just a bunch of old papers and some junk that had no real value. My dad began to look through the papers. Suddenly a broad smile crossed his face.

"What an incredible treasure this is!" He yelled. We all gave him dumb looks. What could he possibly mean. It was just paper and junk.

"This old treasure box is actually a time capsule."

"A time what?" Henry asked.

"A time capsule," he repeated. "A time capsule is a container in which you put things you think are important and leave for others to discover many years later. We have discovered one that was first set in that cave in the year 1900. This letter was written by Dr. Jedidiah Abercrombe. It is dated January 1, 1900. He explains that he made the box and put newspaper clippings in it of the events that heralded the new century. He wanted to set them aside as a memory of his time and as a hope for a bright new century."

Dad read on: "Apparently the box was discovered by a girl named Martha Mitchel in the year 1944. She included a letter of her own. She also included some newspaper clippings along with these empty brass machine gun shells. They were her addition as a reminder of World War II and the hope that the sec-

ond half of this century would be more peaceful than the first half."

"Wow, that's amazing!" Ricky said.

"Not as amazing as this next set of letters," Dad continued. "Look at these." Dad carefully laid the papers on the table. We were all shocked as we recognized the emblem at the top of each page. There were five letters written on Royal Rangers stationary. The colors were faded and the paper was yellowed, but there was no mistaking the distinctive Rangers emblem.

"The time capsule was discovered again in 1969 by a Royal Rangers outpost," Dad said with excitement. "Now, 30 years later, we have discovered it."

I couldn't contain my excitement. We had all discussed what we were going to do with the treasure on the drive back to the church. I now knew exactly what we should do. We were going to put it back. We each added letters of our own dated, January 1, 2000. We also each included something special.

Henry put his Pioneers' Mountainman pin into the box. Joe put in a picture of his dog. I placed my copy of the Royal Rangers New Testament into the box with a letter attached. It explained my faith in God and the plan of salvation.

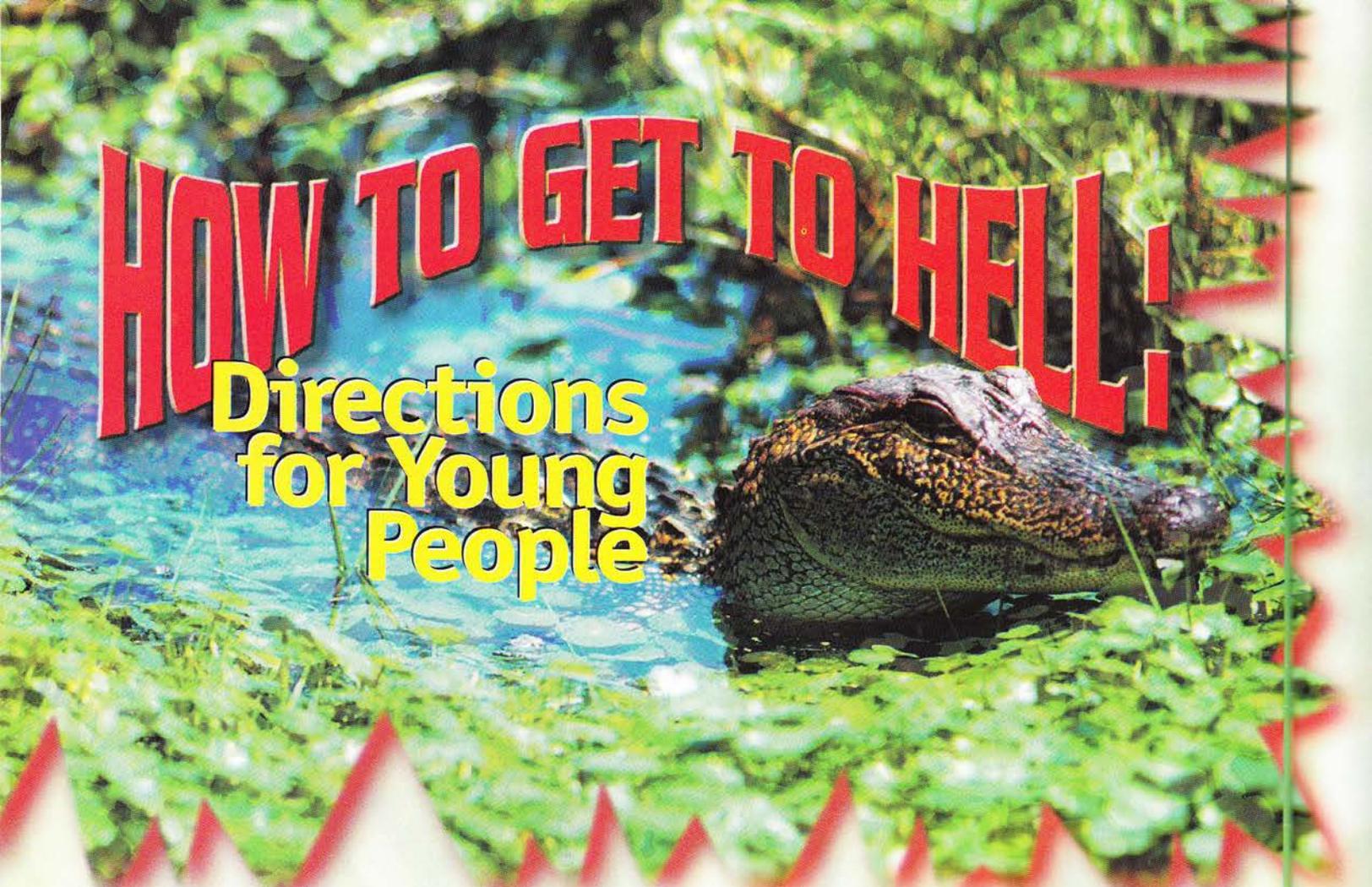
We sealed all the letters up in a plastic ziplock bag inside the trunk then returned it to its hiding place in the cave. All the way home we talked about what had happened during our century ... and wondered if indeed the return of Jesus would happen in the early years of the new millennium.

The story of our lives continues on. Now it's up to us to change the history of the lives of others, by sharing the good news of Christ Jesus. What will the new millennium hold for you?



*Ricky's eyes were as big as golf balls.
He really looked scared.*

ILLUSTRATION BY DON JONES

A photograph of a crocodile resting in a shallow, clear river in a lush green jungle. The crocodile is the central focus, with its head and part of its body visible. The water is bright blue, and the surrounding foliage is vibrant green. The entire image is framed by a red, jagged, sawtooth-like border. Overlaid on the top left of the image is the title 'HOW TO GET TO HELL!' in large, bold, red, 3D-style letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Directions for Young People' is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font.

HOW TO GET TO HELL!

Directions for Young People

The Malay jungle has some very wide rivers, up to 200 yards across. Swimming one of them is NOT what I would have planned for my 21st birthday, but it is exactly what happened. I was just getting dry when an old, old man came to the river's edge and told me that most people who swam that particular river were eaten by crocodiles. How could I have forgotten about the crocodiles? It was one of the first things they told me when I was welcomed into the country.

There were a lot of reasons: partly to show off, partly to have fun, and partly because I wanted to make friends. Believe me, not one of those reasons is good enough to swim with hungry, 16-foot, many-toothed monsters. Looking back, however, I did learn one important thing: Satan is like a crocodile. He can gobble up your soul just like crocodiles gobble up flesh and bones.

Can you pretend I am like that old man coming to warn you about an unseen monster, Satan himself? He has some very clever ways of dragging people down to the bottom of hell—ways you need to know.

Baby steps. Nobody would walk right into hell. It is too horrible. Satan gets most souls a little at a time—a little lie, a little theft, a little bullying, a little sin of any sort. Sin might seem safe, like swimming, but *you* never know when a crocodile—or Satan—will snatch you. Just because you can't see him doesn't mean he is not lurking just out of sight.

Just follow your feelings. Fear, anger, loneliness, and especially hopelessness, are very strong emotions. They can FEEL terrible. Most of us will do anything to cover them up or escape from them: cigarettes, drugs, television, music, anything. The problem is that emotions just get stronger

and more dangerous when we cover them. Emotions belong out in the open. We need to share them with God and with others. Your emotions can make you want to jump into a new experience others have told you is dangerous. Don't!

And don't avoid God, His people, and His Book. Say the words, "Christian World View." Understanding them is a gift only God can give. What they mean is an inner knowledge that God created this earth out of nothing but love and that it could wink out of existence as quickly as it was created. This world we see is NOT solid. What is solid is God's love and the Bible.

Being born again is being enabled to see that invisible things are much more real than what we do see. Until we ask God for this second birth, we are blind indeed. Blind people wander right into hell because they have no idea what is going on around them or inside them.

When we get saved, an important part of the new life is having the eyes of our true understanding opened. Don't stay blind. Find out what being born again is all about.

NOTE:

This is a warning about Satan just like the old man gave me about crocodiles. I hope it sticks in your mind as it did in mine. Don't take baby steps, just dipping your toe in sin is close enough for Satan or a crocodile to get you.

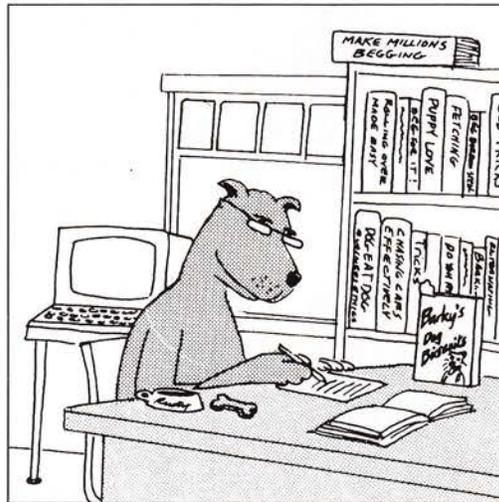
Don't follow your emotions; share them with God and others. Adjust your world view.

God is not just a helper to get through life. He wants to open your eyes to see the world for what it really is—a hatching ground for the second birth; a stepping stone to the invisible. Truly, "this is my Father's world." But look out for sin and Satan.

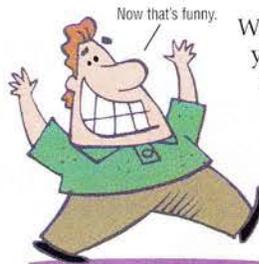
What kind of car does Mickey Mouse's wife drive? A minnie van!

How did the farmer fix his jeans? With a cabbage patch!

COMEDY CORNER



For advanced obedience training, Rusty did a paper called "Unleashing your Potential."



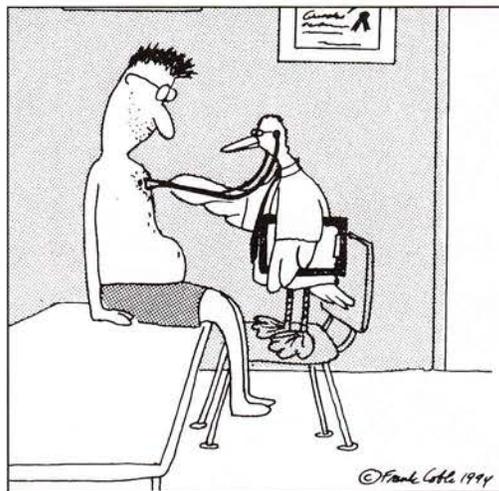
What do you say when you meet a two-headed monster?

Hello, hello!

What smells of fish and goes round and round at 100 miles per hour?

Goldfish in a blender!

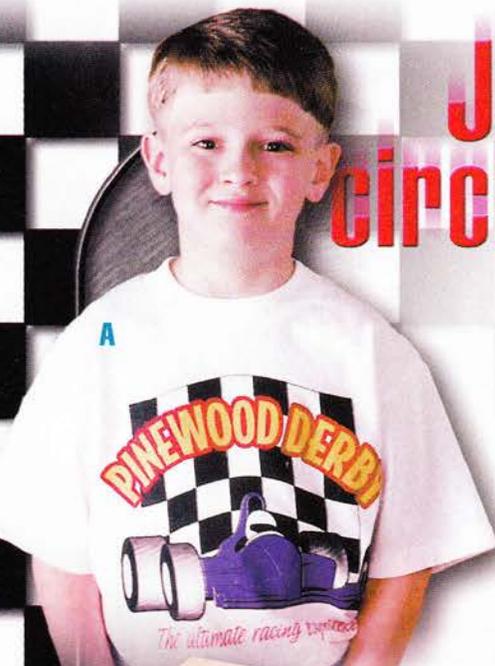
This morning my dad gave me soap flakes instead of corn flakes for breakfast. I bet you were mad. Mad? I was foaming at the mouth!



Hank couldn't shake the feeling that his doctor might be a quack.

Knock Knock... Who's there? **Raleigh!** Raleigh who? **Raleigh!** Raleigh round the flag boys!

Jump into the winner's circle with Pinewood Derby!



A. PINWOOD DERBY T-SHIRTS

Give your racers a winning edge with this white T-shirt featuring an "Indy style" theme.

Boys S (6-8)	08GL5743	\$7.99
Boys M (10-12)	08GL5745	\$7.99
Boys L (14-16)	08GL5746	\$7.99
Adult S	08GL5747	\$8.99
Adult M	08GL5748	\$8.99
Adult L	08GL5749	\$8.99
Adult XL	08GL5750	\$8.99
Adult 2L	08GL5751	\$9.99
Adult 4XL	08GL5752	\$16.50

H. ACRYLIC PAINT KIT

Your car wouldn't be complete without a shiny coat of paint. Kit comes with 2 brushes and 6 mini-pots of paint (red, blue, green, yellow, white, and black).

18GL7541 \$1.50

I. LEAD WEIGHT

Weight bar attaches under car with 2 screws (included). 3.5 oz.

18GL7543 \$1.50

J. RACER DISPLAY STAND

Oak-mounted, sleek metal bracket holds car in trophy-like splendor. (Car not included.)

17GL5960 \$4.49

B. PINWOOD CAR KIT

Get started on your car today. Kit contains soft wood (pine) car body, black plastic wheels, axles, and screws.

18GL7540 \$2.05

C. PINWOOD WEDGE CAR KIT

Ideal for younger boys. Soft wood (pine) body is precut into basic car shape. Comes with black plastic wheels, axles, and screws.

18GL7556 \$2.30

D. GRAPHITE LUBE

Micro-fine graphite keeps wheels running smooth race after race.

18GL7542 \$1.50

E. WINDSHIELD KIT

Customize your car with one of several design options. Kit includes driver, roll bar, seat back, and vinyl patterns. Attaches with glue.

17GL5955 \$2.69

F. STEERING WHEEL

Give your car a finished look with this wooden steering wheel. Attaches with a screw (included) and still turns.

17GL7399 20c

G. HEADLIGHTS

Ready to paint and glue on, these headlights add a classy look to your car.

17GL7400 20c

CHECKERED FLAGS

Build race day excitement with this string of 15 checkered plastic flags. 30' string. (Same as border.)

17GL7398 \$6.50

K. WET PROCESS DECALS

Go for a professional detail job with these easy-to-use decals. Dip in water, hold in place, and remove backing paper.

Requires a glossy surface.

Flames 4 7/16 x 7 7/8" 14GL6826 \$2.55

Sponsor #1 3 1/8 x 7 1/2" 14GL6827 \$2.55

Sponsor #2 3 1/8 x 7 1/2" 14GL6828 \$2.55

Number sheet #24 5 5/16 x 7 7/8" 14GL6830 \$2.55

L. DRY TRANSFER DECALS

Apply in seconds! High-quality, rub-on decals are perfect for contours and textures.

Custom Designs 4 x 5" 14GL6902 \$3.98

Nascar 4 x 5" 14GL6901 \$3.98

Turbo 2 1/2 x 4" 14GL6909 \$2.69

Magnum 2 1/2 x 4" 14GL6906 \$2.69

A full line of Pinewood Derby products, including detection unit, track kit, trophies, ribbons, more decals, and more weights, can be found in the Royal Rangers catalog. Get your catalog today by calling 1-800-641-4310. Ask for item number 75GL2028.

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

Fax toll free **1(800)328-0294** (\$5 minimum)

International Fax **1(417)862-5881**

GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE • 1445 N. Boonville Avenue • Springfield, MO 65802-1894

All orders subject to credit approval. Prices subject to change without notice. Postage and handling charges: Less than \$10.00, 15%; \$10.00-\$49.99, 10%; \$50.00 or more, 8%. For shipments outside the U.S., actual postage costs are billed. Where applicable, state and local sales tax will be added.

