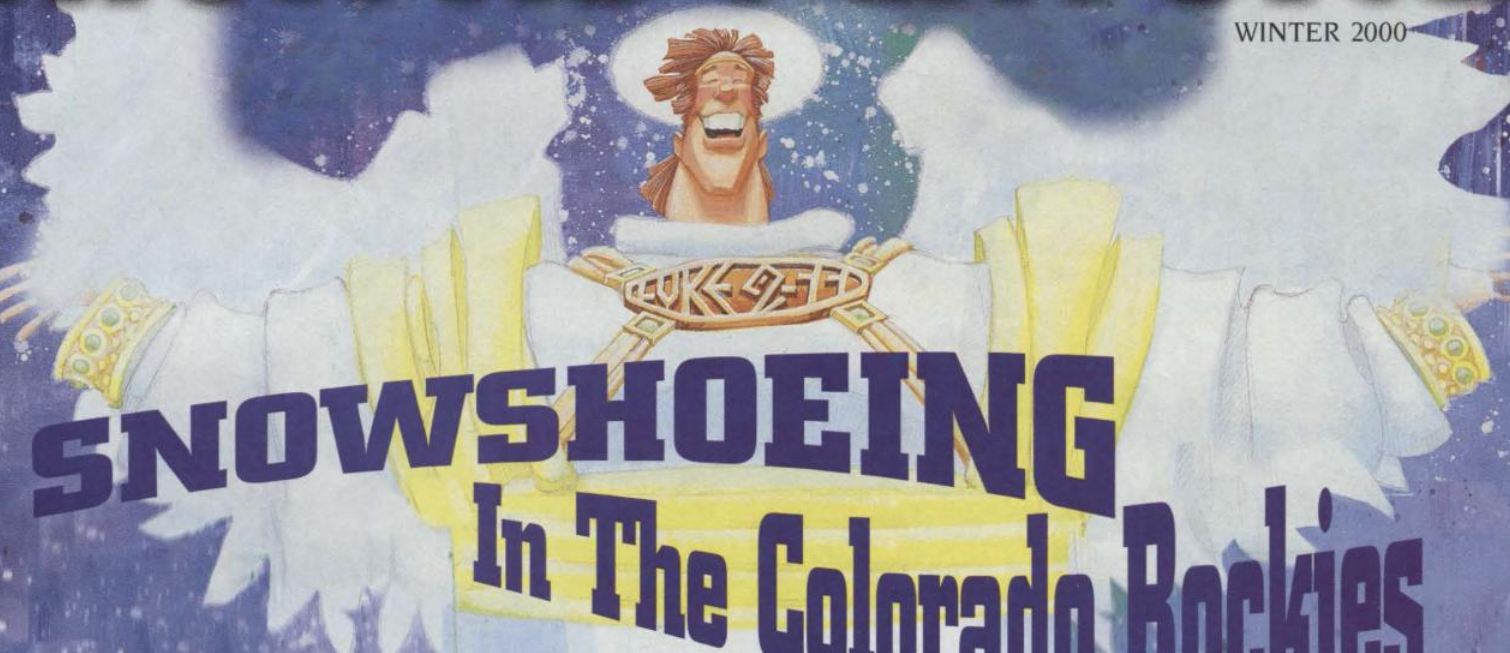


HIGH ADVENTURE

WINTER 2000



SNOWSHOEING In The Colorado Rockies

***"Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you good tidings
of great joy which will
be to all people.
For there is born to you
this day in the city
of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord."***

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT
Robert Dee Crabtree
Involved in Royal Rangers**

**WHO IS THE
HOLY SPIRIT?**



<http://royalrangers.ag.org>





HIGH ADVENTURE



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Richard Mariott, *Publications Manager*

Gerald Parks, *Editor-in-chief*

Don Jones — BROTHER JONES ARTWORKS, *Design*

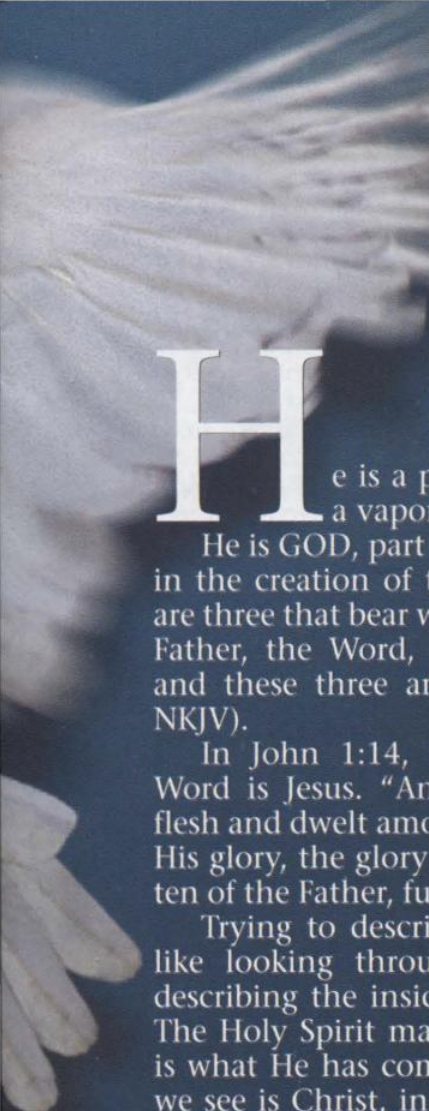
James Erdman, *Technical Editor*

Shirley Speer, *Technical Proofer*

Heather Watts, *Special Assistant*

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to minister to every boy and girl, man and woman, who believes Jesus is the Son of God.

WHO IS



H e is a personality. He is **not** a vapor. He is **not** an IT.

by Ed **LIGGITT**

He is GOD, part of the Trinity. He was in the creation of the world. "For there are three that bear witness in Heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one" (1 John 5:7, NKJV).

In John 1:14, NKJV, we know the Word is Jesus. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Trying to describe the Holy Spirit is like looking through a telescope and describing the inside of the instrument. The Holy Spirit magnifies Christ, which is what He has come to earth to do. All we see is Christ, instead of the inside of the telescope.

"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:14 NKJV). Note: Jesus says HE, not IT.

Think of a super family, which when one has an idea, all three have the same idea, and agree among themselves on what to do with it instantly. "...and these three are one."

He was sent as a Comforter.

Think of Peter who denied the Lord three times before the rooster crowed during the trial of Jesus, just as Jesus had predicted. When the Holy Spirit came down on the 120 in the Upper Room at Pentecost, Peter was in the room and the

Holy Spirit fell on him. He went out and preached a long sermon to the crowd that had gathered outside the room, and 3,000 people were added to the Church at that time. The people, who knew Peter was a simple fisherman, were astounded at his knowledge of Scripture. He was a changed man. Later in the temple he addressed the leaders of the temple: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13, NKJV).

In the time before Jesus, the Holy Spirit had come on individual men to do special things. John 16:8-13, NKJV, tells us the Comforter (who is the Holy Spirit) will:

1. "Convict the world of sin... because they do not believe in Me;"
2. "Convict the world of righteousness... because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;"
3. "Convict the world of judgment... because the ruler of this world is judged."

But best of all, "He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

Every believer can have the Comforter for a special teacher and guide.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to minister to every boy and girl, man and woman, who believes Jesus is the Son of God. Before He went to individuals; now He is going to EVERY believer. You can have power to witness. He is sent to give you that power. He gave it to Peter, who preached to the crowd at Pentecost. "The promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39, NKJV).

THE HOLY SPIRIT?



Why I Am A ROYAL RANGERS LEADER

by George BENJAMIN

This is a true story about one experience that I had as a Royal Rangers leader.

The story begins in late August in the summer of 1985. We had taken our Pioneers on a last campout before school started. We also gave them the opportunity to bring along any of their friends who might be interested in becoming Royal Rangers. In addition to our 10 Pioneers, there were two "guests."

One of the members of our church owned over 200 acres of forest that was ideal for camping. The terrain was forest, hills, valleys, a couple of small clearings, and a stream.

After the evening meal was finished and the camp was set up, we gathered around a rather large campfire to sing songs, have a stunt or two, and enjoy the fellowship. As the commander, I had prepared a short talk about how God is always ready to help us in time of need; all we have to do is ask Him. I explained that prayer is our way of asking for God's help. I then asked the boys if any of them wanted to come forward for special prayer or salvation. A couple of boys came forward for special prayer and we all gathered around and prayed together. I looked up and saw one of the boys holding back. I left the group and went over, knelt down and asked if there was something wrong. He shook his head no. I then asked if he wanted me to pray with him. He mumbled, "If you want to." So I put my arm around him and prayed, asking for God's protection from any harm and for his health and happiness.

The prayer service having ended, we had snacks for the boys and let them play for a few minutes, and then sent them off to bed.

It was about 1:00 a.m. The boys and other leaders had been asleep for a couple of hours. I was sitting beside the fire, watching it slowly die. In the distance I could hear some coyotes calling. I had let my mind wander, sometimes praying, sometimes thinking. I couldn't help but think about those boys. Twelve young boys were sound asleep in a clearing surrounded by forest, trusting their leaders to protect them. I doubt if they realized that it was God much more than the leaders. As I sat there, I felt as though I was not alone. Looking up, I saw Arnold standing next to me. He was the boy I had prayed with earlier.

I turned, "What's the matter, Arnold, can't you sleep?"

"No," he replied.

"Do you want to sit here with me?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied.

I moved down on the log to give him room, and he sat down beside me. It was a little chilly, so I put my arm around him. I tried to make a conversation, but he was very quiet. Suddenly, he looked at me and said, "Commander George, what does it mean to be saved?"

I knew that I must be very careful in what I said. Arnold was only 10 years old and I knew nothing of his background. We talked for a few minutes with my asking him questions trying to determine how much he knew. I soon realized that he had a fairly good understanding of right and wrong. We must have awakened one of the other leaders because he stuck his head out and asked if everything was all right. I nodded yes and motioned for him to go back to bed.

Arnold and I continued talking, all the time following the steps that I had learned to lead a boy to Christ. Before I realized it, he was on his knees, quietly praying, asking for forgiveness. I knelt beside him and we both prayed, sometimes in a low tone and sometimes silently. We finally straightened up and I saw that both of us had been crying.

He said, "I think I will go to bed now, Commander George." I walked with him to his tent, went inside to be sure he was covered. I think he was asleep before I left the tent. I went back to the campfire and sat there for a few minutes.

You might think that this is the end of the story, but this is only the first half!

In the summer of 1998, at our District Pow Wow, a young man walked up to me. He stood out in his uniform with more fruit salad than a four-star general. He had the chevrons of a Trailblazer Master Rating and I could see the ribbon of the God Medal of Achievement. He gave a snappy salute, I returned it, and he said, "Commander George, do you remember me?"

I looked at him for a minute. He was several inches taller than I was and thin and trim. I said, "Your face is vaguely familiar but I can't put a name with it."

He said, "I am Arnold!" Suddenly it all came back. The campout, campfire, kneeling together, praying, crying, all of it. We put our arms around each other and we both started to cry.

After a couple of minutes, I regained my composure enough to step back and get a real good look at Arnold. "I see you are a Royal Ranger," I said.

"Yes," he replied. "Shortly after that campout, my dad was transferred to St. Louis, Missouri. One of my school friends was a Royal Ranger and he invited me to go with him. I joined the program and started earning advancements. Because of me, my folks started going to church and my dad even became a leader."

"What are you doing now?" I asked. "Are you in college?"

"Well," he replied, "I am a senior at Central Bible College and have been on the Dean's List every semester. I have a GPA of 4.0."

We talked a few more minutes and he put his arm around me and said, "Thank you, Commander George, the seed you planted sprouted and grew and grew." His friends were waiting for him so we exchanged addresses and said our good-byes.

Seeing that young man walk up to me 13 years later, having him remember me and that campout, made all of the ticks, chiggers, poison ivy, snow, rain, heat, cold, raw food, burned food, and the many other inconveniences of camping worth every minute!

That night I reached, I taught, and seeing that young man walk away, I also kept him!

That is why I am a Royal Rangers leader!

by Johnathan R. EICKSON

Royal Rangers has taught me a lot about life, responsibility, and how to become a better person.

I have wanted the GMA (Gold Medal of Achievement) since I was 4 or 5 years old, when I saw the GMA service at my church. When I saw it, I made a promise to myself that I would get the GMA. I didn't care how long it would take, or what I would need to do to get it, but I was going to get the Gold Medal.

I've been in Royal Rangers since Straight Arrows and it has been a good influence on me and what I do. As I've grown older, I have been taught about the things of God and His loving, forgiving grace. I have learned more about God from the Bible and the Royal Rangers leaders, and how to protect myself from Satan. If it were not for Royal Rangers, I probably would not be a Christian today.

Royal Rangers has taught me a lot about life through camping, canoeing, woodcraft, tool craft, and fire craft. Each of these might not sound interesting, but they are. Each develops responsibility and builds character—the thing that defines a man. From this I have learned practical things, whether it's fixing a leaky faucet or building a shed.

The Value

The Royal Rangers program has helped me to mature as a young man. I have become more responsible as I have grown older. I've learned how to take responsibility for things even if they go wrong. They say that "honesty is the best policy," and over time I have found that to be true. They also say that who you hang around with tells people what you are like. I have found that to be true as well.

Rangers has shown me how to be a good steward with time and money, and to balance everything I need to do: school, friends, family, and church. God says we need to be good stewards and spend our resources wisely. I have learned the hard way not to overdo things, but to watch what I do. God doesn't want us to waste our gifts by putting them in a hole in fear of losing them. He wants us to use our unique gifts and talents to help others.

Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF) has been a good organization to me and has taught me life skills and more about God. Its fellowship has helped me immensely in my Christian walk. It's really cool when there is a big project and help is needed that, out of the blue, the FCF comes and helps. FCF has become a second family to

me. There is always someone to talk to when I need help or a good word of advice. The thing I like most about FCF is the prayer. If you need prayer, they will pray for you, not just because you ask them to, but because they care and they want to help.

Since that night when I saw that ceremony and wanted the GMA, I have been working to get it. On the way, I've learned that it is not just an award to show other people; it is a mark. Just like Christ has marked all of us, the GMA marks those who have earned it to be servants to God and man.

by Robert **MARTZ**

Today, I hope to share my heart with you about the value of the Royal Rangers ministry in my life.

The Royal Rangers ministry has taught me some very important things. I have learned that it is important to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to live my life for God. God has also brought me closer to Him using Royal Rangers.

Because Royal Rangers is based upon the Bible, participation in Royal Rangers has also helped me to understand how to live a godly life. Some godly principles that I've learned in Royal Rangers include obedience, truth, loyalty, respect, and work ethics. These are very important for people of all ages to learn and understand.

I feel loyalty is one of the most important godly principles

encouragement and recognition when I have completed an advancement. It feels good to work hard and earn a merit or complete a rating.

Royal Rangers has given me a chance to make new friends. This ministry has taught me to know what qualities my friends should have and who my friends should be. It has given me a chance to bond with people my own age, and learn how to choose friends wisely. More importantly, Royal Rangers has shown me that Jesus Christ is my closest Friend.

I am grateful that I have learned about the baptism in the Holy Spirit through Royal Rangers. It is a privilege that I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit when I was only 9 years old. During two campouts this year, I learned how to pray for other teenagers to get filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Then I actually saw it happen to at least 15 boys. Most people do not think of these things when they think of Royal Rangers, but I do.

Learning how to say thank you and to express gratitude is also an important part of Royal Rangers. In Rangers I have learned the value of people helping me and the importance of a smile and a warm thank you. I thank God for sending Jesus Christ to die for my sins, wash me in His blood, and give me the Holy Spirit. I truly have a new life in Jesus Christ. Next, I would like to thank my mom and dad for teaching me godly principles and for standing by me while I worked these past 5 years towards the Gold Medal of Achievement.

I would also like to give special thanks to those Pioneer commanders who helped me get started in Royal Rangers

Gold Medal Achievement Essays...

of Royal Rangers

...ples I have learned in Royal Rangers. I say this because Royal Rangers has taught me that it is important that I stay loyal first to God, then to my family, church, and friends. I have learned that being loyal to God means spending time with Him every day, reading my Bible, and praying. Loyalty to God means checking myself for sin, living by the Bible, and daily asking God to cleanse and forgive me. Loyalty is always keeping God above everything else in my life. So you see, loyalty is pretty important.

Perhaps the best quality I have learned through Royal Rangers is leadership. I was taught many important things about leadership, including how to treat people, to lead by example, not by just giving orders. Leadership means honesty in doing the right thing, even if it means saying no to a friend, or not being liked for a tough, but godly decision. Leadership also means learning how to take orders, and obeying God and those in authority.

Servanthood is also important. I have discovered that it is also good to be a servant as well as a leader. The Royal Rangers ministry is doing the right thing by teaching young men how to serve each other. The Bible says to imitate Jesus Christ, who is the greatest Servant of all. It really pleases God if we are humble and not proud, and if we are willing to be a servant above wanting to be served.

Another big part of Royal Rangers in my life is achievement. Achievement is a good method to give and receive recognition, and to encourage one's self-esteem. I am grateful that Royal Rangers gave me the chance to experience

years ago in Missouri. I say a huge thank you to Commander John Seper, Sectional Commander Bob Seper, and Commander Tim Bowman. If it were not for John and Bob Seper, who have become like an uncle and granddad to me, my dad and I probably would not be in Royal Rangers today.

During the past 3 years at Brownsville, Senior Commander Fred Geer, Trailblazer Commanders Johnny Standifer, Lynn Brazwell, Tim Urban, and Scott Ford have helped me in countless ways. Thank you, Brownsville commanders, for your love and support, and especially to Fred Geer for always teasing me. I would like to say a very special thank you to Commander Randy Youngstrum, who has mentored me, reviewed and approved my advancements, and sometimes even returned them for more work. Commander Randy has always treated me as a young man with dignity and respect and has helped me to act like a man.

I thank my dad for always helping me, always looking out for me, and for showing me continual love. Dad, you have always been there for me and have helped me grow up into a young man. You have been first my dad and then a commander. You have guided me in Royal Rangers and are a major part of my success. I want to say I love you, Dad.

In closing, I want to share with you a Scripture passage that Royal Rangers has impressed upon my life. Ephesians 5:1,2 says, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (NIV).



by Mike **LALIBERTY**

SNOWSHOEING In T

It's wintertime in Colorado.

Time to crawl into a cave and hibernate, huh?

Wrong! Not for Outpost 129; it's time to grab those snowshoes and head for the mountains.

The first shadows of dusk were just settling in on a late Friday afternoon in mid-February as another Rangers leader and I waited for the Trailblazers group of Outpost 129 (Twin Peaks Church, Longmont, CO.) to arrive for our first winter outing. As the boys arrived, they loaded their gear and snowshoes in the back of my pickup and started talking about the overnight activity.

Although it wasn't in the plan, a few of the boys were saying, based on the good weather we were having here in Longmont, that they would probably be sleeping outside tonight. There was an element of excitement in their voices since this winter overnighter was the final goal of 5 weeks of work at the outpost meetings.

As soon as everyone had arrived, we headed our two vehicles west toward the Front Range of the Rockies. Our destination for the overnighter was the small mountain town of Meeker Park. It was located at an elevation of 8,500 feet, just outside the eastern boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park.

The snowshoeing idea had all started a few months earlier after I was asked to serve as the Trailblazers commander. I learned during one of the first meetings the group had never been on any type of winter outing. It was a young group of Trailblazers and a small church (less than 100 people), so the boys (five of them) had little cold weather gear, and neither did the church.

After some discussion and planning with the Pioneers commander who would join us, the decision was made to introduce the boys to the feel and concepts of winter camping without camping overnight in the snow. This would be accomplished by staying overnight in a small, rustic log cabin built in the early 1940s, and then going snowshoeing the next day.

As soon as the Christmas holidays were over, I started the winter camping skills program features, and everyone in the Trailblazers group started making their own set of snowshoes, including me. The snowshoe project was an excellent team building activity, since we had to work

through some design problems and come up with solutions together. I remember being thankful for the teachable moments that presented themselves.

Hey, enough of that outpost meeting stuff, let's get back to the mountains.

We arrived at the road leading to the cabin after dark and shoveled out enough snow to get the vehicles off the main road. Once that was done, we loaded up our packs and carried our gear the short distance down the road to the cabin. It was already a cold, crisp night. I looked toward the heavens and could see the stars. There was no cloud cover. That meant it was going to get a lot colder.

When we got to the cabin, I flipped on the circuit breaker, and we stepped into the cabin. Well partner, it "weren't no" ski resort, which suited us just fine. Since the cabin was only used in the summer, it was not insulated

or heated, and the water had been shut off and drained at the end of summer. Who'd ever "hear'd" about taking a bath in the middle of winter anyway?

The boys soon discovered that their breath fogged inside the cabin too. The jackets and stocking caps were going to stay on awhile. There was a large stone fireplace near the center of the cabin and a loft above. As soon as the boys spotted the loft, they claimed it as their sleeping area and then headed directly for it.

Once their gear was stowed, a couple of the boys were given the duty of getting a fire going in the fireplace. Then the cooks prepared supper. Maybe it was the cold mountain air, but I remember those chili dogs being delicious. By the time supper was over, the fire had warmed the cabin enough so we weren't able to fog our breath anymore. In fact, those near the fireplace could feel comfortable with their gloves off and coats unzipped.

Later that evening, we had our council fire service right there around the fireplace. It was a good time for everyone. Next came the roasted marshmallows and S'mores. Naturally, the boys discovered that the loft was the warmest place in the old cabin, so they willingly headed for their sleeping bags, although we all know that the "S" in sleeping bag actually stands for "stay up" and talk awhile.

Of course, this was a good time for me to ask which boys had volunteered to sleep outside earlier. There was a whole lot of backpedaling and no volunteers. With a smile, I dropped the subject. In the meantime, the Pioneers commander had laid his sleeping bag out on one of the beds in the back of the cabin. I found a cozy spot in front of the fireplace and dozed off.

The sunrise was awesome the next morning. Since we had arrived at the cabin in the dark, the boys didn't realize until morning that the cabin was located about 5 miles directly east of Longs Peak. The sun dropped its reddish-yellow light down its sheer face like a lowered veil.

The 14,255-foot peak is the unmatched king of the northern Front Range. Colonel Steven Long made the first recorded American sighting of the peak that now bears his name in 1820, but it remained an unconquered mountain until 1868. Its fame spread quickly, even to the extent of

becoming the fictional site of a 280-foot telescope in Jules Verne's *From the Earth to the Moon* in 1866.

We are breakfast looking at the mountain, awed by God's creative power. During breakfast the boys had started asking about when and where we were going to try out our snowshoes. In order to get the best snow conditions, it was decided that we would travel another 30 minutes by vehicle to the trailheads at Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park.

With that goal in mind, the boys quickly finished breakfast cleanup, prepared the sack lunches for the noon meal, loaded up their gear, and straightened up the cabin in record time. They were being beckoned by the "call of the wild."

We arrived at the Bear Lake trailhead about 9:30 a.m. It would be another beautiful day in the Colorado Rockies. The sky was clear, and the sun, bright. We got out the sunblock. Sunburn occurs easily at the 9,500-foot elevation.

Within a few minutes we had our snowshoes strapped on and were heading up the trail. The boys felt awkward at first because of those big pontoons on their

Colorado Rockies

feet, but within a half hour they were getting the hang of things.

The trail we were on was packed powder, so I motioned the boys off the trail to test their snowshoes in the soft powder. The snow was 3 feet deep, but the snow-

shoes only sank a few inches into the deep powder. A couple of the boys put their snowshoes to the ultimate test by jumping up and down to see if they could drop deeper into the snow.

The effectiveness of the snowshoes was quickly demonstrated a short time later when one of the boys accidentally stumbled into the deep powder. It took a couple of his patrol mates to pull him out of the hole he had gotten himself into and onto his feet again.

By the time the lunch hour had rolled around, we had snowshoed a 3-mile loop to the backside of Bear Lake. We came out of the woods onto a large flat cliff, which dropped 30 feet straight to the frozen lake below. The sun had melted the snow off the rocky area of the cliff, so we took off our snowshoes, and found places to sit and soak up the warmth of the sun.

This was a scenic spot to have lunch, since we had a

great view of the lake and the wooded valley that stretched beyond it. We stayed at this location for over an hour, while some of the boys found creative ways to enjoy the snow or the snow depth. Others just stretched out on the cliff area to doze in the sun. The boys were really enjoying this break, so some were disappointed when they found out the time had come to get back on the trail again.

On the return to the trailhead, we took a short loop down the gentle slope on the north side of the cliff. Then we cut directly across the frozen lake to its mouth, which takes us down to the trailhead.

By the time we reached the vehicles, the boys were ready for the cold pop and candy bar that awaited them. Everyone agreed it had been a fun-filled day, but that they were ready to head back home for a hot shower and a warm, home-cooked meal.

Aaaaahhh, home sweet home!

Home is sweet indeed, but it's not a place to hide out during the winter. It's the time to get out and enjoy the wonders of nature, the friendship of other Rangers, and the challenges of winter activities — like snowshoeing!



What is BGMC?

BGMC is the missions program for kids in the Assemblies of God. BGMC stands for "Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade." Boys and girls all over America are on a crusade to help the missionaries. Last year, the kids gave over three million dollars to BGMC! WOW, that helped a lot of missionaries. Kids like you give money so our missionaries can get the supplies they need in order to spread the gospel and reach the world! BGMC is the only program that gives our missionaries the freedom to buy such things as puppets, clown outfits, costume animals, Bibles, tracts, computers, videotapes, CDs, training manuals, and lots more. That's why our missionaries LOVE BGMC.



What does BGMC money do?

BGMC is also used to feed the hungry, provide clothes, create TV and radio programs, support schools, conduct training seminars, produce videos, translate materials into other languages, and even send kids to camp where they can learn about Jesus. Did you know that BGMC money is used to translate Royal Rangers materials into other languages? It sure is! In fact, Missionary Mark Broberg just received \$5,000.00 to translate Royal Rangers materials into Russian! BGMC is a GREAT help to our missionaries around the world.

You Kids can help!

You kids can earn money for missions by doing fun jobs for your family, friends, and neighbors. You can vacuum cars or your neighbor's houses. You can rake leaves, mow lawns, or shovel snow. You can run errands or plant flowers. Look at what these kids did:

- One kid had a lemonade stand and earned \$37 in one week.
- One kid vacuumed neighbors houses and earned \$20 on one Saturday.
- One kid sold pop in the park and earned over \$50.

4 Missions Commands:

Praying ♦ Giving
Going ♦ Doing

God can use you!

These are the four missions commands Jesus gave us to follow:

- PRAY:** Jesus wants us to pray for the missionaries. They are counting on our prayers!
- GIVE:** Jesus wants us to give to missions so missionaries have the support they need. BGMC does that!
- GO:** Jesus wants us to go and tell our friends about Him. Someday we may go and be a missionary somewhere in the world.
- DO:** Jesus asks us to do as He commands. Treat people nice. Obey our parents. Be a great Christian.



Ask your commander for a free Buddy Barrel bank and a free bankbook to keep track of your BGMC giving.

What does BGMC buy?

Bibles, tracts, puppets, comic books, videos, food, tapes, story books, JBQ, and much more!

F O O D B O O K S Y
J T C O M I C O R B
B M O R E Q B O B O
Q T A P E S T L C O
V I D E O S F O E K
M U C H T R A C T S
P U P P E T S J B R

How can you earn money for BGMC?

Washing cars, vacuuming, errands, raking leaves, dusting, plant flowers, dishes, and much more!

M R O D I S H E S D
U V E R R A N D S A
C A B W O R K U F P
H X O R A K I N G L
L E A V E S R A C A
P M O R E Z H M Y N
F L O W E R S I E T
J V A C U U M I N G
Y A R D U S T I N G

HIGH Adventure



Leader

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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

ONE-ON-ONE The Man Who Had a Vision

The information below is based on a taped interview with Burton Pierce. Burton served as the Men's Fellowship (now HonorBound Office) director. He was instrumental in casting the vision for Royal Rangers and the one who hired our first national commander, Rev. Johnnie Barnes, now deceased.

Looking out into this sea of faces, my mind goes back to long ago when we were talking about a program like this. A Scripture verse came to me this afternoon, "Son of man can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3). Boy, has there been a heap of living.

In 1960, I left my pastorate and the position of district coordinator of Men's Ministries in the Northwest District, under the invitation of Howard Bush, to take over the Men's Fellowship Department, now called HonorBound. The Holy Spirit had already been dealing with my heart about a change.

During those early days, it was a real priority that we were moving in the will of God when we began discussing a boys' program. The executive

members at The General Council of the Assemblies of God decided that the Men's Department would be responsible for the program, but that it should be tied in with another organization for financial reasons. I checked out the other program's curriculum but felt it was not what we had envisioned.

How far we would have missed the plan of God if we had gone with that program! I think about the prayers that we prayed back then, for we knew that the prayers then would have an effect on things we could not know.

In late 1961, Brother Zimmerman, who served as the general superintendent for the Assemblies of God, requested that I proceed with implementing a boys' scouting program. We all felt that it was a miracle that the Executive Committee had reversed its initial decision to tag onto another current scouting program.

By 1962, we had picked a committee composed of "team" men to brainstorm about all facets of the program. First on our list was finding a man to head up the new program. We earnestly prayed for a man to come along to fill the newly named position of "national commander."

Shortly thereafter, Marshall Calloway, from Indiana, called me about Johnnie Barnes, then D-CAP from the North Texas District. I contacted Johnnie and asked him to pray about becoming the national commander. After meeting with him and reporting the events to Howard Bush, Howard suggested that Johnnie come to Springfield for an interview. Upon meeting him, the committee felt the Holy Spirit saying, "That's the man!" He was talented in writing and artistic endeavors, and he had a country boy charm about him that we knew boys and men alike would relate to. Besides, he had an all-American name, Johnnie, and his last name noted an outdoors term, Barnes! He was offered the position and he became the first national commander in early 1962.

I would see Johnnie, the artist, in his office drawing and envisioning what is now known as the Royal Rangers Emblem.

Before Johnnie came to the office, as the team members who brainstormed about what a camping program would be like, we realized that a strong two-or-three-component name was needed. That's not easy to come by. The committee spent much time and

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put great thought into finding the name. A gentleman by the name of Charles W. H. Scott, who served as an executive member at the Assemblies of God Headquarters, came to me one day and said, "The Lord has laid a name on my heart: 'Royal Rangers.'"

The committee enthusiastically agreed, and I echoed, "That's it! God had given us the name!"

I credit the rise and success of the program to two things: 1) the sense of brotherhood in the team effort to develop what is proudly known as the Royal Rangers ministry, and 2) the willingness of the committee to work with the Holy Spirit, and not against Him, in an effort to fill man's concepts.

Brothers in the Lord, let me encourage you. I am now in my 80s and fully believe that we haven't seen anything yet as to all that God has in store for this great ministry of Royal Rangers! God can and does work through the humility of the Royal Rangers leadership. In God's time and direction the best is yet to come!



Inaugural Pow Wow Brings Life to New Campground

The Mississippi District Royal Rangers held their annual Pow Wow on June 9-11 at the new Royal Rangers campground, near Jackson, Miss. More than 460 boys and men, representing some 42 different churches, convened for the 3-day, 2-night camp. It was the first Pow Wow to be held at the new property. Our special guest speaker was Sonny Green, national vice president of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship.

"I am very pleased with the turnout," said District Commander Wesley Harmon. "I received many positive comments and expressions of excitement over not only this year's camp, but the enormous potential for the future."

Outposts began to arrive at the Pow Wow on Friday, June 9, with their work cut out for them. Since the camp had no established campsites, each group had to carve its way through underbrush and debris for a campsite. Camping was mostly confined to roadsides, with some groups venturing through to

shaded areas in bottoms and on ridges. After the clearing work was completed, some were able to take a refreshing dip in the pool. The first scheduled activity was a leaders' meeting held in the lodge. It began at 5:30 p.m.

The leaders' meeting proved to be an opportunity to praise the Lord for providing the new facility and campground. It was an exciting time, with District Men's Director P.T. Palmer present to make comments.

"This is a dream come true," said Palmer as he addressed the leaders. "God has richly blessed us with a camp we can call our own."

He went on to give some of

the background and events leading up to the purchase of the camp, including the more than \$100,000 in pledges made by the Mississippi District Council. Harmon expressed his appreciation to Palmer for his vision and leadership in the purchase of the property.

Friday evening, the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship held its council fire service with skits, gags, and music. Even though some electrical problems made for a technical nightmare, the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of an estimated 50 boys to accept Christ as their Savior. Green brought an anointed message.

Saturday's schedule began with a devotional by Sonny Green. The rest of the day was filled with games and activities. The evening featured the Train to Glory pageant. Everyone assembled, proclaiming their songs and yells with enthusiasm. The Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way during the altar service, with many boys and leaders filled with the Spirit and touched by God.

The Pow Wow came to a close Sunday with services for both the men and boys. Green spoke to the men while Harmon shared with the boys. Camp concluded with an award ceremony.

Preparation for next year's Pow Wow has already begun. The theme will be The Great Adventure, highlighting the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Decorating Your Room

by *Brian Hendrickson*

NATIONAL BUCKAROOS-STRAIGHT ARROWS COORDINATOR

What a delight it would be to have a room in the church that could be dedicated solely to your Straight Arrows or Buckaroos Outpost. I have visited a number of churches that have given the freedom to their commanders to decorate their rooms. One good example is the Buckaroos room of Commander Dorothy Goodwin in Albany, Georgia. She has spent many in time, effort, and money to make a very pleasing, exciting, and well-designed cowboy setting. However, most commanders have to share their rooms with Sunday school or Bible study classes and are not able to decorate their rooms to be the exciting and inviting place that it should be. Therefore, the question is, "How can I decorate my room to be an exciting place with limited resources and many permissions?" Below I have outlined a number of ways to decorate your room.

First, contact the senior commander and ask him to help you get permission to decorate the room. He may want to see a plan and/or design to determine how much you will decorate, but this can be done after your initial contact with him. He might already know what you can and cannot do and will assist you in accomplishing your project. The senior commander will then secure permission from the pastor or custodian.

Second, make a plan that will account for the time involved, the money needed to purchase the equipment, and the design of how the items will be placed in the room. It is better to have things written down on paper instead of a verbal agreement with the pastor or senior commander. It is always best to keep everyone apprised so that there are no surprises!

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Third, now we get down to specifics and the available options.

OPTION #1: Ask for a closet to be built, or for a portable closet that you can keep in one corner of the room. You can then keep all the materials stored for the outpost and take them out to decorate the room as needed.

OPTION #2: Contact the other users of the room and ask to have one wall that you can decorate. Many teachers are more than willing to work with you. Posters and colorful displays should be used as much as possible and changed on a regular basis. Ask Sunday school teachers or schoolteachers for ideas and/or assistance.

OPTION #3: Build a thin display unit that will take up only a 4-foot by 8-foot part of the wall. This can be done by buying two nice pieces of plywood or particleboard, three 8-foot 2 by 4s, 6 hinges, a latch, and a corkboard. Cut and screw together the 2 by 4s and one piece of plywood and line the inside with the corkboard. Attach the hinges to the 2 by 4 frame (three on each side). Cut the second piece of plywood in half lengthwise, and attach them to the hinges on the 2 by 4 frame. The latch will be attached to the cut plywood on the outside to keep them secure. Decorate the inside of the unit, but keep it closed when not in use. You can decorate it with Royal Rangers posters, cowboy, and/or Indian items. The corkboard can be used to display ideas, the boy's work, or demonstration items. This unit can be permanently attached to the wall, or it can be mobile and placed into the room whenever it is needed. Make sure the unit is appealing, safe, and in a place that will allow you to use it anytime. This was used during the Southeast Regional Conference and Commander Derek Goodwin demonstrated how it worked.

Lastly, the best way to get permission for decorating is having a good relationship with the church. Make sure that you are an example to the other commanders, members of the church, and pastor. Attending other services, participating in the other ministries of the church, such as Honorbound, Women's Ministries, and Sunday school will do a great deal to demonstrate to your pastor that you are a viable member of the church. Always keep your area, room, or closet space clean and organized. You will make great friends with the other users of the room by keeping a neat and orderly room. The best way to cement good relationships within the church is to pray! You will accomplish so much more by praying for the success of your pastor, the other teachers, and fellow commanders than trying to manipulate others to give you what you want.

ATTENTION 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!

New Testament 2000 Pin



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 and leader for having read the entire New Testament in a given year. The pin, which is worn on an awards vest or cap, will symbolize more than just the grand achievement itself. It will signify to everyone that the Royal Ranger or leader is gearing up spiritually for the new millennium evangelism thrust—reaching 2.5 million boys for Christ in the next 10 years.

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 thrust tomorrow.

A Story About MICHAEL GURIAN

How Society Fails Boys and What We Can Do About It

By Janis Leibs Dworkis

Michael Gurian is worried about boys.

"Underneath their sometimes gruff I-don't-need-your-help exterior, boys are fragile beings who hunger to be shown the magic path to manhood," says Gurian, family therapist, educator, and author of the best-selling *The Wonder of Boys*.

"Boys want challenges; they want discipline; they want to learn how to create and shape and fix and build," Gurian says. "They want to feel a sense of their place and their worth in the world. They want to make meaningful sacrifices for the betterment of their family and community. They want to discover their personal mission—whether that mission involves music, science, or sports—and then spend their years pursuing it with success."

And they need the proverbial village to help them attain that potential.

"An adolescent boy needs a clan of caregiving personnel to help him into adult masculinity—the core self by which he will not only survive in adult life, but flourish with passion and dignity," Gurian says. "If a boy has a clan in place before he enters adolescence, he'll maneuver through adolescence much more easily."

"But instead of actively helping boys to discover their core selves, their best potential," Gurian says, "our society has collectively turned its backs on boys. When they're young, we work hard to stifle their energy. Boys who sit still for long periods of time playing quietly with toys are labeled 'good,' while energetic boys who run and jump and climb and rarely ever want to sit still are labeled 'bad.' And when they're teens, we fear their physical size, emotional turmoil, and strong sexuality."

Rarely do we meet boys head on and give them the attention, information, and love they need in order to thrive. The result is a generation of boys who do not have the direction they need to grow into the stable, secure, and motivated men our society needs.

"Adolescent boys are now, arguably, our most undernurtured

population. They bring their yearning to their society, but often they are not rewarded with careful and forceful human love," Gurian says. "One of the great tasks of the new millennium is certainly the invigoration of a healthy, robust, compassionate, and successful masculinity for our adolescent males" (pp. 3, 277, *A Fine Young Man*).

Gurian feels hopeful that task can be accomplished with better education of parents, teachers, and other mentors, and with national and local programs that help boys grow into the best men they can become. He mentions scouting as an example that will help meet our boys' needs.

Michael Gurian became interested in researching male development in the 1980s, when he realized that the then-current theories about child development—which assumed that boys were doing fine, but girls were suffering in our culture—just didn't ring true for him. Since then, he has lectured and written extensively about male development, including *The Wonder of Boys*, published in 1996, and *A Fine Young Man: What Parents, Mentors, and Educators Can Do To Shape Adolescent Boys Into Exceptional Men*, published in 1998.

"I have two daughters, and I would never want the culture to forget them," Gurian says. "But if we look culture-wide right now, we have to see that it's our males who are in real trouble" (personal interview).

Gurian's books offer guidance for promoting the healthy development of young boys and adolescents. "First and foremost," Gurian says, "boys of all ages need three families: 1) The 'nuclear' family; 2) the extended family, including blood relatives, close friends, male mentors, teachers, peers, and day-care providers; and 3) culture and community, including religious groups, influential community figures, and the media."

"Most of our ancestors were brought up in some form of a three-family culture. Most of our own American predecessors lived close to their grandparents, aunts, uncles, or lived in small neighborhoods. When they moved to another city, they usually moved to another family member's neighborhood and thus felt, soon enough, that they belonged in more than one family, and their kids would be raised by far more than one adult" (p. 60, *The Wonder of Boys*).

But by the time Gurian was growing up in the 1960s and early '70s, that three-family safety net was already beginning to split apart, as he points out in *The Wonder of Boys*. While most families still had two parents, the number of single-parent families was already on the rise. Although many still lived near large extended families or long-term friends who were as close as family, an increasing number of nuclear families were striking out on their own as our society was becoming more mobile. And the age of media stars and media influence was upon us.

"Today," he says, "we see those trends in extreme. Vast numbers of boys are being raised in single-parent households without a male role model. Extended family is rarely nearby, and also might not include any male role models. And, considering the widespread influence of various media and media stars—TV, movies, professional sports, video games, the Internet, etc.—the 'third family' today often teaches boys values that are contrary to what their parents want them to learn."

"Family and community systems that once guided boys have been replaced by vague cultural signals from media characters with whom the boys will never be personally intimate. The culture of sex and sexuality is in the faces of our adolescent boys as never before, but the boys are provided too little commensurate sexual guidance," Gurian says.

"We used to have systems set up where boys could turn to their parents or 20 other adults—including many males—who

were part of their lives. And the scariest thing today is that boys just don't have that anymore. In fact, so many boys don't have any males at all in their lives—not even dad. The statistics about what's happening to boys right now are scary" (personal interview).

The statistics Gurian refers to in *A Fine Young Man* include the facts that adolescent males:

- significantly outnumber females in diagnoses of most conduct disorders, thought disorders, and brain disorders.
- are significantly more likely than females to be left back a grade.
- drop out of high school at four times the rate of adolescent females.
- are four times more likely than adolescent females to commit suicide.

"When I put all these statistics together and saw how bleak the landscape was, it surprised even me," Gurian says. "And we can see that it's the result of not having the male system well nurtured in our culture" (personal interview).

"When boys are not well nurtured," Gurian says, "they grow into adolescents and young men who take out their frustrations on their families and others. The result can be chaos and violence in the home and on the street—a result that shows up more and more often in the daily headlines."

Gurian first became aware of the severity of the problem when he started tracking gang violence in 1983.

"At that time, the message didn't get through to the general public—because that violence was affecting mainly black males," Gurian says. And as long as the majority didn't feel the problem was theirs, it was ignored. "And then Jonesboro happened. And now we are absolutely waking up."

"Jonesboro" refers to the March 1998 shooting death of four students and one teacher at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Two boys, ages 12 and 14, were found guilty of the murders.

Gurian says that, after Jonesboro, he started hearing boys' violence being addressed as a major national crisis. People began to genuinely question what could cause this behavior, instead of just shaking their heads and feeling powerless.

That "sea change" in attitude, as Gurian describes it, is a big step in the right direction. Because in order to help our boys—in order to give them the chance to grow into fine young men—we have to understand what makes them tick.

To Gurian, the answer begins with biology.

Biological reality is the fact that boys have one type of brain, and girls have another.

That doesn't mean that one brain type is inherently better than the other overall; they are just different. But if we ignore that difference, we will never be able to understand who our boys are and what they really need from us.

Gurian says that brain researchers have identified seven structural differences between the male and female brain that lead directly to the following behavioral differences: 1) Males do better on average than females in spatial tasks; 2) Girls in general do better in reading than boys; 3) Females are more verbally oriented than males, in general; 4) Males are more single-task oriented than females, in general; 5) Females are usually more successful at accomplishing a variety of tasks at once than males; 6) Females are able to more accurately identify the emotions on another person's face than males.

And then there's testosterone.

Although both males and females produce the sex hormone testosterone, by the end of puberty boys produce more than 20 times as much testosterone as girls, and it is released into their bodies in five to seven surges each day. On average, testosterone is responsible for males having greater muscle mass, a higher sex drive, and higher levels of aggression than females. (It's important to note that aggression, not violence, is a natural result of testosterone production. Violence can result if that natural aggression isn't dealt with appropriately. But violence is not a "natural" tendency for boys.)

Testosterone causes boys to become tense easily, and to need a release for that tension. It causes them to want to solve problems quickly, even complex problems that require time and effort. And when they can't find that quick answer, that quick release, that testosterone drive causes their frustration.

Abundant contemporary examples show us that none of these biologically-based differences is so overwhelmingly significant that society should lock individual males and females into certain vocations and professions—or bar them from others. "What these biological differences do mean," Gurian says, "is very simply that our boys are fundamentally different than our girls. Yet we have been ignoring those differences for decades."

Instead of working to give boys healthy outlets for their natural tendencies toward aggression and competition, we have either ignored those needs or actively encouraged boys to stifle them. Instead of recognizing that our older boys might find it inherently difficult to understand their girlfriends' emotions, we berate them and tell them they're insensitive rather than help them to learn better communication. In general, our culture's message to our boys is that there's something

wrong with them.

So what is it exactly that our boys need? What can we do to help them grow to their full and uniquely male potential?

"First," Gurian says, "and perhaps most importantly, we need to respect the male way of doing things, and show our boys that we value those ways."

For example, our society values the female model of nurturing—compassionate conversation, shared thoughts and feelings, and tender hugs. Rarely do we give equal validity to the male model of nurturing—a model that involves competition and testing.

"Competition, for boys, is a form of nurturing behavior. They have formed cultural constructs in which to gain self-image through this strategy," Gurian says. "Nurtured competition is crucial to male development and self-image. Boys must find ways to compete and see themselves as performing well" (pp. 20, 39, *The Wonder of Boys*).

And second, in order to help boys attain their own unique potential, we need to provide them with a support system. They need: male role models and male mentors; experiences that connect them with the natural world; a healthy competitive outlet; the physical, mental, and emotional skills they need to become a healthy adult; and an opportunity to develop a sense of purpose and mission.

In many parts of the world, societies still recognize and meet these male needs. As examples, Gurian cites the Shavante people of Brazil, who purposefully teach their pre-adolescent and adolescent boys the skills of hunting, the rules of conduct for relationships with females, the appropriate way to interact with elders, and how to become independent from their mothers and even their entire village. He also cites Jews of every country who help their sons through the years of study and preparation for their bar mitzvah, the rite of passage from childhood to adulthood in their community.

"But in general," Gurian says, "American society has turned away from meeting those basic needs of male development."

"Our males used to seek a depth of relationship with nature, in which they learned not only to hunt the fruits of nature, but to transform the relationships between man and nature into emotional and physical nurturance for whole communities. They have little time for this direct contact with nature's divinity now," Gurian says (p. 37, *A Fine Young Man*). "But perhaps the biggest mistake our culture has made in its history has been its forgetfulness of the essentiality of both the father and the male role model" (p. 44, *The Wonder of Boys*).

Continued on next page

"And that," Gurian says, "is where scouting comes in. Scouting—along with some church groups, and local and national mentoring programs such as Big Brothers—is one of the few institutions that parents and boys can count on now to fulfill that mission of the 'third family.'"

"[Scouting programs provide] boys a way to build self-esteem with male mentors in a safe and nurturing environment," says Gurian. "I just don't think you can beat [a scouting program] for that" (personal interview).

In addition, scouting stresses that all-important concept of honor.

"Honor and honor codes are essential to boys and men," Gurian says. "Boys develop personal codes of honor, and they are sponge-like in the absorption of codes of honor suggested to them by their nurturing systems. They watch their parents' honor codes like hawks. The word 'honor' must be revitalized in our human conversation if we are to fully develop our boys into men."

According to Michael Gurian, the Boy Scouts program fulfills seven important needs of growing boys in the following ways:

1 Goal setting: The program of merit badges teaches boys how to set goals and work methodically toward accomplishing them, and provides an opportunity for achievement and recognition.

2 A healthy hierarchy: Boys like a hierarchical system, one in which their position is clear to them. Scouting provides that type of emotionally healthy hierarchy.

3 Mentoring: Boys hunger for male heroes to emulate. Scouting provides both adult male mentoring and healthy peer mentoring.

4 An experience of nature: For boys, nature is a living organism, and boys need to bond with that natural life. Boy Scout camping takes them out of the cities into that natural environment.

5 Spiritual development: Boys must have a spiritual language within which to understand concepts such as character and moral development. A Scout leader who is a devout person offers, but doesn't push, that spiritual language.

6 Character development: There aren't a lot of places these days that just come right out and say that they're about character development. Through Boy Scouts, boys hear the message that character counts.

7 Discipline: The discipline that is provided by the structure of scouting helps boys build their own self-discipline.

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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.



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Cost w/o video library holders: \$45

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- Part 1: "The Calling of God"
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- Part 5: "Street Ministry"
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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: ROYALRANGERS@AG.ORG.



First Council of Achievement

By John J. Baumann

Dallas Metro Royal Rangers Outpost 557 of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God was founded in 1997.

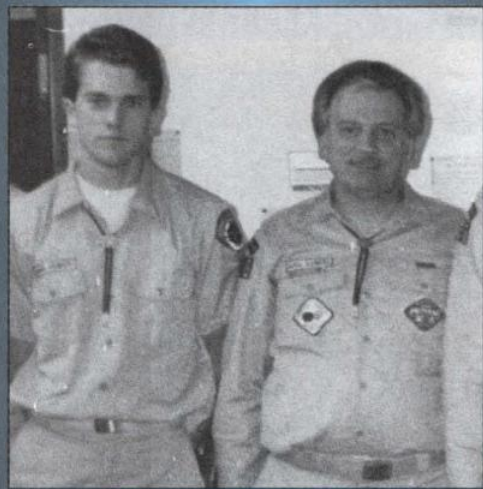
Commander John J. Baumann, originally a bus driver for Dallas Metro, observed behavior problems of the inner-city children. He knew that proper application of Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 could help solve the behavior problems. To put it more simply, the application of the eight blue points of the Royal Rangers Emblem and the Royal Rangers Code could do so as well. These blue points stand for Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient, and Spiritual. Knowing this, Commander John asked Dallas Metro director, Pastor Clay Wallace, in March of 1997, if an Urban Royal Rangers Outpost could operate under Dallas Metro's covering.

Since Dallas Metro was operating out of its former location on Oak Lawn Avenue (now the Peoples Church of the Assemblies of God), it was decided to



delay the starting of the outpost until we settled into our present location of Ft. Worth Avenue. It is also believed by Commander Baumann that the Metro director wanted to see empirical proof that once this outpost was started, it would continue and not be dissolved at an early stage and preferably go on until Jesus comes to take us all home. Commander Baumann's tenacity, along with the Master Ranger on our side, allowed Dallas Metro Outpost 557 to hold its first meeting on 12 September 1997. Our charter boys included: Senior Guide Carlos Castillo; Eagle Patrol Guide Marcos Rodriguez; Ameroan Beard, Willie Beard, Jorge Gutierrez, Enrique Rodriguez, and Le Roy Rodriguez. The charter meeting included Commander Clay Wallace as outpost chaplain, Commander Philip Pacheco as assistant senior commander and Commander John J. Baumann as senior commander. Since then, the Lord has blessed our outpost with new leaders. They include Commander Ronnie Nelson, Metro's chief information officer; Commander Elijah Chavez, and Commander John Stanley.

As the harvest grows, I keep our district Decade of Harvest coordinator, Commander Randy Woods, posted and pray for more laborers to come forward for the harvest, because I USED TO RUN FROM GOD TOO!



In Memory of Bryan Wagner

By Robert J. Porcelli

Bryan Matthew Wagner, Royal Rangers commander, youth pastor, and dedicated Christian, was born August 10, 1973, and passed on to glory unexpectedly on January 15, 2000. He joined Royal Rangers outpost 188 of Mount Zion Fellowship, Poway, California, as a Pioneer commander in 1993. He later became our Trail Rangers commander. He loved working with the boys and even after being appointed youth pastor of our church, he wanted to continue as a Royal Rangers leader.

He told me, "I'm going to get these boys eventually in youth group and I want to get to know them and influence them now."

In June 1999 Bryan was graduated magna cum laude from Cathedral of the Valley Bible College with a bachelor of theology degree. In addition to being our youth pastor and Royal Rangers leader, he had a full-time job. Bryan was an example to us all of a dynamic, on-fire Christian with an incredible ability to worship and share his faith.

In 1998, I challenged him to write out three goals for the year. Bryan wrote the following, and the testimonies given since his death show that he achieved the last two: 1) go through at least one more Royal Rangers class; 2) see each boy grow in his relationship with the Lord; and 3) for me to know God's heart where all could see the Lord through me. I want to know Jesus.

In his honor, North San Diego Section has designated all future winter camp-outs the Bryan Wagner Memorial Camp-Out. As his senior commander, I greatly miss his enthusiasm, energy, and ability to relate to the boys in his charge. I know all the boys miss him and he will always have a special place in our hearts.

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner. People were moving inside and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight, would you? You see, I sleep in a box around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there at night. It sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay."

The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, "You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say, 'John 3:16,' and someone will let you in."

So he did. He walked up the steps to the door, knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16."

The lady responded, "Come on in, son." She took him in and sat him

makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.

The lady came back and took him to a room and tucked him into a big, old feather bed and pulled the covers up around his neck. She kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself, *John 3:16...I don't understand it, but it sure makes a tired boy rested.*

The next morning, the kind lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big, old, split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace. She took a big, old Bible and sat down in front of him, looked at the boy, and asked, "Do you understand John 3:16?"

He replied: "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it."

With that response, the lady opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain about Jesus. Right there in front of that big, old fireplace, the young boy gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought, *John 3:16...I don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.*

You know, I must confess I don't understand it either, how God would be willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. But it sure does make life worth living.

John 3:16-18: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (KJV).

If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow the directions. Jesus said, "Whoever is ashamed of Me...of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father" (Mark 8:38, NKJV).

Pass this on—only if you mean it. Yes, I do love God. He is my source of existence and Savior. He keeps me functioning every day. Without Him, I will be nothing. Without Him, I am nothing. But "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, NKJV).

down in a split-bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace. Then she went off to another area of the house. He sat there for a while, and thought to himself, *John 3:16 ... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm.*

Later she came back and asked him, "Are you hungry?"

He responded, "Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food."

The lady took him to the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat anymore. Then he thought to himself, *John 3:16....Boy, I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a hungry boy full.*

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself, *John 3:16 ...I sure don't understand it, but it sure*

The Young Boy and John 3:16

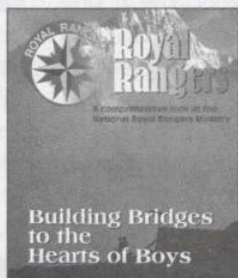
Author Unknown

Rangers Promotional BINDER

Cost: \$18

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

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



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

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.

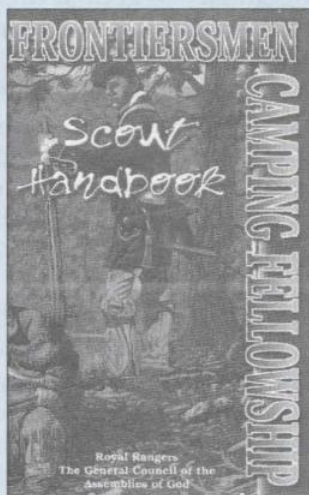
To Order,
Call 1-800-641-4310

NEW!

**Pathfinder
Missions
Brochure**

Cost: 10¢ ea.

ITEM NUMBER: 729-019



**FCF Scout
Handbook**

Cost: \$6.00

ITEM NUMBER: 729-026

NOTE TO COMMANDERS

The following are free or inexpensive materials that make great devotionals and teach your kids about missions.

Buddy Barrel offering containers	715-LA-022	FREE
Bankbook		
(Kids keep track of their giving)	715-LA-00	FREE
Missionary posters (set of 5)	715-LA-083	FREE
BGMC flyers	715-LA-067	FREE
BGMC 7 Special Targets video	715-LA-557	FREE
BGMC resource catalog	715-LA-076	FREE
Where in the World (1 per church)		
Shows how BGMC funds are used	715-LA-057	FREE
How To Start BGMC (1 per church)	715-LA-005	FREE

Missionary Story Tract — 25 for \$1.25

<i>Miracle in Mali</i>	717-LA-403
<i>From Fury to Faith</i>	717-LA-404
<i>Mango Manna</i>	717-LA-405
<i>Flowers of Forgiveness</i>	717-LA-400
<i>Even the Winds Obey</i>	717-LA-409
<i>Left Behind in Africa</i>	717-LA-410

True missionary story devotional books — \$1.00 each

<i>Heroes of the Faith</i>	717-LA-225
<i>Heroes of the Faith 2</i>	717-LA-227
<i>High Adventure in Tibet</i>	717-LA-213
<i>Moving Mountains</i>	717-LA-260
<i>Peruvian Gold</i>	717-LA-285
<i>Remembering Nigeria</i>	717-LA-226

400-page Missions Education Manual Volume 1

715-LA-001 \$10 ea.

400-page Missions Education Manual Volume 2

717-LA-500 \$12 ea.

Copy lessons, stories, games, object lessons for every commander in every class!

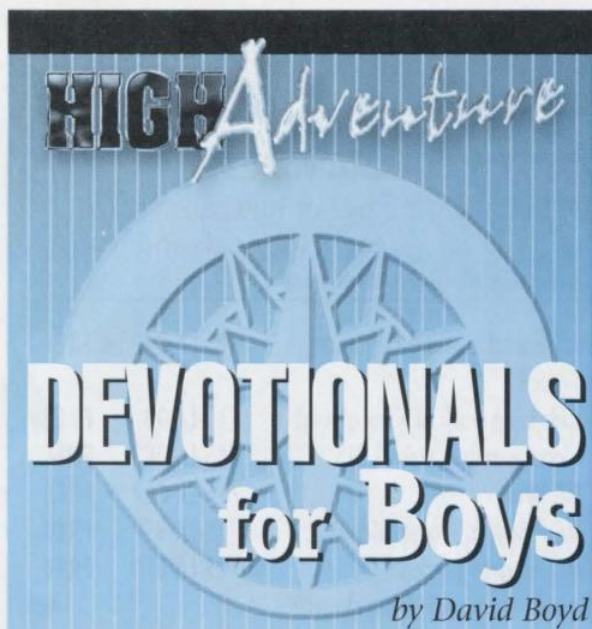
Single copies of Volumes 1 and 2 are a must for every outpost.

Order by calling

1-800-641-4310

(\$5 minimum)

Otherwise call 417-862-2781, extension 4009.



DEVOTIONAL #1

▶ The Green Mamba

In Africa, one of the deadliest snakes is called the green mamba. The green mamba is so deadly because it is territorial. It claims an area and then will seek out and kill anything in that area that it believes is a threat.

The green mamba has another name used by the natives. They call it the "two step" snake because, if it bites you, you take two steps, then you drop over dead! Charles Petroski, missionary to Benin, Africa, was alone in his house when suddenly, coming into the house and heading straight for him, was a green mamba. It meant to kill him.

Missionaries are often in danger. That is why it is so important to pray for them. You never know when they can suddenly be in danger from something Satan sends to try to harm them.

Missionary Petroski rushed to get out of the room, but the snake was too fast. It cut him off from the door. He headed for the window, but it cut him off from there too. It did not want him to escape. It had him cornered in the room. He tried to think what to do. He had no weapon. He was alone. The snake was fast and it had him cornered. Missionary Petroski closed his eyes and just prayed and called out to God for help.

Suddenly God did a miracle. When Missionary Petroski opened his eyes, he found himself on the far side of the room by the door. The snake was still in the corner staring at the empty corner where Charles had been. God had miraculously picked this missionary up and moved him. He doesn't know how it happened. All he knows is that he was cor-

nered and God zapped him out of danger when he prayed. Isn't God wonderful?

Missionaries depend on God to watch over them. They depend on our prayers to keep them safe. They depend on boys like you to give to BGMC. They depend on you when you are older to give to Light for the Lost and Speed-the-Light. It's important that you do your part to fulfill God's plan. Don't forget to pray for our missionaries. The jobs they do are very difficult and sometimes very dangerous.

DEVOTIONAL #2

▶ Following God's Voice

Missionary Charles Pierce was leaving a remote village deep in the backcountry of Swaziland, Africa. As he drove away, starting his long drive back home, he heard a voice say, "Don't move or I will kill you."

Someone had sneaked into the backseat. The man had a knife held to the missionary's throat. At first he was terrified. Then he felt a strange, calming peace come over his spirit. He felt like God wanted him to pray for this man. So he began to pray aloud for the man with the knife. Can you imagine how scared you would be if a man with a knife said he wanted to kill you?

The man told the missionary to drive and to stop praying. He kept driving, but he also kept praying. Where would this man take the missionary? Would he kill him? The missionary continued to pray. Do you pray for the missionaries? I hope you do. They need our prayers for times like these.

The man took the missionary way out in the dark interior of the country. It was pitch black. Finally they stopped. The man took the missionary's money. Then he told the missionary to get out of the car. Would he kill the missionary? No! The man drove off. He was stealing the car, but he didn't kill the missionary.

Now, what was Missionary Pierce to do? He was alone in the middle of the dark, standing on an old dirt road. He had no money, no phone, and no way to get home. There could be wild animals; there could be more robbers waiting to kill him. He prayed asking God for help. God seemed to say to his spirit, "Start walking!" So, he started walking. It was pitch black, but he could feel the road underneath his feet. He walked and walked half the night and prayed as he walked. Suddenly, God said, "Stop!" He stopped, he waited, and he prayed. Soon headlights came into view. It was a bus. God had led him to exactly the right spot to catch a bus.

But wait! He didn't have any money, but he pulled out his wallet. The robber had taken all his money, but then he saw it. In the corner of his wallet was a \$20 bill. It was enough money to pay for a bus ride home. He was safe. God had provided for his safety and for a way to get home!

Missionaries are important to God. That's why they need our prayers. God sometimes has to perform miracles in order to save their lives. You are important to God too! God needs you to do your part now. Pray for the missionaries. Witness to your friends and give to BGMC!

DEVOTIONAL #3

▶ Is Jesus Real?

One of the jobs missionaries do is to teach new Christians who feel the call from God to become pastors. Charles and Francis had taught prospective pastors at the Bible school.

One day one young pastor returned to a village where he was hoping to tell the people more about Jesus. Waiting for him in the village was the witch doctor. A witch doctor is a person who gets his power from the devil. The witch doctor didn't want the pastor to come. The witch doctor had planned to prove to his village that Jesus (the pastor's God) wasn't the real God. The witch doctor was waiting with a challenge!

A girl had died in the village. She had been dead for a week! The witch doctor called all the people together and said, "This pastor says Jesus is alive and powerful. If this Jesus is really real, have Him raise this little girl back to life!" Can you imagine what a predicament this pastor was in? If he prayed and Jesus didn't raise this girl to life, what would the villagers believe about Jesus?

This story reminds us of the story in the Old Testament where Elijah was standing before all the people and 400 prophets of Baal. Everyone waited to see whose God would answer with fire and prove who is the true God. As you know from reading the Bible, God sent fire and all the people knew that God is the one and only true God.

The pastor began to pray. He asked God to show this group of people and this witch doctor that God is real. He asked God to breathe the breath of life back into this body that had been dead for a whole week! Suddenly it happened. The girl came back to life and moved. The people rejoiced and they gave their lives to Jesus and became Christians!

Missionary Petroski saw God do many miracles

so people would come to know Jesus! It makes sense. God has already given His very best since He gave His one and only Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. He doesn't mind doing a few miracles so people will know that He is real!

DEVOTIONAL #4

▶ The Polite Burglar

One night Robert and Ruth Frivold, missionaries to Japan, were sleeping in their home when a robber broke in. As the robber climbed the stairs, God gave Missionary Frivold a dream. He dreamed of a man breaking into his home back in Washington. He dreamed of bravely standing up and scaring the robber away. His dream was God's way of giving him courage. The robber was crawling into their room on the floor toward their bed.

Suddenly, the floor squeaked and woke the missionary and his wife up. Then they saw the man crawling on the floor. What could they do? Would he kill them? Should they scream? Should they pretend to be asleep? Suddenly, God gave the missionary an idea. He remembered his dream in which he had bravely confronted the robber who then ran away. He believed the dream was God telling him to have courage. He took a big breath and you'll never guess what he did next. It is so cool!

As he took a big breath, as loud as he could, he—growled like a tiger! The burglar heard the big loud growl. As he lay there on the floor, he froze. The growl sounded like a big, ferocious animal was somewhere in the room, about to get him. The burglar sprang to his feet and ran for the door. The missionary growled again and the man ran down the stairs with the missionary chasing him. The robber dived out the same window he had come in.

God is watching over our missionaries, but He needs all of us to do our part. We need to save money and give it to BGMC so missionaries can get the supplies they need to spread the gospel. We need to pray for the missionaries. They need God's help.

Do you want to know something funny about that robber in Japan? When he was gone, the missionaries found the robber had left his shoes. In Japan it is considered polite to take your shoes off when you enter a home. The burglar took his shoes off out of habit when he entered the home. He was a polite burglar! He lost his shoes because of it.

CRAFTS for Kids

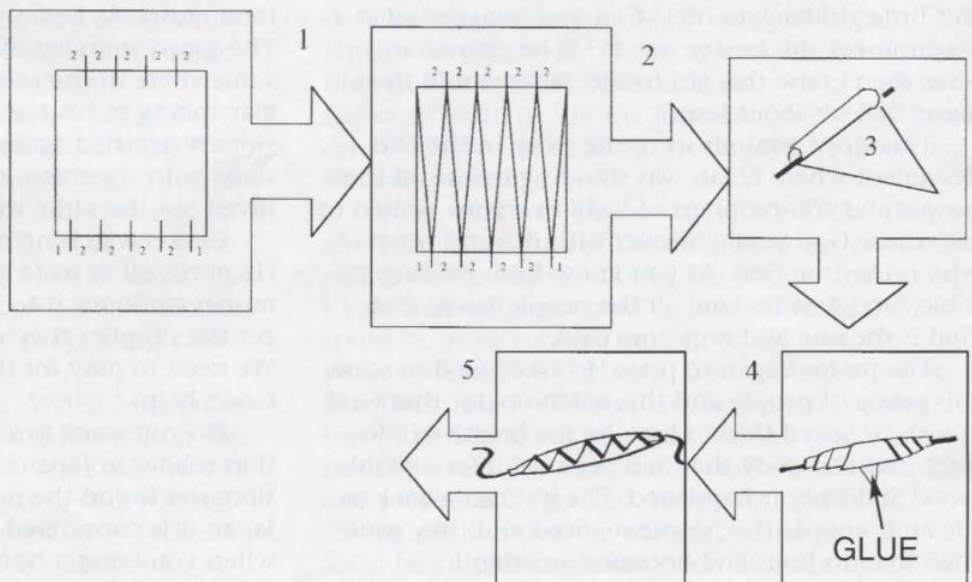
by Brian Hendrickson
National Buckaroos—Straight Arrows Coordinator

FCF (African) BEADS

HISTORY: Before metal was pounded into the first coin, beads were used as money. The African continent was one of the early sources of beads. To signify relative wealth of the individual, beads were used as trade items. Often Indians would trade for the beads with staples that the mountain man needed. Today beads come in many forms; glass, plastic, wood, metal, etc., but their value remains strong. Beads are still considered valuable and beautiful, and it is very common to see FCFers adorned with beaded necklaces.

MATERIALS:

- Colored construction paper or brown paper bag
- Glue
- Toothpicks
- Ruler
- Markers
- Sinew, yarn, or string
- Scissors
- Pencil or pen



INSTRUCTIONS:

Figure 1:

Cut a piece of paper into a square. Mark the top edge of the paper in 2-inch increments. Mark the bottom edge in 2-inch increments, but make the first mark 1 inch from the edge.

Figure 2:

Draw lines as shown in order to form skinny, long, isosceles triangles. Now cut along the lines. You may need to repeat this process on two or three sheets of paper to make enough beads.

Figure 3:

Before rolling up the triangles you may wish to color the edges or make designs on the triangles. You won't know the results until after you roll up the paper, but it will be fun to see the results. Take a toothpick and roll the triangle tightly around the toothpick.

Figure 4:

Put a small dab of glue on the tip and hold it onto the new bead for about 30 seconds. This might be a good time to paint or color the new bead.

Figure 5:

Remove the toothpick from the rolled bead. To add shine to the bead you may want to make a glue and water mix and brush the entire bead with the mixture, except for the holes on either side of the bead. Now thread the beads with the sinew or string and tie the string with a square knot. You now have a nice looking necklace to use in the outpost meeting.

CONCLUSION: Each necklace can and should be unique. Plastic or glass beads can be added. Likewise, the width and style of paper, magazines, etc., can be used to make a very different or unique necklace. It is always important to experiment, as was true of the early mountain men. It was not uncommon for a mountain man to have a mixture of Indian clothing, accoutrements, and decorations based on his ability to make or trade for each item unique to him and his needs.

2001 Training OPPORTUNITIES

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 1-4

* TEXAS: Maypearl (Lakeview Camp), April 19-22

* IOWA: Ogden (District Campground), September 20-23

* ARIZONA: Payson (Camp Geronimo BSA), October 4-7

* MISSISSIPPI: Terry (Ranger Trails Camp), October 4-7

WINTER NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP follows the format of the Advanced National Training Camp.

* WISCONSIN: Waupaca (Camp Wilderness), January 11-14

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.

* MICHIGAN: Wixom (Proud Lake Recreation Area), June 7-10

* CALIFORNIA: Placerville (Loon Lake), July 26-29

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

* PENNSYLVANIA: Honey Grove (Penn-Del District Training Camp), Mar 29-April 1

* MINNESOTA: Superior (Lake Superior Hiking Trail), August 23-26

* TENNESSEE: Jamestown (Big South Fork Rec. Area), September 6-9

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

* MARYLAND: Whiteford (Camp Spencer), May 3-6

* OHIO: Marengo (Heartland Conference Retreat Center), September 13-16

* WASHINGTON: Medical Lake (Silver Lake Bible Camp), September 27-30

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.

* WEST VIRGINIA: Falling Waters (Potomac Park Camp), April 20-22

* MISSOURI: Ozark (Sunrise Camp), August 17-19

2001 CAMPS BY REGION

Southwest

NTC	May 17-20	Paradise Camp, McNary, AZ
NTC	May 17-20	Mt. Lassen Camp, Mineral, CA
NCE	July 26-29	Loon Lake, Placerville, CA
NTC	September 6-9	Pinecrest Conf. Ctr., Twin Peaks, CA
NTC	September 13-16	Scout Ranch, Elbert, CO
ANTC	October 4-7	Camp Geronimo BSA, Payson, AZ

Southeast

NTC	January 25-28	Camp Wilderness, Fort Meade, FL
ANTC	February 1-4	Camp Wilderness, Fort Meade, FL

Great Lakes

NTC	May 17-20	Heartland Conf. Ctr., Marengo, OH
NCE	June 7-10	Proud Lake Rec. Area, Wixom, MI
Academy	September 13-16	Heartland Conf. Ctr., Marengo, OH

Gulf

NTC	May 24-27	Ambassador Conf., Goodletsville, TN
NTC	July 19-22	Camp Eagle Rock, Eagle Rock, MO
BSTC	August 17-19	Sunrise Camp, Ozark, MO
NTT	September 6-9	Big South Fork Rec., Jamestown, TN
ANTC	October 4-7	Ranger Trails Camp, Terry, MS

North Central

WNTC	January 11-14	Camp Wilderness, Waupaca, WI
NTC	May 3-6	Lake Placid Camp, Pillager, MN
NTT	August 23-26	Lake Superior Hik. Trl, Superior, MN
ANTC	September 20-23	District A/G Camp, Ogden, IA

Northeast

NTT	March 29-April 1	Training Camp, Honey Grove, PA
BSTC	April 20-22	Potomac Park, Falling Waters, WV
Academy	May 3-6	Camp Spencer, Whiteford, MD
NTC	May 17-20	Camp Spencer, Whiteford, MD
NTC	September 6-9	Camp Roosevelt, Woodstown, NJ

Northwest

NTC	August 23-26	Camp Ivy Dale, Idaho City, ID
Academy	September 27-30	Silver Lake, Medical Lake, WA

South Central

ANTC	April 19-22	Lake View Camp, Maypearl, TX
NTC	October 11-14	Lake View Camp, Maypearl, TX

FOR OFFICE USE

REC:

DUE:

SNT:

2001

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP APPLICATION



PLEASE PRINT

PERSONAL GPH ACCOUNT NO. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____

OCCUPATION _____

DISTRICT _____ OUTPOST # _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

PASTOR'S SIGNATURE _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

APPLICANT'S RR POSITION _____

DATE _____

1 []	FLORIDA	FORT MEADE (CAMP WILDERNESS)	JANUARY 25-28	2001
2 []	MINNESOTA	PILLAGER (LAKE PLACID CAMPGROUND)	MAY 3-6	2001
3 []	ARIZONA	MCMARY (PARADISE CAMP)	MAY 17-20	2001
4 []	MARYLAND	WHITEFORD (CAMP SPENCER)	MAY 17-20	2001
5 []	N. CALIFORNIA	MINERAL (CAMP MT. LASSEN)	MAY 17-20	2001
6 []	OHIO	MARENGO (HEARTLAND CONF. CTR.)	MAY 17-20	2001
7 []	TENNESSEE	GOODLETSVILLE (AMBASSADOR CONF. CTR.)	MAY 24-27	2001
8 []	S. MISSOURI	EAGLE ROCK (CAMP EAGLE ROCK)	JULY 19-22	2001
9 []	S. IDAHO	IDAHO CITY (CAMP IVY DALE)	AUGUST 23-26	2001
10 []	NEW JERSEY	WOODSTOWN (CAMP ROOSEVELT)	SEPTEMBER 6-9	2001
11 []	S. CALIFORNIA	TWINPEAKS (PINECREST CONF. CTR.)	SEPTEMBER 6-9	2001
12 []	COLORADO	ELBERT (SCOUT RANCH)	SEPTEMBER 13-16	2001
13 []	N. TEXAS	MAYPEARL (LAKEVIEW CAMP)	OCTOBER 11-14	2001

You **must be 18 years old** to attend this camp and 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** pre-registration fee must accompany this application. This will be applied toward the total camp fee of **\$150**. You will receive a **\$25 discount** if you pre-register no later than **4 weeks** prior to the camp start date. Please submit your application as early as possible. **Low enrollment of these camps will be determined at 4 weeks prior to camp start date. At such time these camps will be cancelled with a total refund.** Should you need to cancel you must notify the national office no later than **3 weeks** prior to the camp start date. Your pre-registration fee or total fee if paid in advance, will be refunded minus a **\$10** administration fee. Or should you choose, your fees may be applied toward another camp of your choice. Cancellation after this date is non-refundable! Postmark will determine such dates.

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

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

CLOTHING

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

PERSONAL ITEMS

Sleeping bag	Personal first aid kit
Air mattress or foam pad	Pocket knife and whetstone
Toilet kit and mirror (no outlet for electric razor)	Hand ax
Towels and washcloths	8-inch mill file
Mess kit (plate, bowl, and cup)	Compass (Silva style preferred)
Silverware kit (knife, fork, and spoon)	Waterproof match container with matches
Canteen	<i>Adventures in Camping</i> handbook
Pack and lightweight pack frame (for overnight hike)	<i>Royal Rangers Leaders Manual</i>
Small lightweight tent (for overnight hike)	Small Bible
Ground cloth (waterproof)	Pen and pencil
Flashlight with extra batteries	

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Ditty bag to carry small items	Compact sewing kit
Insect repellent	Survival kit
Folding plastic cup	Camera
Thermal underwear (for colder areas)	Suntan lotion
Small package of facial tissues	Sunglasses
Nail clippers with fingernail file	Pillow

Crude oil is the second most common liquid on earth. Water is first. When exposed to sunlight, crude oil turns into pitch, a sticky tar like substance. God instructed Noah to dab his ark within and without with pitch. The use of pitch, which was probably tar from crude oil, made the ark waterproof.

Crude oil had few uses. Ambitious salesmen sold the foul smelling stuff as medicine. It tasted so awful it had to be good!

In the late 1850s, chemists learned how to make fuel, called kerosene, from crude oil. It replaced the more expensive whale oil in lamps.



Edwin L. Drake, a retired railroad conductor, believed he could pump oil from below ground. Drake began drilling in June 1859, near the small town of Titusville, Pennsylvania. People called the project Drake's folly. Two months later, Drake struck oil at a depth of 69.5 feet.

The value of crude oil grew because it became the source of fuel for automobiles. People called it black gold.

One hundred gallons of crude oil can make about 50 gallons of gasoline. Oil companies turn the other 50 gallons into many useful products such as heating oil, lubricating oils, and greases. Petroleum jelly, is better

known by the brand name of Vaseline. People rub it on dry skin and chapped lips as an ointment.

Paraffin wax is a milky white solid. Candles have a cotton wick surrounded by paraffin. When the wick is lighted, the paraffin burns and gives light.

The paving material asphalt is what remains when everything else is removed from crude oil. When pitch bakes in the sun, it changes into asphalt.

Petroleum is conveniently located for use by mankind. This is one evidence of how God provides for us. If it were deeper, recovering the oil would be nearly impossible. If it were located less deeply than it is, and found its way to the surface, it would turn into hard asphalt. God is a loving Father; He provides us with the oil we need for cooking, heating, motor fuel, and other everyday products.

by John Hudson **TINER**

BLACK GOLD

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Involved in Royal Rangers *by Becky Walters REIGEL*

The Rev. Robert Dee Crabtree, district superintendent of the Ohio District, was an Eagle Scout. For that, the Royal Rangers of the Buckeye State can be grateful.

The former pastor, missionary, Bible college president, and executive presbyter has carried his enthusiasm for scouting into adulthood. And his dedication to earning the Boy Scouts' top honor has easily transferred to promoting the Assemblies of God boys' program.

"I just enjoy scouting," he says. "I was an Eagle Scout and an assistant scout leader in my home church in Kansas City. Then, when Royal Rangers was formed, I became involved."

As superintendent for 17 years, he has led Communion services at Pow Wows and earned the Leaders Medal of Achievement. He's also a Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship member and a major supporter of the new Rangers lodge being constructed on the district campgrounds in Marengo, Ohio.

Royal Rangers of Ohio, and beyond, have taken notice.

"As I travel around the country, the ministry of the Royal Rangers of the Ohio District is held in high regard by leadership in other districts. This is because of the standard of excellence that Brother Crabtree has by his involvement, encouragement, and support set for the Royal Rangers," says Jim Barger, regional coordinator for the Great Lakes Region and president of the National Royal Rangers Council.

"This standard covers not only programs and events, but facilities as well. Ohio is currently constructing a district Royal Rangers facility that is second to none. Again, this has come into being because of Brother Crabtree's vision. Around the nation he is recognized as a district superintendent that is involved, that cares, and that supports the ministry of Royal Rangers."

An Inspiration for Leaders

District Commander Harry Hunt, who oversees Ohio's Royal Rangers ministry's 800 leaders, 3,500 boys, and 140 chartered outposts, says Crabtree has been a role model for leaders there.

The superintendent's decision to complete the LTC, Hunt says, has had a positive impact on the state's Rangers ministry.

"We train anywhere from 95 to 130 leaders a year. We have a (LTC) completion rate of 92 percent. That's very high," he says. "It makes all the difference having a superintendent that's been through that. You have a real assurance of his support."

Hunt, district leader since 1988, continues: "Training is actually the foundation of the Royal Rangers ministry. Without trained commanders, the ministry can't properly function."

Crabtree sees other benefits for completion of the LTC program. "You've got to know the Scriptures. Also, it teaches men to be Christian witnesses and good models," he says. "I think the Royal Rangers program is about equally important to men as it is to boys."

Barger, who was honored to present Crabtree with his Leaders Medal of Achievement, says that by taking the LTC, the superintendent was "making a statement to not only our men, but to our pastors, saying, 'Hey, this is important. You need to do this. Reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ is a priority.'"

Barger and Hunt agree that Crabtree's FCF membership is also a boost to Ohio's leaders and boys.

"He's gained a lot of respect; they take a lot of pride in that," Hunt says.

"Joining FCF," Barger says, "was a major feat for a district superintendent and another statement to leaders. Crabtree was saying to the men, 'I'm one of you. I got here just like you did. I know where you're coming from. I have empathy for your calling.'"

Rangers Facility

Hunt said that the lodge at Heartland Conference Retreat Center is being constructed on property the district purchased about 4 years ago.

The building (which will include room to sleep 56, a main conference room, four breakaway rooms, a kitchen, and baths) will be used for youth camps, family camps, and district, regional, and national Royal Rangers training and

activities. Outside there will be a high ropes course, low ropes course, and BMX and mountain bike tracks.

"It'll be worth over a million dollars. We aren't spending that much. We're doing some of the work ourselves," the superintendent says.

The project is being funded by the district, but "the Royal Rangers have been part of the fund-raising," he says.

"The Spirit of Royal Rangers"

Crabtree says being involved with the Royal Rangers of his district has been a blessing. The district Rangers leaders, he says, "have become a very special support group for me. We have a strong fraternal relationship. They're a special prayer group."

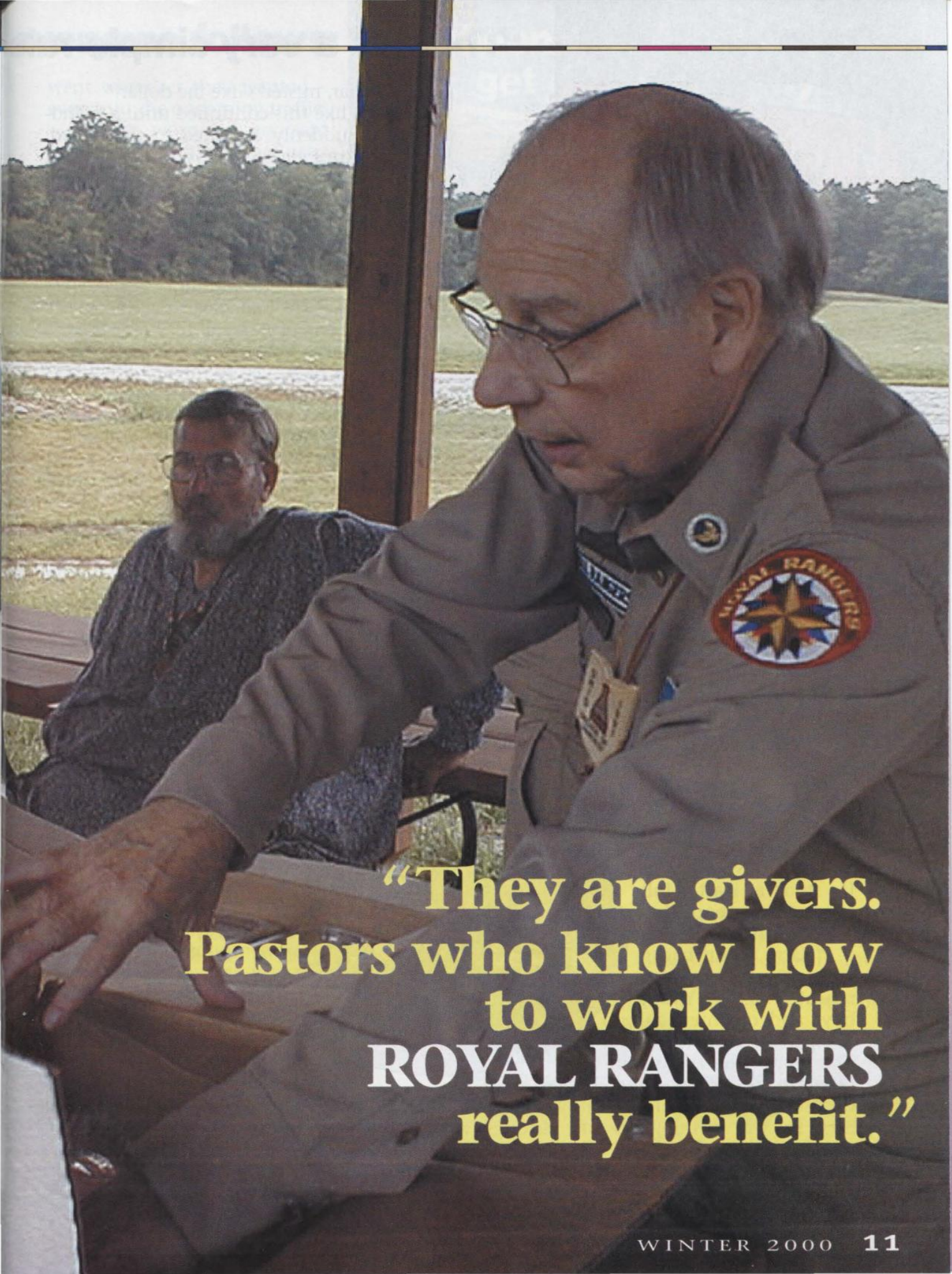
"They don't require anything of me, they just want to serve. They've given me my uniform, they gave me my FCF and that's money. They just give and give. The spirit of Royal Rangers is giving. The giving extends to other district ministries and local churches," he says.

"I see them building a tremendous network of lay leaders. Many of them are board members or serve in other local church positions. They're involved in missions projects. They get involved with Light for the Lost and they're really encouraging the boys to give. I think that's a sign of their willingness to cooperate outside of their own organization. In churches," he says, "Rangers leaders are committed."

"They are usually strong supporters of the pastors and their churches. They are givers. Pastors who know how to work with Royal Rangers really benefit."

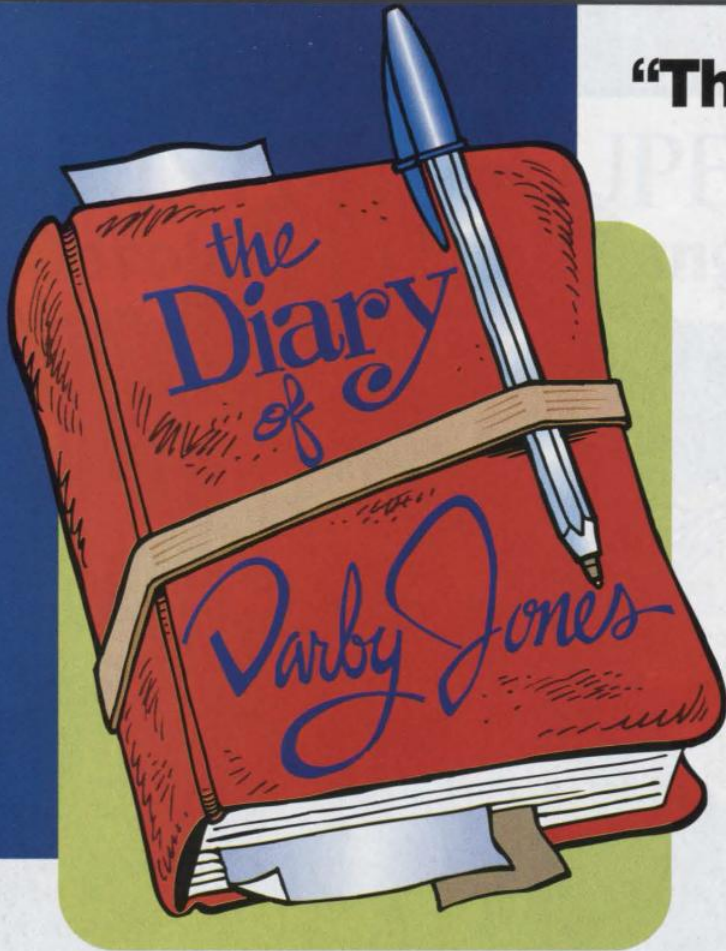
As superintendent, he's seen firsthand how the program and its Scripture-based teaching have touched boys. He says that some are now ministers.

"Here's something that excites me. I read all the files of credential applicants; I'm looking to see why a person feels called to be in ministry," he says. "There are some of them who felt called at a Pow Wow or at an outpost meeting. That's really powerful."



**“They are givers.
Pastors who know how
to work with
ROYAL RANGERS
really benefit.”**

"There is a very simple rule



by Rev. Robb HAWKS
NATIONAL PRODUCTIONS COORDINATOR

Darby Jones, Sr., clutched the bent and worn photograph in his hand as he pushed his way through the crowd. The police officers only kept the main driveway to the Dhaka airport clear. Once Darby had passed the gate, he found himself surrounded by the people of Bangladesh. They were all very short compared with Darby. He stood at least a full head taller than the tallest of them.

"Carry your bags, mister?" Came the repeated cry. Young boys and old men alike competed for his attention. The competition was stiff as others were also begging. It was those begging that caught Darby's eyes and ears. He was pushing his way through a wave of small children and old women each crying out for money.

"Carry your bags?"



"Dollar, mister! Give me dollar!" Calls like this continued until a friendly face suddenly appeared in the crowd. "Larry! Am I glad to see you!" Darby cried to Missionary Larry Smith.

"I'm sorry," began Larry. "I'm a few minutes late! You would not believe the traffic!" Larry continued as he reached out and took Darby's suitcase.

Darby glanced around. People were everywhere. He had never seen so many people at one place in all his life.

"This place sure is crowded," Darby said to Larry as he waved to the taxi driver.

"Oh, this is crowded? Not really," Larry responded. "You have to drive into Dhaka for it to get crowded. Climb in; let's go."

Darby looked at the "baby taxi." It was small and looked like a loaf of bread with three wheels. *Hmmm, Darby thought to himself, this looks to be an interesting ride.*

They both climbed in and with a putt, putt and cloud of black smoke, off they went. Darby looked down at the crumpled photograph in his hand. It was of a little, brown-skinned boy named Rintu.

Rintu was only 6 years old at the time of the photo. For the past 5 years, Darby had carried the photo in his wallet along with photos of Darby, Jr., and Mrs. Jones. Each month during those 5 years, Darby had sent \$25 to help little Rintu.

As a child Rintu had been abandoned and had ended up in the Assemblies of God children's home in Bangladesh. Darby's \$25 a month had made it possible for Rintu to eat, have decent clothing, and to attend school.

With a sudden bounce and a swerve, Darby looked up and a sudden, desperate fear swept over him. Cars! Buses! Baby taxis! Rickshaws! Everywhere! Thousands of them could be seen as far as the eye could glance. The white traffic lines on the roads were totally ignored by the drivers. Everyone just

everyone follows: If someone honks at you, get out of his way...

went wherever they wanted—even into the oncoming traffic!

"Don't worry," Larry said in confidence. "You'll get used to it."

"But no one is obeying any of the road signs or traffic lights!" Darby began. "They're not even obeying the police officer, who is trying to control the traffic. This is complete madness!"

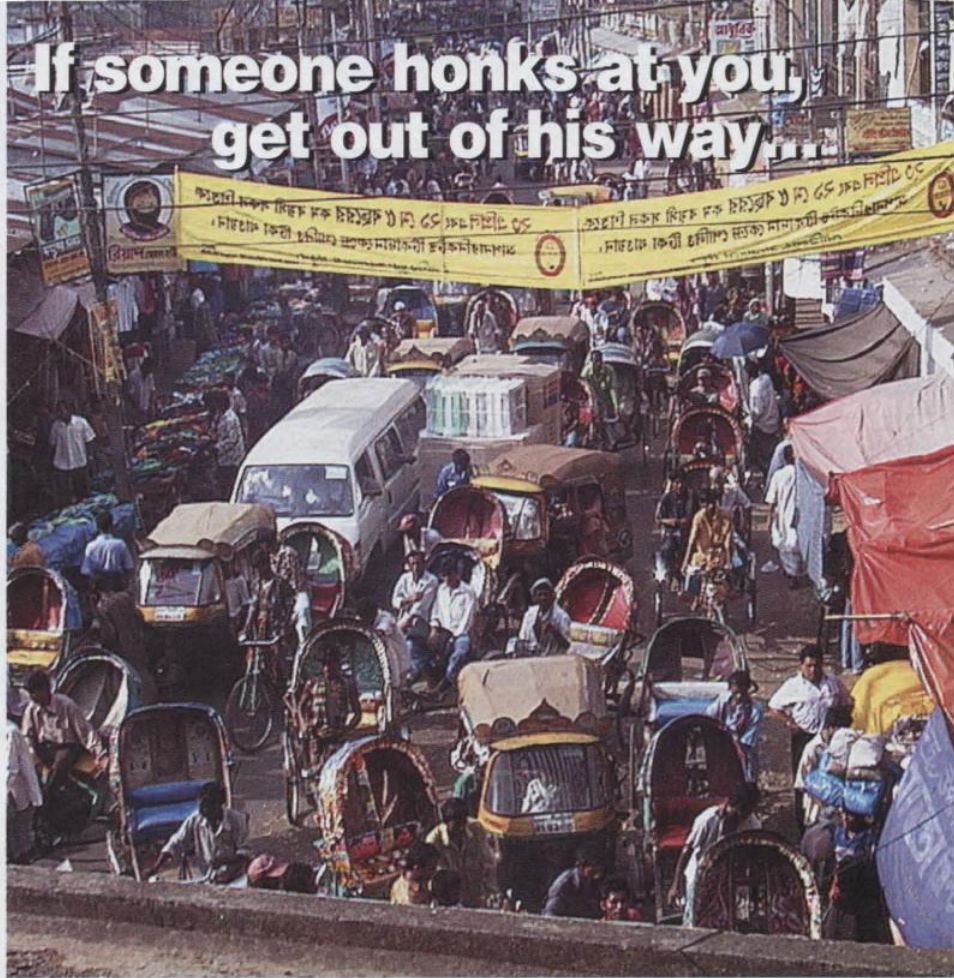
"Madness, yes, but not complete!" responded Larry. "There is a very simple rule everyone follows: If someone honks at you, get out of his way. If they don't honk and then hit you, the accident is their fault. But if they honk first and then hit you, it is your fault because you didn't get out of the way," Larry explained with a chuckle. Darby just shook his head in disbelief.

"You see all these people?" Larry continued. "There are 8 million people living in this one city. The odds are that not a single person you see right now knows Jesus as his or her personal Savior. There are 130 million people in Bangladesh, yet less than 1 percent of them are Christians."

Amazingly, the ride through the city was without accident. Larry said that was normal. Darby thought it had to do with angels and a divine miracle! They continued their ride for a short distance outside of the city until they came to the House of Hope. Larry paid the baby taxi driver, then they walked across the courtyard toward the playground. There, a big American was working on the playground. Obvious was the fact he had spent a lot of time building such an incredible place for the children to play.

"Hey, Duane!" Larry called out to Missionary Duane Danielsen. "Bring Rintu over here."

A few moments later, a young boy was standing before Darby. He was much older than he appeared in the picture, but obviously the same boy. Larry formally introduced Rintu. As soon as the boy understood



that Darby was his sponsor, he immediately dropped to the ground and kneeled. Rintu reached out and touched each of Darby's shoes with his right hand and then swiftly lifted his hand to his face and kissed it.

"Rintu has just paid you the highest compliment he can," Duane explained.

"Yes, I want to thank you for paying that I might live here and go to school," Rintu said. "And most importantly, because I have learned all about Jesus here. I have asked Jesus into my heart, and I am now a Christian."

Darby kneeled before the boy and gathered him into his arms with a big hug. There might be 130 million people in this country who do not know Jesus, but Darby knew he had made it possible for one of them to find salvation.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The general information in this story is accurate. Missionaries Larry Smith and Duane Danielsen do indeed exist. There are a few hundred children at the House of Hope. Rintu is the name of the man who works at the Assemblies of God mission, involved in the radio and TV ministry there.

Shock waves swept the sports world when 1988 Olympics officials denied the Gold Medal to Canadian track superstar Ben Johnson. But the verdict stood, because tests showed he had injected anabolic steroids into his body. But believe it or not, some athletes and nonathletes alike still persist in taking anabolic steroids. And it's not only the college football player or professional weight lifter that makes the big mistake of using them. According to results of a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, an estimated 50,000 students in American high schools are using anabolic steroids.

Many teenagers think steroids will enhance their self-image. Some use the drug because they feel insecure about their appearance. Others hate their skinny bodies. Young people who use steroids desire to look, perform, and feel better—at almost any cost. They ignore or deny warnings about health risks. Some teenagers just want to see if “those things” really work. They want to believe in the power of the drug. Of course, they don't realize the very real dangers.

Do you know what anabolic means? The word means “growing or building.” Anabolic steroids are artificial testosterone, a natural made hormone. These steroids usually come in pill form, but sometimes people inject them into their bodies. Only relatively recently have people become aware of the serious side effects these steroids can cause. The most alarming is a chance of contracting AIDS. You can transmit HIV if shared needles are used to inject the drug.

Steroid use is illegal. Users acquire these drugs through criminal channels, and many of the supplies may be contaminated. In 1988, Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, making the distribution or possession of anabolic steroids for nonmedical reasons a federal offense. Unlawful distribution and possession with intent to distribute anabolic steroids is a federal crime, punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

The medical field does approve anabolic steroids for use in treating diseases like anemia, osteoporosis, and certain cancers. Medical authorities know what to expect from the label dosage and they administer accordingly. Still, as with any drug or hormone, there are risks; and for medical use the risks and side effects are carefully monitored to ensure they are minimal.

When people take anabolic steroids that are not prescribed by a physician, they end up playing a dangerous game. As anabolic steroids enter the body, they signal a stop to the natural male hormone testosterone. As a result, steroids can halt growth prematurely in adolescents. Even a small dose can cause this effect. Anabolic steroids cause bone ends to close off early, so users can end up a lot shorter in height. Another major effect is hair loss. Loss of hair from the top of the head might result, and hair can start growing in other areas—such as out the ears and nose.

Besides shortened height and hair loss, there are many other responses to anabolic steroids. Short-term reactions include: nausea, vomiting, severe acne, premature balding, dizziness, chills, drowsiness, muscle tremors, bloating associated with water retention, and greasy skin. These are all effects that may or may not be very serious. Long-term steroid abusers can experience fever, fast heart rate, slowed heart rate, bloody diarrhea, seizure-like movements, lowered blood pressure, breathing difficulty, breathing cessation, blood clots, cardiovascular problems, liver disease, cancer, heart attack, stroke, or death.

Women who use anabolic steroids tend to develop some male characteristics, such as permanent thickening of the vocal cords, facial hair growth, and decrease in breast size. These changes are irreversible!

Anabolic steroids can also affect reproductive organs in both males and females. In female steroid users the damage makes it impossible for most users to

have children. In males sperm levels will drop and testicles will shrink, resulting in sexual dysfunction.

Psychological as well as physical effects come from steroid use. Users can become uncontrollably aggressive, even with persons they love. When users try to stop taking the drug, they can experience “roid rages.” This means the person blows up or “loses it” for no reason at all. One 16-year-old boy (he later took his life after trying to go off steroids) startled his mother one day while driving her to the store. At a stoplight the car behind them tapped the bumper. The boy flew into a rage; he jumped out of the car and lit into the other driver. His mother had never seen him act like that before. His family wasn't aware of psychological effects that could occur as a result of going off steroids.

When athletes and nonathletes alike try to stop taking the drug, they get deeply depressed. Paranoia and anxiety usually set in. Since athletes strive for bigger, more muscular bodies through anabolic steroids, they often feel a sort of “reverse anorexia,” always seeing their bodies as small and weak regardless of actual size. Many former steroid abusers attempt suicide. And, of course, many succeed. When trying to go off anabolic steroids, the person should be under a doctor's supervision. In fact, many doctors will insist on hospitalization.

“Steroids belong in the garbage, not in your body,” says Dr. Bob Goldman of Chicago, an international expert on steroids. “Your body is your future, and you should take good care of it.”

In a survey Goldman conducted, more than 100 top athletes were asked if they would be willing to take a magic drug that would allow them to win every sporting event they chose to compete in, but would then kill them 5 years after they began to take the drug. Shockingly, 52 percent of the athletes he surveyed said yes.

If you are an athlete, think of how ridiculous it is to engage in something that might result in your death. Then too, your tendons could rip free from their skeletal system because of overgrowth of the muscles. And weight lifters can elevate their blood pressure so high that blood will run from their noses, eyes, and ears when they lift.

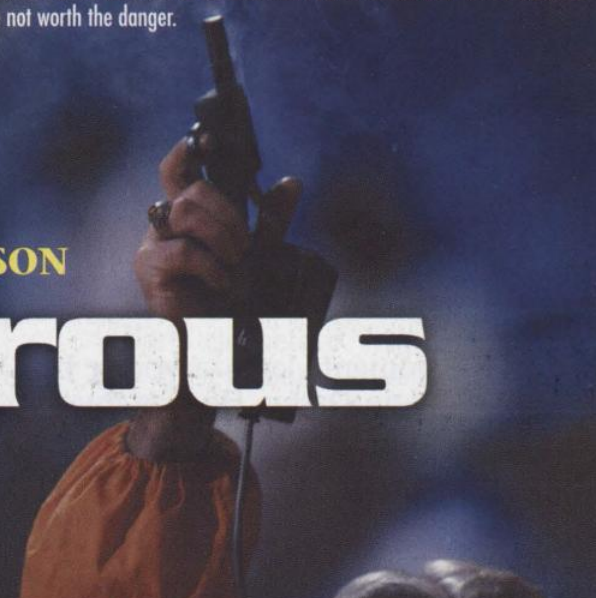
Some athletes imagine that anabolic steroids might have a reputation for turning a wimp into a winner or a runt into a hulk, but the truth shows it takes a lot more to make a star athlete. Athletic power depends not only on strength and endurance, but on skill and mental ability. Also important are a good diet, rest, overall mental and physical health, and genes. Any responsible athlete will want to work out naturally.

Athletes can produce athletic excellence without reliance on dangerous drugs. You can develop into a winner athletically and socially without harming your health. You can derive a mental edge for sports without putting drugs of any kind into your body. Athletes on steroids never really experience the good things they can learn from sports. One of these things is how to lose. Winning is great, but competing is even better. Remember, it's the whole process of athletics that counts. There is actually more than winning! By using steroids in athletics, you doubly cheat yourself. If you can't do something without cheating, why do it?

Remember, the key to this problem is never to start doing these dangerous drugs. Steroids don't work out as an alternative for someone who “won't work out.” They are not worth the danger.

A Dangerous Game

by Mary Elizabeth ANDERSON



Isaiah 7:14

CYCLE SCRAMBLE

by John **TINER**

Memory verse puzzle: Replace each letter with the one before or after it to spell out this memory verse.

Replace A with Z or B, replace B with A or C, and so on.

Replace Z with Y or A. Use this as a guide.

Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A

As you solve the puzzle, memorize the verse.

_____ the _____
U G D Q F E P Q D K N S C

_____ you a _____:
I J N T D K E X H K K T H H O

The _____ will be _____
W H S H M X H S G D G J K C

and will give _____ to a son, and will
C H S S G

_____ him _____
D Z M M J N N B M V F M

_____ 7:14
H T Z J B I

ANSWER: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

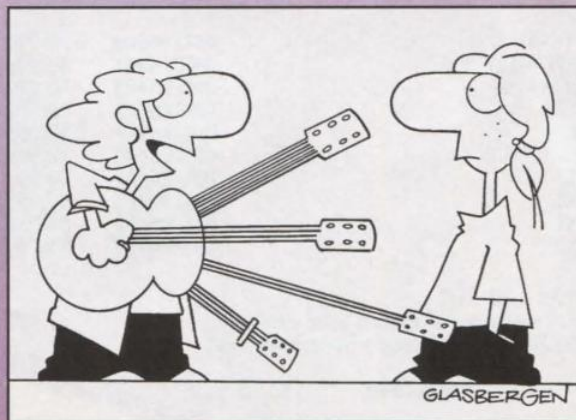
COMEDY CORNER



"You know it's going to be a cold winter when your rubber ducky flies south."

How did Vikings communicate?
By norse code!

What goes dot, dot, dash, squeak?
Mouse code!



"Swiss Army Guitar!"

Why did the king go to the dentist?
To get his teeth crowned!

What is the best day of the week to sleep?
Snooze-day!

They egg them on!

How do hens encourage their football teams?

Penaltea.

What tea do football players drink?

A jelly copter.

Whats read and flies and wobbles at the same time?

Water. What runs but never walks?

Wavy.

What kind of hair do oceans have?

Attention Senior Commander



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