

HIGH ADVENTURE



*Don't You Dare
Miss the*
**NATIONAL
CAMPORAMA
2002**

Camp Eagle Rock, MO
July 15-19



<http://ag.org.royalrangers>

THE DIARY OF DARBY JONES

**Running
Chicken Field**



A Floating City

THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON



HIGH ADVENTURE

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You are with your outpost on a camping trip heading into the woods. Commander Andy is leading the outpost. You are last in line going up the path.

You stop to watch some ants and a beetle fighting it out. The beetle has had enough and is trying to fly away, but he has ants on his wings and ants in his pants.

Suddenly you realize the outpost has gone on without you. They are nowhere in sight. You follow the path and that works pretty well, until you come to a three-way fork in the path. Decisions, decisions. Which way did they go? You decide to take the right path.

You follow it until it runs out and you keep walking. No sign of the outpost. What to do? You can follow the path back and try another path. That makes sense. Where is that path you came on? It ran out quite a way back. If you can't find the path, you can't go back and try another path. Suddenly it dawns on you--you are lost! What to do next?

You pull out your *Adventures in Camping* manual and find:

BASIC RULES FOR SURVIVAL

1. **Make a survival kit** and carry it with you when in the woods. That's out now. You are in the woods. If you did not make it before you came into the woods, you are in big trouble.
2. **Keep your cool.**
3. **Conserve your energy.** Well, if reading these rules instead of running through the woods tearing your hair out is a sign you are keeping cool and saving energy, then you have passed that hurdle.
4. **Use your head.** Same as the above. You are using your head by keeping cool and conserving energy. Besides, you remembered to read your book and not just carry it around!

5. **Look for or make a shelter.** You can do that. Your manual has some examples. If you brought along a ground sheet or rain poncho, you can make a small shelter with that. Chances are you have a hunting knife on your belt. Use it to make a shelter.

6. **Build a fire.** You can do that; if you remembered the waterproof matches or metal match. Don't forget to pick a site where you can see the sky with no overhanging branches. Clear the area in a 6-foot circle and sweep away any burnable leaves or twigs on the site. Gather a lot of wood and tinder to last you all night.

7. **Find water.** When searching for water, make sure you mark your trail so you can get back OK. Listen for running brooks or streams. Watch for low areas of lush vegetation. Search downhill—valleys and gullies lead to water. Look for riverbeds. Dry or not; they may have water at some point. Never make your camp in a riverbed! A flash flood could wipe you out.

LOST? WHO ME?

by Jimmy LUMPKIN

DISTRESS SIGNALS

Whistle. Don't whistle "Dixie!" If you brought the whistle in your kit, blow three short blasts every now and then. The whistle can be heard better than shouting. It also uses less energy.

FIRE SIGNALS

Build three small fires. After they are burning well, pile on green leaves to make the fire smoke. Smoke can be seen from a great distance. Don't make the fires the same day you get lost. Wait long enough so they will be looking for you. If you are lucky, they will miss you at evening chow or bedtime.

REFLECTIONS

If you brought a space blanket, use the bright side of it. Use a mirror, some foil, or glass to flash a signal to a pilot if you see a plane. If you have a beach or large clear space make an SOS signal with rocks.

Now we will find out why you should have brought a pencil and paper. When you leave your camp, leave a note where you are going and in which direction. Blaze a trail as you go with cuttings on trees, breaking limbs and placing the limbs or rocks in the shape of an arrow. You can use these arrows to get back to your camp as well. (Just pick them up on your way back.)

Break out your Bible and read your favorite verses. It will calm you down to know that Jesus is with you wherever you are.

BASIC FOOD PLANTS TO EAT

Watercress

Cattails

Plantain

Horseradish

Sunflower

All of the above can be boiled like spinach or eaten raw.



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GOLD MEDAL ACHIEVEMENT ESSAY

"The value of Royal Rangers is that the composition of a boy's life is changed by the faithfulness of men who are willing to give their time and effort to make the difference."

The Value of Royal R

by Benjamin BOULAY

OUTPOST 138
Harvest Christian Fellowship, Rosemount, MN

After going through Royal Rangers and looking back over the years, it is hard, almost impossible, to judge the value of my experience in the Royal Rangers ministry. For my entire life (or at least since the age of 5) I have gone to Royal Rangers every Wednesday night. It was always so much fun, even if I didn't always want to wear my uniform. Since that early age, I have been blessed to have godly instruction through my commander's devotions, Bible stories, scripture memorization, and much more. I even accepted the Lord as my personal Savior when I was 5 at a Straight Arrows meeting. I think that if Royal Rangers was just biblical teaching and nothing else it would still be a worthwhile ministry, but it has much more to offer than just teaching for the spiritual part of a boy's life. This is the one area where I think Royal Rangers surpasses a lot of other ministries, because it also deals with the mental, physical, and social "ways a boy grows."

I have made many friends through this ministry, strong Christian friends from all over the country that I would have never had the opportunity to meet without Royal Rangers. Those friends will be a help to me for a lifetime. When my Gold Medal of Achievement is just a faded memory, I will still have

these friendships to draw upon and to grow stronger than they are now.

On top of everything I have said so far, Royal Rangers has taught me many skills that I will be able to pass onto other boys. These skills include lashing, firecraft, and especially leadership qualities. There are many more I could mention, but the important thing is that I will be able to pass them on to boys who are now coming into Royal Rangers. When I do that I will be helping other boys to reach their goals. Most importantly, I will have a chance to minister to them like others ministered to me.

Over the years the challenges in Royal Rangers became more difficult. After a while I was the oldest in my outpost, and at times that made it really tough. However, there was always a time every year that I got to join other teens my age during summer camps at Lake Placid Campgrounds. It was always a fun time.

Over the years we did many things like canoeing, hiking—and who can forget that time Barney the big purple "dino" visited to wish a very happy birthday to Tim Finley! These were all special memories that I could not have without Royal Rangers.

Of course, there are many more memories like winter camping in snow caves, district and regional Royal Ranger of the Year competitions, National Camporama, joining FCF, and much more.

The value of Royal Rangers is that the composition of a boy's life is changed by the faithfulness of men who are willing to give their time and effort to make the difference. Royal Rangers is immeasurably valuable. I know that I would not be the same without it. If it changed at least one life, wouldn't that make it the most valuable thing, if not to the whole world, at least to that boy?

by Jeremy SCHMIDT

OUTPOST 59
Warwick Assembly of God, Hampton, VA

I was involved in Royal Rangers before I was old enough to even be in the program. When I was 4 years old my dad started taking me camping. He and my brother Ryan taught me a lot about the outdoors and camping skills. My dad was a Trailblazer commander at the time, and he was always encouraging me to excel in the program like Ryan, who had already earned his Gold Medal.

Royal Rangers has affected my life in more ways than I can express. I've learned responsibility as a Ranger, a brother, a son, and as a friend to other Rangers. As I have grown into a young man and experienced the many changes that come with that, Royal Rangers has taught me to deal with those changes. Two of the eight points of the Ranger Code have helped me to resist the negative influences the world throws in the path of a young man like me.

ALERT: MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY

As a teen in public schools, I have always been aware that many of my peers were smoking and doing drugs and other harmful things to their bodies. The spiritual skills I've learned

in Rangers have helped me to "Just Say No." One day in middle school I was using the restroom when a guy I knew came up to me and asked me if I wanted to get high. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a bag of marijuana. I did what Joseph did when Potiphar's wife attacked him (Genesis 39: 12). I ran.

The physical alertness that comes from my Rangers first-aid training helped me in another incident. I was at my friend Troy's uncle's house helping them cut tree limbs. Suddenly the limb we were working on fell against the ladder that Troy was using. He lost his balance and fell, breaking his arm. Thanks to my Rangers training, I didn't panic but ran and called 911. I gave the dispatcher directions quickly and clearly.

COURTEOUS: POLITE, KIND, AND THOUGHTFUL

**"... some of the greatest joys
I will take from my years in
Rangers are the friendships that
I have developed over the years"**

Courtesy is something that has been impressed upon me at home and reinforced at Royal Rangers. My parents have been particularly insistent that I treat elderly people with the utmost respect. Once, while out with my friend David, we stopped at the retirement home where his mother works. We were waiting in the lobby when an elderly man by the name of Mr. Godfrey walked in. Mr. Godfrey is totally blind but loves to play the piano. I watched for a few minutes as he tried to play. He was struggling to find the proper keys. I walked over and introduced myself. We talked for a while. I explained that I knew how to

Rangers

play, and he asked if I would play for him. I played "Amazing Grace." I didn't realize that was his favorite hymn. He wanted to learn how to play it, so I sat down with him and guided him through. By the time we were finished, he knew the placement of every key and could play it by himself. Through the gift of courtesy, God used me to bless that man. I'm thankful that living by the Royal Rangers Code helped me develop that gift.

In closing, some of the greatest joys I will take from my years in Rangers are the friendships that I have developed over the years. When I came to this outpost 5 years ago, I was just a stranger from Louisiana. But the Rangers and the leaders took me in as one of their own. They taught me that I could have fun doing the right thing. Royal Rangers has challenged me to set the bar high, and if I fall short, to get up and try again.

by Benjamin S. HEITMAN

OUTPOST 59
Warwick Assembly of God, Hampton, VA

Royal Rangers has been a part of my life for nearly 10 years. My life has been constantly changing, but Rangers is one of those unique programs that has moved, changed, and grown with me. Royal Rangers was there when I was barely 8 in California, when my best friend introduced me

to another outpost in Kansas, and when my mother encouraged me to join again in Virginia. The commanders were almost like fathers to me, showing me the right way, guiding and lifting me up when I failed.

The Rangers ministry has been instrumental in motivating me to achieve a greater goal. I write this essay for a GMA that I treasure as a mark of high achievement—honoring spiritual growth that is much more important than all of the lashings, campfires, and tomahawks in the world.

Through the years, I have witnessed some great sermons, not through the lips of a pastor (though these are powerful), but from a commander speaking earnestly about God in a way that was aimed directly at his outpost. All of these sermons, indeed all of these men, were unified through a common love and goal: a love for me and a desire to make me a man of God.

In fellowship, Rangers has given me my greatest friends—a support group that I can rely on in need and relax with when camping. They have inspired my determination, and we are all achieving our GMA's together. I believe fellowship is one of the key ingredients to the impact of Royal Rangers. Individually all are easily broken or corrupted, but through unity, friendship, and mutual encouragement, we are made stronger, and kept holy.

I have also been given a wide range of knowledge by following the Royal Ranger Advancement Trail. The many merits require specific knowledge on a great variety of subjects. Together they have nourished me and caused me to grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." In working for the GMA, I have increased my knowledge about Christian missions, the Assemblies of God doctrines, the Bible, the local government, nature, teamwork, and many other important topics.

"... I have witnessed some great sermons ... from a commander speaking earnestly about God in a way that was aimed directly at his outpost."

Knowledge is power, but wisdom is gained through experience. The experiences I have had through the merit program and through leadership roles in my outpost have presented me with opportunities to use my knowledge and apply the practical wisdom gained through direct leadership experience. Recently I have been exposed to a variety of command positions which have challenged me to be an example to the younger Royal Rangers. I was one of those boys only a few years back. Leadership reveals your own weaknesses and how to correct them. It entrusts the leader with the solemn pact to guide his command along the right path. Rangers is a great way to encourage boys to become independent, intelligent, and above all, spiritual.

I remember my development and advancement clearly. The milestones of Straight Arrows, Buckaroos, Pioneers, etc., represent the progression to another exciting and strengthening challenge, guaranteed to leave me one step closer to a physical, mental, social, and spiritual maturity. Without Rangers, I don't know how I would have turned out. Perhaps well, perhaps not, but I wonder if I would have taken the chance to trust God and step out in faith. If not I would have missed out on an opportunity that has provided me with many great memories and friendships while causing me to grow. I await the next step, achieving my GMA, as another opportunity to fulfill a dream and to discover more fruitful paths of leadership and fellowship.

Pius Learns About GOD'S POWER

Pius wiggled impatiently. Usually the 12-year-old boy liked school, but today he wanted classes to be over. Something special had happened in his family, and he wanted to go home.

For a long time Pius' sister had not been able to see well. She had an infection in her eyes. Her family had taken her to doctors, but no one knew how to help her.

Yesterday a man came to Pius' village in Kenya. "God loves you," he told the people. "He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins. He can heal the sick and give you a home in heaven." Then the man prayed for people who were sick. He prayed for Pius' sister and asked God to heal her.

Is this God the man is talking about powerful enough to heal my sister? Pius had wondered. How can God heal someone if doctors cannot?

A day had passed since the man had prayed. Pius wanted to hurry home and see how his sister felt. Was this God able to help her?

Finally school was over for the day. Pius ran down the dirt road. His bare feet sent puffs of dust flying into the air. Soon his green school uniform was covered with dirt. But Pius didn't care. He wanted to see his sister.

When he got home he called out, "Sister, Sister, where are you?"

"Here I am," she answered. "I can see you clearly. The man who prayed for me was right. God has healed me!" Pius was so happy he wanted to jump up and down.

News of what happened spread through the village. "She was healed by the power of God," the people said.

Because of this miracle, Pius' mother asked Jesus to be her Savior. But she could not read. Every day Pius read to her from the Bible. When he read about

Jesus, he knew he needed a Savior, too. He asked Jesus to forgive his sins.

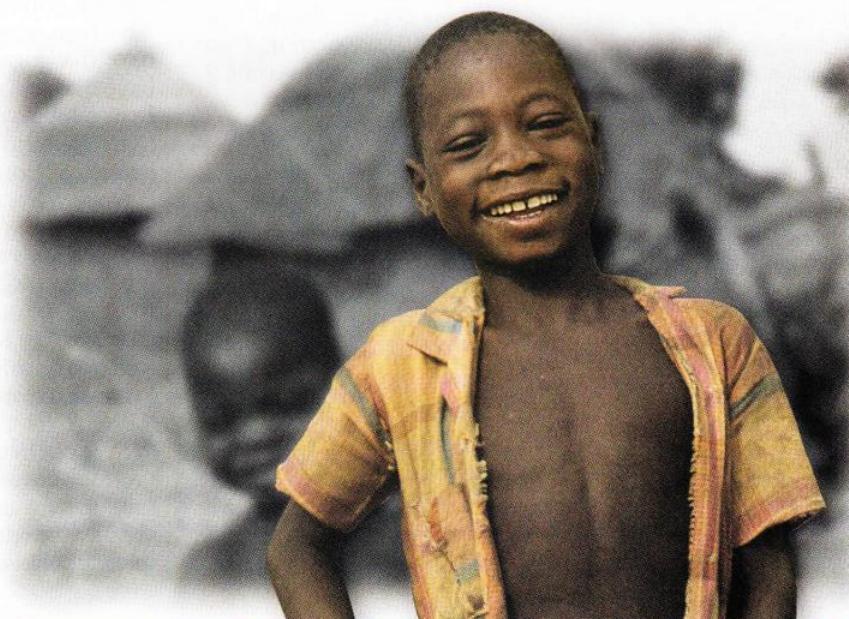
As a teenager, Pius sang in the youth choir at church. He wanted to make music for God, so He used wood and cardboard to make a guitar to play songs.

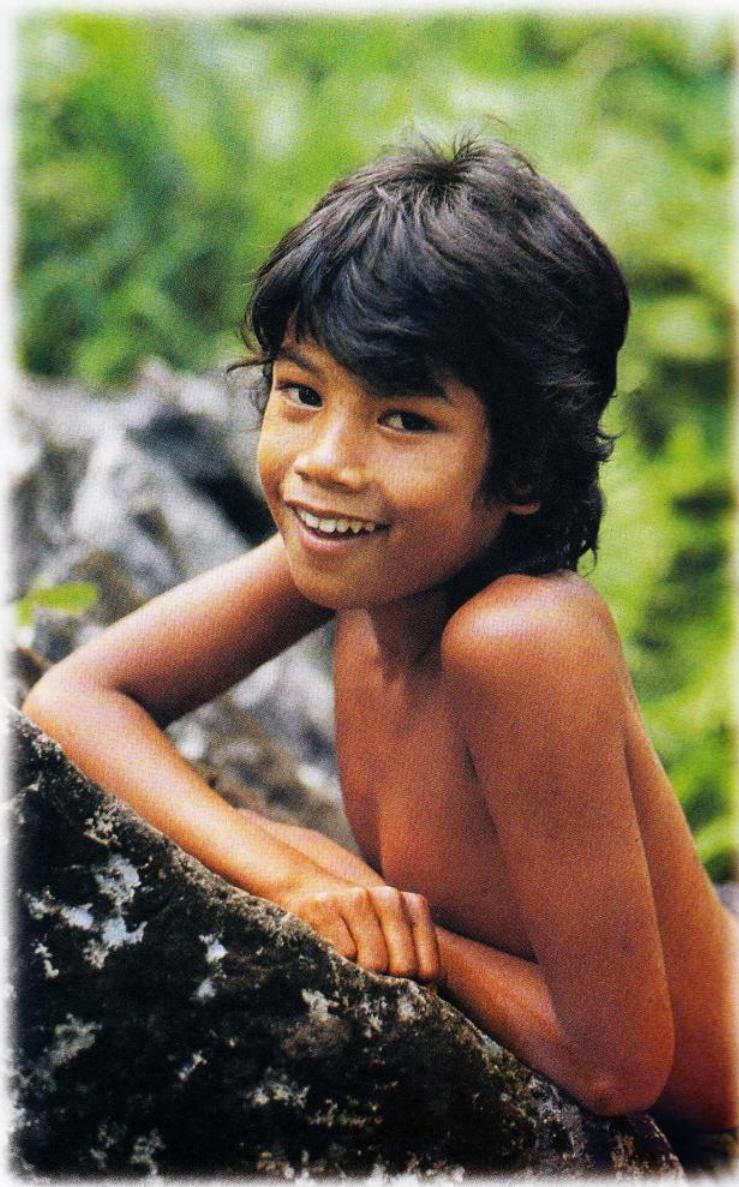
When Pius grew up, he wondered, What kind of job should I train for? My father wants me to become a mechanic or an electrician. But what does God want me to do?

Pius thought and prayed. Finally he made his decision. He would teach boys and girls in Kenya about Jesus. He went to Bible school in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

Pius, his wife, Jecintah, and their children are happy to do God's work. Pius is still thankful to God for healing his sister years ago. Because of this miracle, he serves God and is teaching boys and girls in Africa to serve Him too.

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Missionary Tim Anderson peered out the window of the small airplane. All he could see was the bright blue sky around him and the jungles of Ecuador below. But deep in the jungle was Kasutka, a village where the Shuar people live. Only two people in the village were Christians, but others wanted to hear about Jesus. And Tim wanted to tell them.

About 30 minutes later, Tim could see a large brown area in the middle of the forest. Small huts replaced the trees. The people of Kasutka kept the jungle cut away so snakes and other creeping things would not come near their homes.

A short dirt runway came into view as the plane sank lower in the sky. Tim planned to spend only an hour in Kasutka. He wanted to meet the people and learn the best way to share the gospel with them. But God had other plans. A sudden rainstorm came. The small plane could not take off in the rain. For the next 6 hours Tim was stranded in the village. He decided to hold a church service.

After Tim preached, 12 people asked Jesus to be their Savior. Since then Tim has gone back to Kasutka to teach. The church has grown. The new believers are taking the gospel to other Shuar villages. They often walk up to 8 hours one way to reach their neighbors.

Many people in Kasutka have never been outside the jungle. To leave the area, a person must cross a river, hike 12 hours to the nearest highway, and catch a bus headed for a larger town.

Outside the jungles of Ecuador, most people have never heard of the Shuar. But God has always known where they live. He sent a missionary at just the right time to show them their need for a Savior.

The Bible and Christian books have been translated into the Shuar language. Deep in the jungles of Ecuador, people are learning that Jesus loves them.

The people of Kasutka kept the jungle cut away so snakes and other creeping things would not come near their homes.

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JOURNEY to the JUNGLE



BIBLEMAN
Coming to
Camporama

BIBLEMAN

JULY 18, 2002

ROYAL RANGERS

HIGH ADVENTURE

Leader

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NUMBER 1

Royal Rangers

40th Anniversary

1962-2002

by Richard Mariott, National Commander

It is our 40th anniversary! 2002 will be remembered in Royal Rangers history not only by celebrating 40 years of successful ministry to boys, but also by the releasing of the new "vision" and setting our sights on the future.

To commemorate this historical year we will have very nice 40th anniversary collectors memorabilia available through the Royal Rangers office, Camporama, and by e-mail or telephone order. While this article is not designed to give an overall review of our 40 years, we will do an article about the 40th anniversary celebration in High Adventure after the Camporama.



The year 2002 will be our eighth Camporama and the fifth at Eagle Rock Campground. This will also be the greatest Camporama in history, with anticipation of setting new attendance records, and more events, activities, and excitement than ever. It should be illegal to have this much fun at one camp! Daisy Corp. will be hosting our first team BB gun championship. We will have our first national Pinewood Derby championship and many other competitions. We have many individual medals for the boys to win at the camp plus region and district trophies and awards.

The trams are being built, and Berryville Tractor is donating the tractors to be used to pull the trams at Camporama.

We are working on maps, road signs, and enlisting volunteers to help our campers and guests with information and directions. We want this Camporama to be a great experience for boys and leaders, so much so that they would want to attend again—even if it is hot!

For the 18 months prior to July 2002 Camporama, we have done more campground improvements than ever in the history

of Eagle Rock Campgrounds. If you have attended any other camps at Eagle Rock, you will be amazed at all the work: repairing of buildings, new buildings, new roads, wider roads, new water wells, power lines, telephone lines, shower houses, and the new Eagles Resort facility.

Currently we are working on the BMX course, laying out the new mountain bike course, and grooming an additional 5 to 6 acres of land for campers next to the large field in front of Johnnie Barnes Lodge.

While it is exciting and leaves no time for rest, you may be asking yourself, "I wonder if they need any help?" **That's a big YES!** We need tradesmen proficient in plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning to complete as listed below.

	PLUMBING	ELECTRICAL	CARPENTRY	HEAT-AIR
Shower Houses	YES	YES	—	—
Eagles Resort Cabins	YES	YES	YES	YES
Eagles Resort Lodge (Finish)	YES	—	YES	—
Underground Electrical	—	YES	—	—
Johnnie Barnes Lodge	—	YES	—	YES

You may be asking yourself if we need additional help the week before or a couple of days after the Camporama. **That's a big YES also!**

We have a Volunteer Application that we would be happy to send you. We also sent a copy to your district commander, and it may also be on our website (www.royalrangers.ag.org).

Remember, don't forget to bring the boys!

Let's get set for a great, historical 40th anniversary!

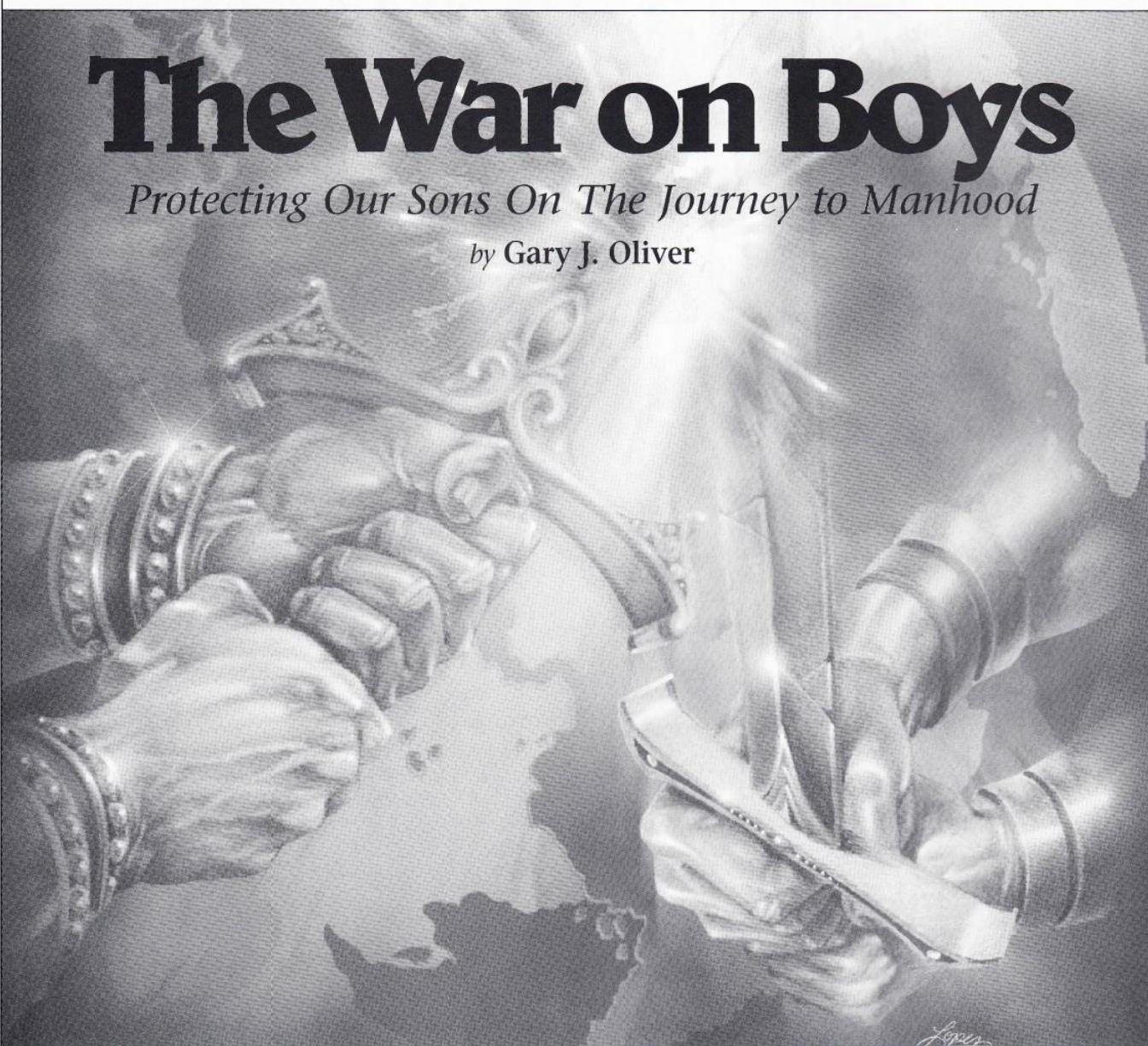
Blessings friends,



The War on Boys

Protecting Our Sons On The Journey to Manhood

by Gary J. Oliver



Oliver

On the morning of April 20, 1999, my wife, Carrie, and I were out of the country enjoying a much-needed vacation. As we were checking out at a grocery store, I happened to glance at a TV monitor displaying a CNN newscast from Littleton, Colo. Something terrible had happened at Columbine High. It had only been 9 months since we had left a ministry of 12 years in Littleton, so we were especially concerned about what was happening back "home."

The reporters weren't exactly sure what was happening, but they thought there were at least a couple of gunmen. Witnesses reported hearing numerous gunshots and seeing some dead and wounded.

Anguished parents waited for hours as police teams sealed off the area. Students were either in tears or trying to look cool as they recounted the horrific events of that day.

In the weeks that followed, the world would learn that the high school killers were part of a small group who called themselves "The Trench Coat Mafia." Most of their classmates thought they were harmless. It seems more than a coincidence that they picked Hitler's birthday to prove otherwise.

TV commentators scrambled to explain how something like this could happen. Some said it was our children's fairly steady diet of violent movies and video



games. Others said that unininvolved, out-of-touch parents were to blame. Then came the pleas for safer schools with more metal detectors and security guards. One commentator even had the guts to talk about these kind of events being the logical conclusion of a postmodern society that has refused to believe in absolutes. But nobody paid much attention to that explanation.

Tragically, this isn't the first time something like this has happened. The Columbine incident is isolated only by its magnitude. Consider these examples:

On Feb. 2, 1996, a 14-year-old walked into algebra class at a junior high school in Moses Lake, Wash., killing the teacher and two students. On Oct. 1, 1997, a 16-year-old in Pearl, Miss., first killed his mother and then went to school and shot nine students, two fatally. On Dec. 1, 1997, a 14-year-old went to his school in West Paducah, Ky., killed three students who were praying in a school hallway and wounded five others. On March 24, 1998, two boys in Jonesboro, Ark., aged 11 and 13, activated a fire alarm. As their fellow students evacuated the building they went on a shooting spree, killing four classmates and a teacher. On April 24, 1998, a 14-year-old in Pennsylvania nicknamed "Satan" took his father's pistol, went to his middle school prom and killed the teacher who organized it and wounded several others. In May of 1998, in Fayetteville, Tenn., an 18-year-old student allegedly shot dead a classmate in the school parking lot. Two days later in Springfield, Ore., a 15-year-old entered Thurston High school with three guns, killing two teenagers and wounding more than 20. The police later found that his parents had been killed at home.

These stories are staggering and unbelievable. However, one common thread makes these incidents even more distressing. In every single one of these shootings, the murderer was a boy.

At the time this article was written, a major network broadcast reported that there were 63 adolescents on death row, all of whom were boys. The incidents in Littleton and around our nation indicate that these are difficult and challenging days to be a boy and to raise a boy.

Our sons are confused by society's mixed messages about what's expected of them as boys and of what it means to be a man. Their sisters receive encouragement and are taught to be nurturing and sensitive to the needs of others, while boys are discouraged from expressing vulnerable and tender emotions. Instead, they receive training in logical thinking, problem-solving, risk-taking, assertion, competition, and aggression.

Many boys feel out of touch with emotions they don't understand and don't know how to handle. Raised in a culture that glorifies violence and says there are no absolutes, many young men feel a sadness and disconnection they cannot even name. Even if they understood this disconnect, most of them wouldn't have the tools to talk about it or the people with whom to discuss it.

One of the keys to raising healthy boys is understanding their world. What follows is some disturbing information to be aware of in order to understand sons and help them navigate the rapids from childhood to adulthood.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Infant boys receive fewer demonstrative acts of affection from their mothers and are touched less than infant girls.
- Boys are talked to less and for shorter durations.
- Infant boys are more likely to be held facing outward, toward the world and other people. Girls are held inward, toward the security, warmth, and comfort of the parents.
- Infant boys crawl, sit, and speak later and tend to cry more, yet girl toddlers are more likely to get positive responses when crying for help than boys are.
- Young boys are admitted to mental hospitals and juvenile institutions about seven times more frequently than girls of similar age and socioeconomic background are.
- Boys are much more likely to suffer from a variety of birth defects. About 200 genetic diseases affect only boys.
- Some research suggests that dyslexia is found in up to nine times as many boys as girls.

The problems that boys face don't end there. When boys enter adolescence, the unique challenges continue. (For details, see the sidebar "Boys and Adolescence.")

BOYS AND SCHOOL

- Adolescent boys are twice as likely as adolescent girls to be diagnosed as learning disabled. And two-thirds of high school special education and disabled students are male.
- Adolescent males drop out of high school at four times the rate of females (this includes females who drop out to have babies).
- Ninety percent of adolescent discipline problems in schools involve male students, as are most expulsions and suspensions.



- Adolescent males are much more likely than adolescent females to be left back a grade.
- Adolescent males on average get poorer grades than adolescent females. The majority of salutatorians and valedictorians now are female.
- More college students are female (55%) than male (45%). More graduate students are female (59%) than male (41%).
- Females outscored adolescent males by 12 points in reading and 17 points in writing. The U.S. Department of Education recently pointed out that this gender gap in reading/writing is equivalent to about 1/2 years of school.

LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH

Our sons are growing up in a culture that is increasingly immoral and violent. The message from media and television equates masculinity with sexual experience. If you look at some of the popular adolescent movies it is hard to believe that a young man might have a brain or the ability to feel anything above his waist! They are confronted with violent and obscene music that comes complete with parental warnings. Even the formerly safe entertainment of "professional"

wrestling has been reduced to a crotch-grabbing, breast-bouncing orgy of profanity and perversion.

If you are reading this article, it may be because God has given you a boy. While he is a "real" boy our job is to help him become a "whole" boy. If we don't teach boys how to be brave, truthful, and unselfish, they will never become whole and will not grow up to be real men. They will be boys who are unaware of

their own emotions and unable to develop intimate relationships.. They will not have a strong conscience and will find it difficult to become whole, healthy, and godly men.

There is a difference between a boy who is a Christian and a boy who has the intrinsic motivation and commitment to live for Christ. There is a difference between a boy who knows, or has even memorized, the Bible and one who has learned to listen to the still small voice of God's Spirit. While there are many things God can use in the process of helping our

If you are reading this article, it may be because God has given you a boy.

While he is a "real" boy our job is to help him become a "whole" boy.

boys to grow into godly men, the most significant, the most powerful and enduring influences are mom and dad.

One of the most important things our children need is love. But when we look at the parents of the boys who committed these highly publicized school shootings, we see that in many cases they had parents who loved them. Apparently, love is not enough. We need moms and dads who understand where their sons are at and the kinds of influences that are shaping their lives.

Today many men are waking up to the fact that there are few honors that are greater, few responsibilities more significant, few privileges more meaningful than being a father to a son or daughter, or being like a father to a boy or girl who doesn't have a dad. Research is telling us what the Bible has told us for thousands of years: Fathers are just as important as mothers are.

Studies tell us that children with effective fathers get along better with their peers, display more social confidence, are more comfortable in new situations, adapt to change more easily, score higher on intelligence tests, demonstrate better thinking ability, have increased empathy for others, and have a greater ability to rely on their own judgment.

God takes fathering very seriously, and He wants us to take it seriously too. here are three simple things to do starting now to help a boy become a godly man:

1. Understand your son. As soon as you finish reading this article, get out your day-timer and set aside specific time to increase your understanding of how God has uniquely designed boys to become men. For example, there are certain developmental stages all boys go through and understanding those stages can make a huge difference in how effective we are in their lives. Understanding your son's personality type can be another key to open up new ways to communicate with your son. Another key is the ability to teach your son how to cultivate anger. (Discussion of and techniques employing methods addressing these ideas are found in the author's book *Raising Sons and Loving It!*)

2. Encourage your son. James Dobson writes: "If you have children at home, the biggest mistake you can make is to let them grow up around your feet, missing opportunities to instill your values. Don't miss the opportunity of those early years!"

At least once a month I have a lunch or dinner with each of my boys. Periodically, I take them to a movie and then go somewhere afterward to talk about it.



During these times, I look for specific opportunities to be a Barnabas (son of encouragement) to my boys by complimenting them and encouraging them. Proverbs 16:24 tells us that, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Sometimes we dads are good at giving direction, instruction, and correction, but we can be a bit weak with the encouragement.

3. Pray with and for your son. Pray daily for your children by name, and enlist a team of at least seven other people to pray daily for you, your marriage, and your children.

Several years ago, God showed me that bedtime has enormous potential for a slice of quality time with my sons. God convicted me that I was allowing Headline News or other nighttime activities to rob my boys and me of an invaluable and irreplaceable opportunity. That situation has changed! Many nights I will go into the room of each one of my boys, kneel by his bed, give him a little neck rub, chat for a few minutes, and then pray with him. As I walk into their rooms at night, I remind myself of the sign I see at many of the railroad crossings here in northwest Arkansas: Stop, Look, and Listen. Notice the sign doesn't say anything about talking. Stop, look, and listen...and then maybe talk. Sometimes these few minutes can lead into a half-hour of deep sharing. Our children are the living messages we will send to a generation that we will not see. What are the messages we are sending? The truths of character are better caught than taught. But to pass the torch you have to be there. Love the Lord, love your son, understand the times, and pray without ceasing for wisdom and grace to help your son become a godly man.

Gary J. Oliver is the father of three sons, and is the executive director of The Center for Marriage and Family Studies and Professor of Psychology and Practical Theology at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark. He and his wife, Carrie, co-authored the book *Raising Sons... and Loving It!* Zondervan).

Boys and Adolescence

■ Adolescent boys are much more likely than adolescent girls to die before the age of 18, not just from violent causes, but also from accidental death and disease.

■ Adolescent boys are more likely than adolescent girls to die at the hands of their caregivers. Two out of three juveniles killed at the hands of their parents or stepparents are male.

■ Adolescent boys are 15 times more likely than their female peers to be victims of violent crimes.

■ Gunshot wounds are now the second leading cause of accidental death among 10- to 14-year old males.

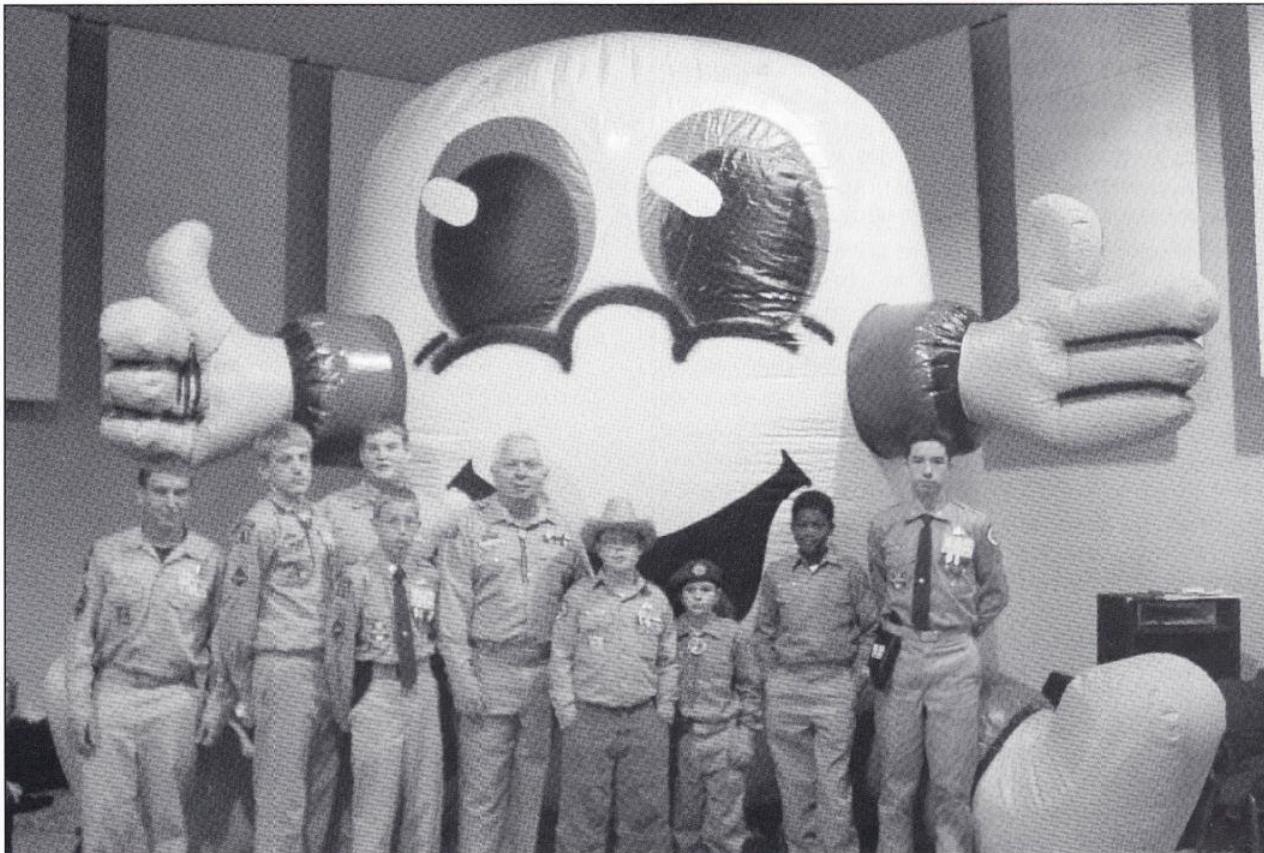
■ The majority of juvenile mental patients nationwide are male. Between two-thirds and three-fourths of patients at juvenile mental facilities are males.

■ Adolescent boys are four times more likely than adolescent girls to be diagnosed as emotionally disturbed.

■ Adolescent males significantly outnumber females in diagnoses of most conduct disorders, thought disorders, and brain disorders.

■ Adolescent males are four times more likely than adolescent females to commit suicide. Suicide success statistics (i.e. death actually occurs) for adolescent males are rising; suicide success statistics for adolescent females are not.

■ One out of five males has been sexually abused by the age of 18. Most sexual offenders are heterosexual males who have been physically and/or sexually abused as boys themselves.



Setting a Yearly Goal for BGMC

by Mary Boyd

National BGMC/Children's Ministries Assistant Coordinator

(Taken from BCMC News, Volume 2, Winter 2000)

Why Should You Set a Goal?

Setting a goal gives you a target to work for. It will inspire you and your church to do your best to reach that goal. Without a goal, there is nothing to work for. It's easy to forget about BGMC and to just occasionally throw in a token offering. Setting a goal causes you to be creative with fundraising and gives you an incentive to keep on working.

How Do I Determine What My Goal Should Be?

Be realistic. Look at what your giving was for the previous year and increase it. Think about what you think the children and the adults can do to increase the giving from the previous year. Think about new fundraisers

to try during the next year. Most importantly, pray and ask God to give you a figure to strive for. He'll inspire you and lead you.

Don't make your goal so high that it becomes discouraging to ever reach. At the same time, don't make your goal so low that you'll be able to meet the goal with little or no effort.

Remember, more BGMC giving means more souls being reached for the kingdom.

Every cent puts more money into the missionary's hands, so he or she has more supplies and tools to reach out to the lost. I'm amazed at the number of missionaries that I talk to who are so grateful to BGMC and how BGMC has helped them. Many a missionary has told me they couldn't have done it without BGMC. Encourage Your Kids To Make a Goal/Faith Promise



Not only should you make a goal for your church, you should also encourage the children to make their own individual goals a faith promise. By making their own goals, they have something to work for. A child who doesn't have a goal will just occasionally throw a coin in his or her Buddy Barrel and be satisfied. But a child who makes a goal a faith promise will do his or her best to meet that goal by working to earn the money. Children will also learn what it is to sacrifice a candy bar, a can of soda, etc., and give that money to BGMC so they can meet their goals.

Ask the kids for monthly testimonies and reports on how they are going to meet their goals. These reports will produce excitement and will encourage the other kids to keep working. It will also give other kids ideas about how they can earn money. Plus, every time the child meets his/her goal, it becomes a real faith builder. They are experiencing God providing for them and helping them. We have personally seen tremendous spiritual growth in kids who make faith promises and then trust God to help them and provide.

Encourage the kids with their giving by rewarding them. You can give monthly, quarterly, or yearly rewards. BGMC has great items that you can use as rewards such as: ribbons, pins, medallions, certificates, hats, t-shirts, flying discs, and more. Information on these items can be found in the BGMC resource catalog (Item number 715-076. It's free.).

Children need to be taught to do their best to earn money for missions, and they need to be taught to make sacrifices for that money. If kids don't learn that now, they won't do it as adults. God asks all of us to do our best to help supply the needs of His kingdom.

Children's Pastor Raises Over \$160,000 for BGMC

Perched on a 40-foot billboard, Pastor Jay Risner, children's pastor at James River Assembly in Ozark, Mo., raised over \$160,000 for the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade in just 10 days. In comparison, the previous yearly giving record by any one church was \$38,352.

Originally scheduled for early October, the campaign was almost grounded in the wake of the September 11 attacks. When it was rescheduled for early November, the fear that winter weather could cancel the whole thing became an issue. But, at 1 p.m. on November 11, Risner climbed atop the donated billboard on U.S. 65 and didn't come down until 1 p.m. November 21, the day before Thanksgiving.

Risner filled his days calling local businessmen and community leaders for pledges and hosting visitors to his makeshift home in the sky. Visitors included General Assemblies of God officials like General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask and John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, as well as family and friends. His chiropractor even paid several visits, bringing a portable table up the 40-foot



fundraiser for back and neck adjustments.

God had originally given Risner the goal of raising \$100,000 during the campaign. Despite a tenuous start, he knew he had reached that goal before coming down from his platform Wednesday afternoon. It wasn't until a few days later when final tallies were being made that he realized God had not only met the original promise, but nearly doubled it. "When we first started planning this, I was realistically thinking we could raise \$50,000," Risner said. "But God kept telling me it had to be \$100,000. It just proves that as we are faithful to Him, He is faithful to us and to His promises."

The local media became a driving force behind Risner's campaign. Several local radio and television stations broadcast live from the billboard. Local restaurants donated meals daily for Risner and his guests. "It was a 'God-thing,'" Risner said. "The community really got behind us. In 10 days people got to know me, and more importantly, BGMC."

David Boyd, director of the Children's Ministries Agency and BGMC, said that more than a third of the funds raised came from outside the church from the local community. "That's a significant amount when you talk to pastors who say their congregation is tapped-out financially." He went on to say that the bar has really been raised. "This effort is an inspiration to churches of all sizes that with some creativity and effort, amazing things can happen."

Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade is a giving program supplying books, equipment, computers, puppets, clown supplies, and more to A/G missionaries around the world. It also serves as a missions education program to teach children about countries, people groups, and missionaries. Since its inception in 1949, BGMC has raised more than \$47.6 million for world missions.

This article was written by Brett Risner and reproduced from the Assemblies of God News Service.



CAMPS BY TYPE

FOR YEAR 2002

NTC

— 2 —

APRIL 11-14, 2002
A/G Camp Woodworth
Woodworth, LA

— 3 —

MAY 16-19, 2002
Mt. Lassen Camp
Mineral, CA

— 4 —

AUGUST 22-25, 2002
ABC Camp
Weston, OR

— 5 —

SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Pinecrest Conference Center
Twin Peaks, CA

— 6 —

SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Camp Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock, MO

— 7 —

SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Camp Roosevelt (BSA)
Woodstown, NJ

— 8 —

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2002
Lost Valley Bible Camp
Gaylord, MI

— 9 —

SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002
Guadalupe Christian Camp
Carlsbad, NM

— 10 —

SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002
Camp Euchee
Defuniak Springs, FL

ANTC

— 1 —

MAY 2-5, 2002
Camp Asambleas de Dios
Arecibo, PR

NCE

— 1 —

AUGUST 15-18, 2002
Priest Lake & Priest River
Priest Lake, ID

NTT

— 1 —

OCTOBER 10-13, 2002
Penn-Del District Training Camp
Honey Grove, PA

ACADEMY & ADVANCED ACADEMY

— 1 —

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2002
Heartland Conference
Retreat Center
Marengo, OH

RKTC

— 2 —

AUGUST 23-25, 2002
ABC Camp
Weston, OR

— 3 —

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2002
Spencer Lake Christian Center
Waupaca, WI

— 4 —

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2002
A/G Woodworth Camp
Woodworth, LA

— 5 —

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2002
Heartland Conf. Retreat Center
Marengo, OH

— 6 —

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2002
Family Life Center
Forsyth, GA

— 7 —

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2002
Assembly Camp
Turner Falls, OK

— 8 —

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2002
Camp Asambleas de Dios
Arecibo, PR

National Camporama

JULY 15-19, 2002

Camp Eagle Rock, Eagle Rock, MO

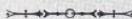


CAMPS BY REGION

FOR YEAR 2002

SOUTHWEST

NTC
MAY 16-19, 2002
Mt. Lassen Camp
Mineral, CA



NTC
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Pinecrest Conference Center
Twin Peaks, CA

SOUTHEAST

ANTC
MAY 2-5, 2002
Camp Asambleas de Dios
Arecibo, PR



NTC
SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002
Camp Euchee
Defuniak Springs, FL



RKTC
NOVEMBER 8-10, 2002
Family Life Center
Forsyth, GA



RKTC
NOVEMBER 15-17, 2002
Camp Asambleas de Dios
Arecibo, PR

GREAT LAKES

NTC
SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2002
Lost Valley Bible Camp
Gaylord, MI



NRRA
SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2002
Heartland Conference Center
Marengo, OH



RKTC
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2002
Heartland Conference Center
Marengo, OH

GULF

NTC
APRIL 11-14, 2002
A/G Camp Woodworth
Woodworth, LA



NTC
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Camp Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock, MO



RKTC
SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2002
A/G Woodworth Camp
Woodworth, LA



NAT'L CAMPORAMA
JULY 15-19, 2002
Camp Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock, MO

SOUTH CENTRAL

NTC
SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2002
Guadalupe Christian Camp
Carlsbad, NM



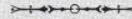
RKTC
NOVEMBER 1-3, 2002
Assembly Camp
Turner Falls, OK

NORTH CENTRAL

RKTC
SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2002
Spencer Lake Christian Center
Waupaca, WI

NORTHEAST

NTC
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2002
Camp Roosevelt (BSA)
Woodstown, NJ



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OCTOBER 10-13, 2002
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Honey Grove, PA

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Priest Lake, ID



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ABC Camp
Weston, OR



TRANSITION

Helping Move Leaders & Boys Into the New Program

by Brian Hendrickson, *National Buckaroo/Straight Arrows Coordinator*

The upcoming National Council will be an exciting time as we unveil the new training designed to revitalize and promote the retention of leaders. This council will begin to prepare us for the changes coming to Royal Rangers over the next year. In August the Ranger Kids materials will be ready for purchase in time to be implemented in September. In March 2003 the Discovery and Adventure Rangers materials will be ready for purchase, followed shortly thereafter by the Expedition Rangers. In the meantime, the Junior Training Camps have already begun the process of redesign in preparation for the new Royal Rangers program. Contact the national office for a list of camps that have been or are in the process of approval.

The most important item of concern for the next few months is the need to transition the boys from the old program into the new one. In preparation of this, the national office and GPH have developed brochures and made them available to assist the local commander. Each brochure describes in detail the method and means to transition the boys in preparation for the release of the new materials. These brochures will be ready for March council. You can order these through GPH.

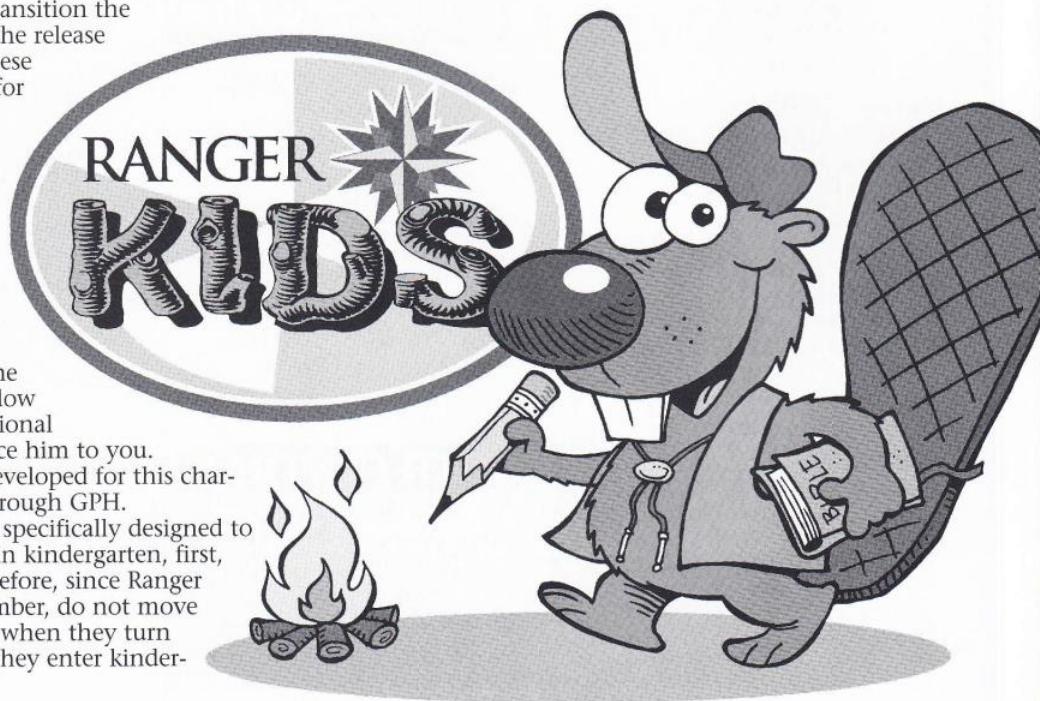
We have developed a new and excitable character to assist Commanders during the weekly meeting plans and to interact with the boys. He will help teach boys about the Bible, God, and their fellow man. During March National Council we will introduce him to you. Also, a puppet will be developed for this character and will be sold through GPH.

Ranger Kids has been specifically designed to meet the needs of boys in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Therefore, since Ranger Kids is starting in September, do not move boys up from Rainbows when they turn 5, but rather wait until they enter kinder-

garten. Rainbows has a third year of curriculum to meet the needs of our future Royal Rangers until they enter kindergarten. Each grade has a specific Advancement Trail to pursue the ultimate goal of obtaining the large Trail patches: Elk, Wolverine, and Cougar. The boys will earn these patches after they have earned the four quarterly patches for each Trail.

When you begin Ranger Kids in the fall, it is important to use the transition brochure and award the boys their proper patch based upon work they have already completed in Straight Arrows and Buckaroos. If there is ever any question as to awarding a certain patch, e-mail the national office for clarification. Boys need to be honored for their hard work, and we should do everything we can to prevent discouragement.

Training for leaders will be enhanced not only by the Ranger Basics course but also with Leadership Training Academy modules specifically designed for Ranger Kids commanders. This year the national office will also unveil the new Ranger Kids Training Conference, RKTC.





This conference will be held in various locations around the United States. The dates and locations for these conferences can be found on the website or in the Winter 2001 issue of High Adventure, Leader's Edition released this past December.

Below is a list of the various materials available to you through GPH in August.

- Ranger Kids Leaders Guide
- Ranger Kids Handbook
- Ranger Kids Workbook
- All uniform items, including a new hat, vest, and bolo
- All advancement patches (15)
- All achievement patches (51)
- Ranger Kids advancement charts and posters
- CD of Royal Rangers artwork
- New Royal Ranger posters
- CD of Ranger Kids songs and scriptures

■ Bible stories on CD

In the meantime, new medals to honor our men will be available shortly after council. Below is a list.

- Pastor's Medal
- Senior Commander Award
- National Outstanding Service Award
- Regional Medal of Merit
- Regional Outstanding Service Award
- Gold Star Award
- Special Service Award

In addition to these added medals for leaders, GPH will also have the following items available for purchase:

- United States flag for uniform
- Some merit patches for Discovery and Adventure Rangers

Transition Program Enhancements

by Mike Laliberty, Deputy National Commander

In March 2001 a transition program was announced to demonstrate how a boy would transition from the current advancement system to the new system. In addition, the Trailblazer commanders were provided with the option of moving from a requirement-based advancement system to a merit-based system.

Due to the success of the merit-based option with the Trailblazers, this option is being expanded to include the Pioneers. This will be accomplished by placing the revised requirements for most of the current program merits and a few of the new merits on the Royal Rangers website. The merits will be listed by age-appropriateness:

- Red- and blue-bordered merits for Pioneers
- Gold- and green-bordered merits for Trailblazers
- Silver-bordered merits for Trail Rangers and Challengers

The transition program remains the same for the Trailblazers with the exception that the revised merit

requirements will also be available for completing merit work.

Trail Rangers and Challengers may use the silver-bordered merits for their advancement work along with the gold and green merits needed for uncompleted GMA work.

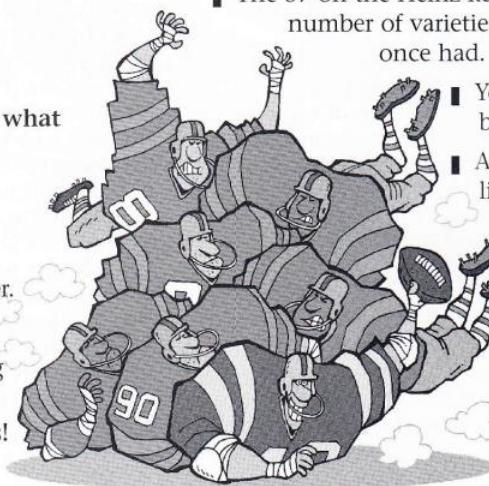
A new set of transition program brochures are being printed to provide details on tracking a boy's progress with the merit-based option using the current advancement award steps (Powder Horn, Bowie Knife, etc., for Pioneers and Second Class, First Class, etc., for Trailblazers). Visit our website for additional detail on the 2002 transition program.

In addition to providing a listing of the merits on the national Royal Rangers website, GPH is expanding its product line to include the merit patches for the transition program. Merit patches may be purchased by selecting the Ranger Store menu on the National Royal Rangers website www.royalrangers.ag.org, by calling the GPH customer service number (1-800-641-4310), or by going to the GPH website (gospelpublishing.com).



BUMPER STICKERS

1. Give God what's right—not what's left!
2. "Pray" is a four-letter word that you can say anywhere except in a public school.
3. Man's way leads to a hopeless end! God's way leads to an endless hope!
4. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
5. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!
6. To be almost saved is to be totally lost.
7. We're too blessed to be depressed.
8. In the sentence of life the Devil may be a comma but do not let him be the period!
9. Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
10. God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the Spirit" over "religious nuts"!
11. God doesn't want shares of your life. He wants controlling interest!
12. A family altar can alter a family.
13. When God ordains, He sustains.
14. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning!
15. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
16. Exercise daily—Walk with the Lord!
17. Wisdom has two parts:
 - 1) Having a lot to say,
 - 2) Not saying it.
18. Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive!
19. Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does!
20. You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.
21. He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.
22. He who angers you controls you!
23. Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
24. Forbidden fruits create many jams.
25. Deciding not to choose is still making a choice.
26. If God is your Copilot — swap seats!



Leader's Tips

Taken from *Learn the Net News* at <http://www.learnthenet.com>

Okay, Russia's Mir space is history. But you don't have to imagine what the cosmonauts saw from their orbiting space station. Thanks to NASA's intrepid astronauts, there's a public database that contains thousands of images of Earth. For a space age view of our planet, go to <http://www.learnthenet.com/english/features/cooltool.htm>.

Explore the life of Napoleon:

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/napoleon/>

Understand baseball:

<http://www.learn2.com/05/0542/0542.asp>

Savor an icy view of Antarctica:

<http://www.aad.gov.au/stations/mawson/video.asp>

Trek through the Congo:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/congotrek/main.html>

Take a sightseeing tour of engineering marvels:

<http://www.engineeringsights.org/>

Items of Interest

(Forwarded from an Internet e-mail.)

- Thirsty? The soft drink 7-UP was created in 1929. The number seven was selected because the original bottles were 7 ounces. "UP" indicated the direction of the bubbles.
- The next time you go camping: Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
- No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times.
- Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are over 50 years old.
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
- You can lead a cow upstairs—but not downstairs.
- A major league baseball has a lifespan of seven pitches.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo—and no one knows why.
- It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.



BIBLICAL ONE-LINERS

QUESTION?

What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

ANSWER: Ruthless

QUESTION?

What do they call pastors in Germany?

ANSWER: German Shepherds

QUESTION?

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

ANSWER: Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

QUESTION?

Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

ANSWER: Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

QUESTION?

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

ANSWER: Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury; David's Triumph was heard throughout the land; Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

QUESTION?

Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

ANSWER: Moses. He broke all 10 Commandments at once.

QUESTION?

Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

ANSWER: The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

QUESTION?

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

ANSWER: David. He rocked Goliath into a very deep sleep.

QUESTION?

Which Bible character had no parents?

ANSWER: Joshua, son of Nun

QUESTION?

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

ANSWER: Samson. He brought the house down.

QUESTION?

What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

ANSWER: "Your mother ate us out of house and home."

Personal Growth

by Joey Ellis

(Taken from *Fanning the Flame, "Lessons in Leadership,"*
Volume 7, Fall 2001)

The Bible tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and men," (Luke 2:52). If we want our leaders to be all they can be, then we need to model personal growth for them.... I want to stress the importance of personal growth and development through reading.

READING

Leaders are readers. One characteristic of great leaders throughout history is their appetite for reading. It widens our sphere of knowledge, stimulates our minds, and assists in the creative process.

Above all else read the Scriptures. Daily reading of the Bible should be the cornerstone of our reading. Read the Word for your personal growth in the Lord, not just to prepare for the next week's lesson. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," (Psalm 119:105). We cannot lead others if we do not know where we are going.

READ WIDELY

Books about our favorite subjects are the easiest to read. Expand your horizons and read from other subjects. Choose areas to target your reading, such as spiritual growth, marriage, parenting, leadership, missions, kids' ministry. Set a goal for your book reading.

If you are already an avid reader, one book a month may be a good target. If you are just jumping back into it, read a book every two months. If you have Internet access, subscribe to e-newsletters. As they are delivered to your computer, print them and place them in your "To Be Read" folder. You can read articles contained in newsletters in minutes. Set a goal to read one article a week.

A big question for most of us is, "When do I find time to read?" It is a matter of priority. If you value it highly enough, you will make time for it. I am an early riser. I enjoy getting up early and reading before the rest of my family awakens. My wife is an evening person. She enjoys her reading time just before turning in at night. Lunch is a great time to read. Read while you travel. Believe it or not, you can get a lot of reading done even while waiting at traffic signals.

Another great way to enjoy a good book is to listen to it on tape while traveling in your vehicle. Zig Ziglar calls this "Automobile University". Some of us may spend up to an hour or more each day getting to and from work. Take this time, that is usually spent frustrated in traffic, and turn it into an opportunity to learn.

An active reading plan will help to develop you as a leader. As you grow, take your ministry team along with you. As your team grows, your children grow. Make reading a part of your daily routine. Most importantly though, employ the Nike principle, "Just do it!"

Joey Ellis is the Ministry Development Coordinator for the Assemblies of God National Children's Ministries Agency.



Devotionals for Boys

by Joey Ellis

OBJECT LESSON ONE

Listen and Be Led

KEY VERSE:

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Obstacle course (*explained below*)
- Blindfolds
- Walkie talkies (*optional*)

Set up an obstacle course using chairs, boxes, stools, and anything else to create barriers in your room. At the end of the obstacle course have a box with a treat inside. Bring a child to the front of the room to be the detective and put a blindfold on him. Bring up an additional child to be the dispatcher. If you want to make this even more fun you can give the kids walkie talkies to communicate with.

Detectives and policemen are sometimes guided by dispatchers. The dispatcher tells the detective where to go when something has happened or when someone needs help. (Child's name) is going to be the detective. And (Child's name) is going to be our dispatcher. The dispatcher will guide our detective to her destination. Instruct the dispatcher to lead the detective to the prize by verbally guiding him through the obstacle course without having him fall. For example, "Start walking. Stop. Step over the box in front of you. Start walking. Stop. Turn to your left and go around the chair beside you." Do this until the detective reaches the box. After the detective reaches the box, have him take off the blindfold, reach inside, and remove the treat. Just like the dispatcher revealed obstacles to the detective and guided him to the end of the course, the Holy Spirit guided the apostles and revealed things to them in the New Testament. In Acts 5:3, the Holy Spirit revealed to Peter that Ananias was lying to him. In Acts 8:29-40, the Holy Spirit guided Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch to tell him about Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal things to you that will help you and help others. He wants to guide you where you need to go and to do what you need to do for God.

OBJECT LESSON TWO

The Power of the Holy Spirit

KEY SCRIPTURE:

"...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Bag of unpopped popcorn
- Small microwave, air popcorn machine, or bag of already popped popcorn

Some people do not believe God can do great things through them. They have little faith that God can use them to be a witness for Him.

Show bag of unpopped popcorn. This bag of popcorn is pretty small right now. It does not seem like much. It would not taste very good if we tried to eat it right now. I know what we need to do to make it taste better. Put the bag of popcorn in the microwave and let it pop as you continue to talk. The power of this microwave does something wonderful to the popcorn. After the popcorn has been in the microwave for a few minutes it starts to pop and grow bigger. Soon the power of this microwave will make that small bag of popcorn into a delicious snack.

You may feel small and useless, like the unpopped bag of popcorn. But with the power of the Holy Spirit you can become a wonderful witness for God. This happened in the Apostle Peter's life.

One day he and the other disciples were out on a boat. They were in the middle of a storm. The wind was tossing the boat back and forth. Then something frightened them more than the storm. They saw something that looked like a ghost coming towards them. The ghostly figure spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." It was Jesus, coming toward the boat. He was walking on the water.

"Lord, if it is You," Peter said, "tell me to come to You on the water."

"Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?" At that time I am sure that Peter was disappointed in himself. He probably felt like he had very little faith. However, something amazing changed Peter's faith. In Acts 2, Peter was baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit. After he was filled with this power he had great faith. On that very day, God used Peter to preach to a very large crowd of people. In fact, 3,000 people were

saved after hearing Peter boldly tell of his faith in God. By this time the popcorn should be finished popping. Take the bag of popcorn out of the microwave and show it to the kids. Pour some of the popcorn onto a plate. Just like the power of this microwave made this popcorn bigger and better, the power of the Holy Spirit can make our faith bigger and better. God wants to use you like He used Peter. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit today. You will be amazed at how your faith will grow.

SUGGESTION:

If you do not have a small microwave to use for this object lesson, show an already popped bag of popcorn at the appropriate part of the lesson.

OBJECT LESSON FOUR

Powered by God

KEY VERSE:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8).

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Regular screwdriver
- 2 screws
- power screwdriver (electric or battery-operated)
- Board

Have a boy come to the front. Give him the regular screwdriver and screw and tell him to screw it all the way into the wood. Let him get started. He will probably tire after a minute or so. Ask him if he would like to use the power screwdriver. (*Leave the screw in the wood as a point of reference for the lesson.*)

Now give him the power screwdriver and another screw. (*If you are in a classroom with younger boys, you will need to hold the screwdriver with the boy.*) Now give the instruction to screw this one all the way into the wood. It should be a little easier for the boy to get this screw into the wood.

When (*boy's name*) first started trying to get this screw into the wood, it was very hard with the regular screwdriver. He had to use a lot of his own power. His own power ran out pretty quickly.

Many times the Christian life is like that. We try to use our own strength and power to do the job. But the Bible tells us about a different kind of power, power from the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, we read that the Holy Spirit will give us power.

The Holy Spirit power is like when (*boy's name*) began to use the power screwdriver. It was the power inside the screwdriver that helped him to get the job done. What is different about the power screwdriver and the regular screwdriver? (*Allow for responses.*) The power screwdriver has something inside of it that gives it power. Depending on what type of power screwdriver you are using, explain where the power comes from, either from a battery or from the electricity in the wall.

The Holy Spirit gives us power on the inside of us just like this screwdriver has power on the inside of it. The Holy Spirit gives us power to tell our friends about Jesus and power to turn away from sin. We all need the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us each day to live a great life for Jesus.



OBJECT LESSON THREE

Searching for Clues

KEY VERSE:

John 14:16; "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may live with you forever."

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Trench coat
- Hat
- Magnifying glass
- 4 cards with the clues reveals, guides, works, speaks written or typed on them (*one word per card*)

Prior to class, the commander must plant the clues around the room somewhat hidden from sight. If you are dealing with a larger group, have the clues taped underneath the kids' chairs. The commander is dressed in a trench coat and hat and has a magnifying glass. The commander begins to snoop around the room looking for clues, using the magnifying glass to help in the search. To make it a little humorous, the commander can "accidentally" get very close to one child with the magnifying glass, then jump back and act shocked. Instruct the group to look around the room for clues that will tell what the lesson is about or tell them to simply look under their chairs. If they find a clue, they should bring it to the front of the room.

Today we are going to learn that the apostles operated with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also going to learn that the Holy Spirit will work through you in the same way. These clues tell us how that is possible. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, He (*point to each of the cards and have the kids say the words with you*) reveals things to you, He guides you, He speaks to you, and He works through you.

Aren't you glad that the Holy Spirit is a personal friend who helps us along the pathway of life? He operated through the apostles as they ministered to others. He wants to operate through you as well. Wow! You can be eyewitnesses to the Holy Spirit's work just like the apostles were.



HEALTH BYTES

By Joan Wiseman, R.N., BSN.

Health and Wellness Coordinator, General Council of the Assemblies of God

Did Ya Know?

Approximately 3 million people are allergic to nuts. Peanuts and walnuts are the most likely to cause problems. Symptoms may be anything from itching of the mouth, hives, wheezing, respiratory difficulty to anaphylactic shock, which, if not treated appropriately, leads to death. To the severely allergic even minute amounts of nuts found in cookies or other foods can cause an allergic reaction.

Live Longer

If all major forms of heart and blood vessel disease were eliminated, U.S. life expectancy would rise by almost 7 years and the nations would be more than \$300 billion richer! (Source: American Heart Association's 2000 Heart & Stroke Statistical Update)

Smile

It takes 43 face muscles to frown and only 15 to smile. Give your face a rest and smile.

Take Five

It is recommended that people should eat 5-9 servings of fruit and vegetables per day. However, most people eat only an average of 3 servings per day. You may increase your fruit and vegetable intake by adding fruit to your cereal in the morning, snack on fruits or raw vegetables instead of chips, add extra vegetables to casseroles, or serve fruit as the dessert.

Bike Safety

Wearing a bike helmet can reduce your chances of suffering a head injury by 85 percent. This only works if you wear your helmet instead of storing it on a shelf at home.

Lyme Disease

The deer tick carries many diseases including Lyme disease. Avoiding tick bites is the best prevention for the disease. Ways to avoid tick bites are:

1. Keep your lawn short and shrubs trimmed.
2. When in the woods or in long grass wear a hat, a long-sleeved shirt, and pants tucked in your socks. Wear light-colored clothing.
3. Spray clothing with a product containing permethrin, which will kill the ticks. (Don't spray permethrin on the skin.)

4. Check twice or three times a day for ticks on the body.

5. Products containing DEET may be used on the skin. These products should not be used on the face.

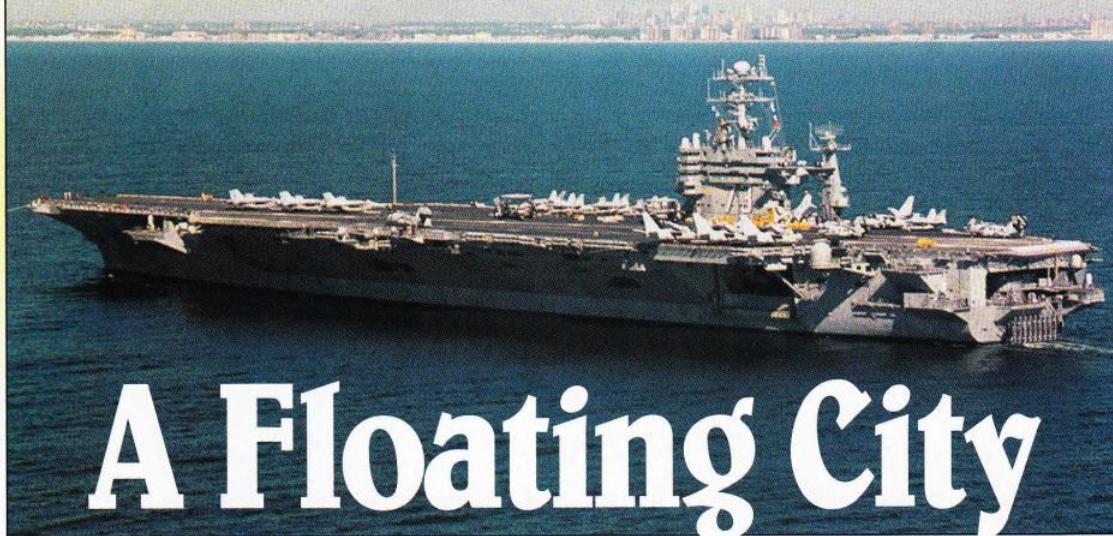
(Note: DEET products should not be used on children without consulting their physician.)

The tick must be imbedded in the skin for a day or two to transmit the disease. Checking for ticks frequently and immediately removing ticks will prevent transmission of the disease.

Check our site regularly for health-related advice. Joan will offer helpful suggestions on a regular basis to assist Royal Ranger leaders in the health and safety of our boys for the classroom, the outdoors, and camping events.

What Is Greatness?

We often think of greatness as fame, high society, wealth, education, looks, status, nice home, nice car, that deer or fish we so desperately want hanging on our wall, but these things are not what God counts as greatness. Greatness will come in eternity when we stand before God and He says, "Well done, thy faithful servant." Greatness will come when we understand the impact our lives have made in heaven, when we see the souls, the people, that are here because of our obedience to the calling of God on our lives. When I see a church that is ministering to young boys and girls, teens, young adults, and senior citizens, I praise God because I know that God is doing great things. When I see a man who will give up Opening Day of deer season to be in a Royal Rangers training class, I praise God because I know that God will do great things through this kind of man. Ask yourself, what do you consider greatness? Then ask God what His idea of greatness is.



A Floating City

by Pamela Marie WOOD

Did you know there's a city that floats across the oceans and seas of the world? It's called an aircraft carrier. The United States has 10 of them, and two more are being built.

One of those floating cities is the USS George Washington, or GW for short. The GW is a CVN-73. CVN stands for Carrier Fixed-Wing Nuclear because it is powered by two nuclear reactors.

Construction of the GW started on August 25, 1986, when the keel was laid. The keel is the main frame along the bottom of the ship. Taking 7 years and thousands of people to build it, the GW officially began its service to this country on Independence Day, July 4, 1992.

Many towns across America aren't as big as the GW. Over 5,500 people live and work onboard this massive ship when it is out to sea. Everyone has a job to do, just like people in your own city. Some are carpenters, plumbers, cooks, pilots, teachers, mechanics, police officers, pastors, store clerks, firemen, painters, doctors, librarians, and even disc jockeys. The entire crew works as a team to make this floating city function.

The ship goes out to sea for weeks and months, so they take everything they'll need, from food to spare airplane parts. Did you know that the cooks serve 18,150 meals daily? That's over 6,000 breakfasts, lunches, and dinners served three times every single day! How would you like to do all of those dishes?

Fresh water is made daily from the ocean's salt water. The ship's water purifying plant has evaporators that clear the salt from the ocean water so the crew will have fresh drinking water plus water to cook and shower with. It's also used to cool the nuclear reactors. The ship makes 400,000 gallons of fresh water each day. That's enough to supply over 2,000 homes in your city.

The flight deck on the topside of the ship is 4.5 acres (or the size of three and a half football fields placed end to end). This is GW's runway for the 80 planes on this gigantic floating city, and the flight deck can hold as many as 120 planes. Different types come and go on a daily basis. Some are E-2 radar planes, F-14 Tomcats, FA-18 fighter jets, helicopters, and supply planes. A central control tower on the flight deck tells the planes what to do, when to go, and when it's safe to land.

Safety is very important, but sometimes accidents do happen and people get sick. The GW has an emergency rescue team that responds to accidents, just like an ambulance does in your city. There's also a clinic, a hospital, and even a pharmacy to fill prescriptions. If anyone gets a toothache or needs his teeth cleaned, the dental clinic with its seven dentists takes care of all dental needs.

Two stores on the ship give the crew the opportunity to buy things: clothes, compact-disc players, soap, candy bars, birthday cards, soda pop, and a lot of other things. The GW's two barber shops are open 24 hours a day. They stay busy providing over 300 haircuts daily. You might wonder where the crew gets the money to go shopping. There is a bank onboard and 12 automated teller machines (ATMs) throughout the GW that provide needed cash.

Opportunities for recreation abound while out to sea. The GW's arcade has 12 video machines. A video rental store provides movies for the crew. Seven gyms provide places for workouts with weights and exercise equipment, plus friendly games of basketball.

Is there a radio station in your town? How about a television station? The GW's own radio station plays all types of music, from classical to rock. Three TV stations provide a variety of programming on the ship. There's a movie channel, a main station providing the same shows you watch at home, and a training station. The ship uses a satellite to pull in signals from space to get the daily programming.

The Guardian is the daily newspaper written and printed on the GW. It provides local news (what's going on around the ship) and world news. The ship's photographers provide the pictures for the paper, and articles are written by members of the ship's newspaper staff.

On a ship so big they must have an effective way of communicating, not only with one another, but with the outside world. There are 2,000 telephones

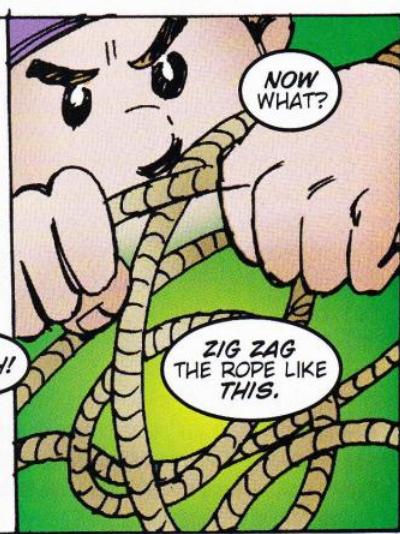
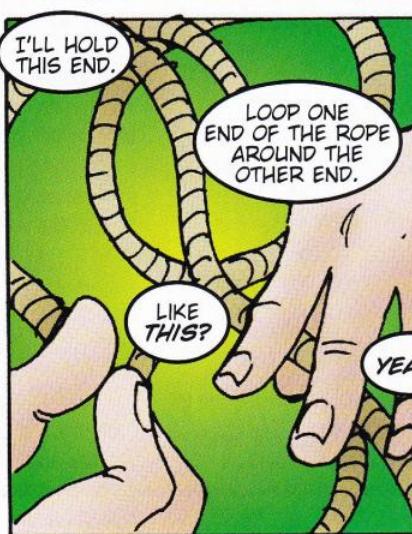
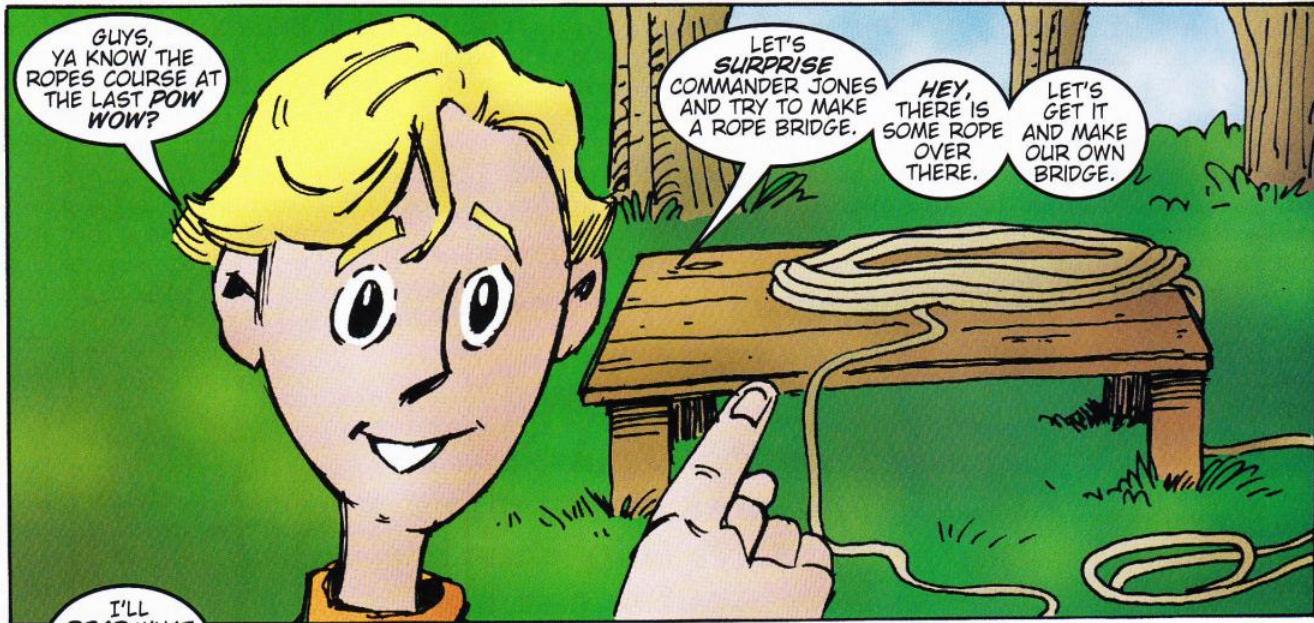
onboard, and crew members are able to call home from the ship's satellite phones. All of the ship's 1,500 computers are capable of sending e-mail anywhere in the world. Every person on the GW has his or her own e-mail address. Did you know that there is also a post office with its very own zip code? Each person has a mailing address just as you do at your house. Many mail carriers pick up, sort, and deliver the mail onboard daily.

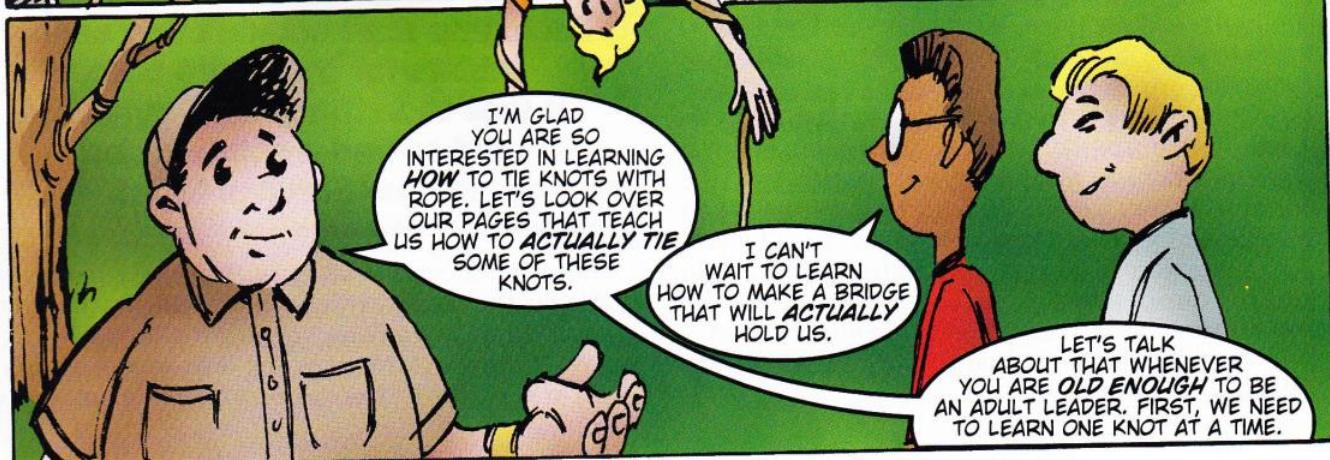
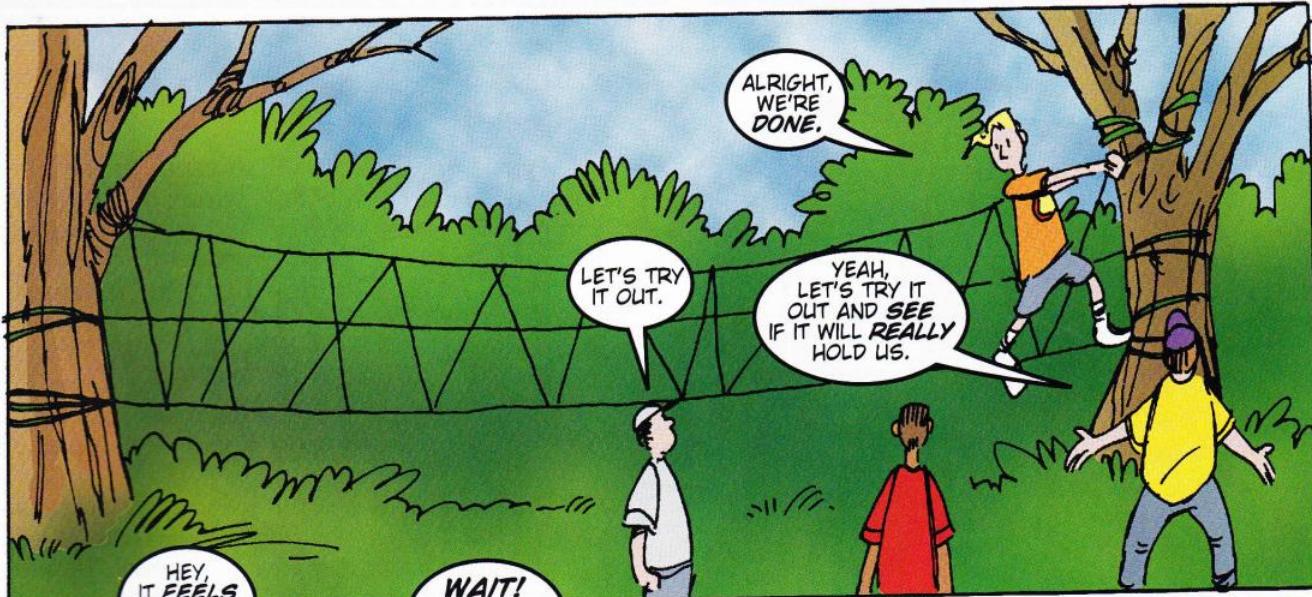
At least 14 different types of church services are held every week. Five chaplains perform the services and are accessible to anyone who needs counseling. Bible studies are available throughout the week too. The chaplain's office also maintains the ship's library of 15,000 new books.

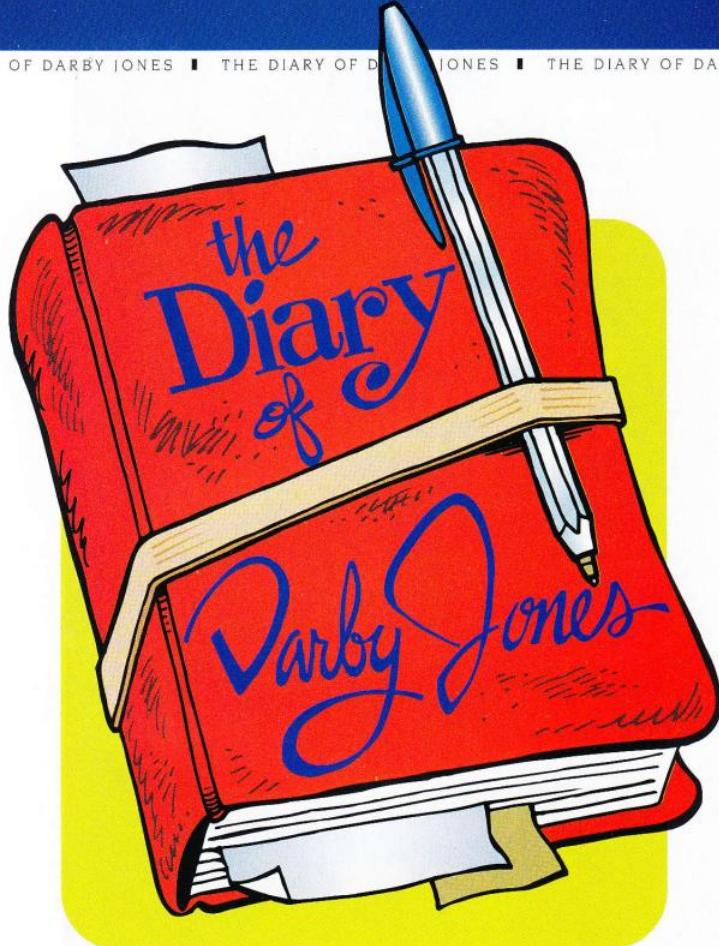
Imagine all the things that you might find in a city, and you will probably find them onboard the USS George Washington. The next time you see an aircraft carrier in a picture, on television, or even in person, go on an imaginary trip. Think about how life might be on the largest, fastest floating city in the world!

Many towns across America aren't as big as the GW.

Over 5,500 people live and work onboard this massive ship when it is out to sea.







Running Chicken Field

by Rev. Robb HAWKS

NATIONAL PRODUCTIONS COORDINATOR

"Here we are boys—Running Chicken Field. This will be where we camp for this Camporama," Commander Darby Jones announced.

"Running Chicken Field? You can't be serious!" I said to my dad. You see, I'm Darby Jones, Jr., and I am in my dad's outpost. We had traveled over 1,000 miles to make it to Camporama, and we were all really excited.

On the long drive up we had looked over the Eagle Rock map that showed the National Royal Rangers Training Center. In the center was the Johnnie Barnes Lodge. Then across the field was Hawkeye Mountain. There were so many cool places where we wanted to camp. Running Chicken Field was not one of them!

"Do we have to camp here?" Shelton moaned.

"Yeah, couldn't we change our campsite?" Ray added.

"What? You don't want to camp in Running Chicken Field? What's wrong with it?" Commander Jones asked as he looked across the field into the trees.

"Well, for one thing, the name is stupid. Running Chicken Field! It's not very exciting," I answered.

"Oh, that's only because you don't know the story behind the name." Commander Jones said. "You see, this is a very special place with a unique story."

"This very field was the scene of great excitement involving people from all over the world. Many years ago an Advanced National Training Camp was held here at the Rangers property. This was in the days when Johnnie Barnes, the founder of Royal Rangers, was still alive. As a matter of fact, many of the Royal Rangers greats were at that camp, such as Fred Deaver and Paul Stanek.

"Now as I was saying, commanders had come from all over the U.S.A. and as far away as the island nation of Singapore, which is as far away as China! These leaders had come to a special training camp where the last night was to be a survival camp.

"Everything went smoothly until the last day of camp. The leaders had been taught how to build a shelter and set animal traps. Of course, they also learned how to skin animals and cook them over a campfire.

"Johnnie Barnes was the camp commander, and he had set it up so that rabbits would be released, and the trainees would have to capture them and cook them. But things got complicated. The camp staff couldn't find enough rabbits for the entire camp. It was then that Paul Stanek set out to find a solution and rescue Survival Night.

"Fred Deaver was the senior guide of the camp, and he marched the 80 trainees down the hill from the lodge and across the creek. All the trainees had their small pocket survival kits. That was all they

**But things got complicated.
The camp staff couldn't find enough
rabbits for the entire camp.
It was then that Paul Stanek set
out to find a solution and
rescue Survival Night.**

would be allowed to take into the woods that night. Down the road they marched until, finally, they reached this very field.

"Commander Barnes and Fred were beginning to get worried. The trainees were about to be



released but there were no rabbits for them to run down and capture. Commander Barnes was not very happy. He knew that some of these men had traveled thousands of miles to be here. Johnnie looked at Fred. What were they going to do?

"Suddenly a pickup truck sped into the middle of the field. Paul Stanek emerged from the cab of the truck. 'Don't just stand there, help me unload these cages!' he called.

"The camp staff raced to the back of the truck and pulled off the tarp off. There, in large cages, were chickens! Not rabbits, no, and not just chickens either. The cages were also filled with little banty barnyard roosters!

"Commander Barnes shook his head in disbelief. But roosters were better than nothing. So the trainees were lined up along the road in a single file. The cages were emptied and the chickens and roosters stood there in the field pecking at the ground.

"Now Fred Deaver shook his head in disbelief. The trainees were supposed to catch wild game for dinner. This was going to be too easy, but it was too late to come up with a better solution.

"Fred raised his hand into the air and shouted, 'Go!' All 80 of the trainees raced forward like a wave crashing on the beach. What happened next became a legend—a story that has been told around campfires halfway around the world.

"As the wave of men raced forward, the chickens took off running. The trainees ran faster. The birds ran a little faster. No matter how fast the men ran, the birds always ran a little faster. The men would zig, and the

birds would zag. One trainee ran with all his might and leaped through the air. The little rooster merely flapped his wings a few times and flew out of reach.

"The camp staff could barely stand it. They were doubled over and holding their stomachs as they laughed so hard they cried. The entertainment went on for over 30 minutes. Only about half of the chickens were caught. Many escaped into the woods. So ever since, this field has been called Running Chicken Field."

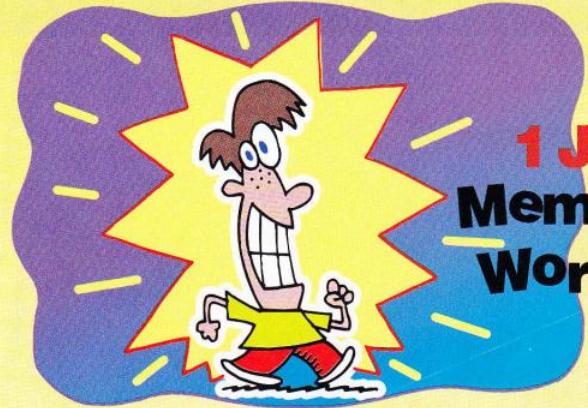
"Are you serious?" Ray asked skeptically.

"Yeah, how do you know?" Shelton asked.

"How do I know? Why that's simple. I was there!" Commander Jones said. "I saw it happen. As a matter of fact, the legend goes that a few of those wild roosters still live to this day, having escaped wolves and foxes and such. And every once in a while, at the crack of dawn, you can hear one of the roosters announcing sunrise with a cock-a-doodle-doo!"

I was just a little envious of dad just then. He had been there. He had experienced it. I couldn't go back to then and relive that moment with him. But I am here at Camporama. And I will have stories of my own to tell when I get back home!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The *Advanced National Training Camp* policies have changed since the author's recounting of this event. The national office does not permit live animals to be a part of any nationally sponsored training camp or event. Also, if you come to Camp Eagle Rock to find "Running Chicken Field," you will not find it on the map. The name of the field represents a specific event in the memory of the author.



1 John 4:9 Memory Verse Word Search

by John Hudson Tiner

MEMORY VERSE PUZZLE: Find and circle the words in the puzzle grid. Words connected with a hyphen are found as one word. The uncircled letters spell out the missing words. As you solve the puzzle, memorize the verse.

"THIS-IS HOW-GOD SHOWED _____ AMONG-US: HE-SENT _____ AND-ONLY SON-INTO THE-WORLD THAT-WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH _____ "

(1 — — — — 4:9).



8 columns.

EXAMPLE: Find THIS-15 by counting down 1 row and then across

THAT-WE (3,9) MIGHT (6,1) LIVE (8,6) THROUGH (7,7)

HE-SENT (1,1) AND-ONLY (3,1) SON-INTO (3,5) THE-WORLD (2,4)

“THIS-IS (1,8) HOW-GOD (3,6) SHOWED (2,8) AMONG-US: (8,2)

HIDDEN WORDS: HIS LOVE HIS ONE HIM JOHN

Answers:

Bible Mix-Up

by Steven Leggett

Unscramble the names of famous Bible people and put them in the correct category.

1. **Hoan**
 2. **Ahmaarb**
 3. **Sejsu**
 4. **Raulsaz**
 5. **Posejh**
 6. **Hoatilg**
 7. **Tamwhet**
 8. **Saduj Caristio**
 9. **Somans**
 10. **Tomhity**
 11. **Noahj**
 12. **Ladien**

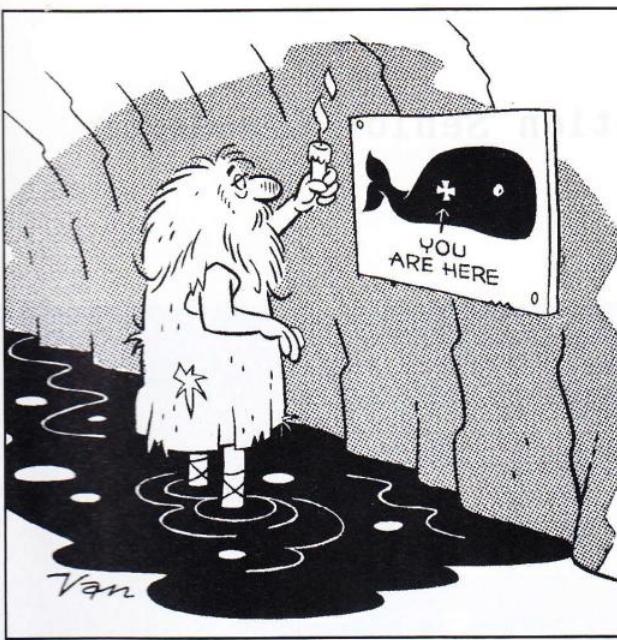
OLD TESTAMENT

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

NEW TESTAMENT

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

ANSWERS: **Old Testaments:** Noah, Abraham, Goliath, Samson, Jonah, Daniel; **New Testaments:** Jesus, Matthew, Judas Iscachot, Joseph, Lazarus, Timothy

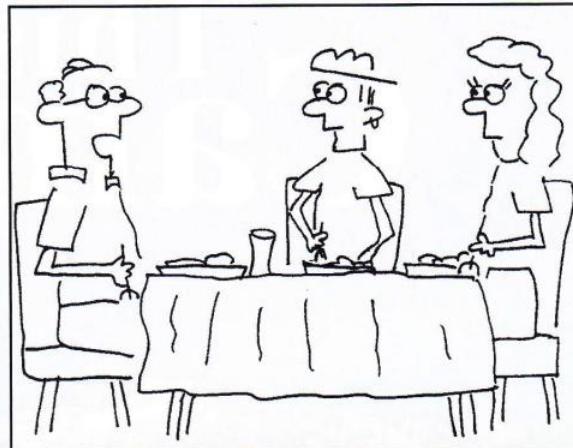


Van



COMEDY CORNER

What is the difference between here and there? *The letter T.*



"Son, thanks for making supper but I had more in mind than nachos and cheese."

Why did the boy eat his homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

A man runs from home, runs a while, takes a left, runs the same distance, takes a left, runs the same distance, and takes a left. When he arrives home, there are two masked men. Who are they?

The catcher and the umpire!

Have you heard the story about the wall?
You will never get over it!

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Someone who can't reach the bell!



"Would you like to see how your boat holds up in a raging storm?"



"I've been praying in the closet like the Bible says."

How do you know peanuts are fattening?

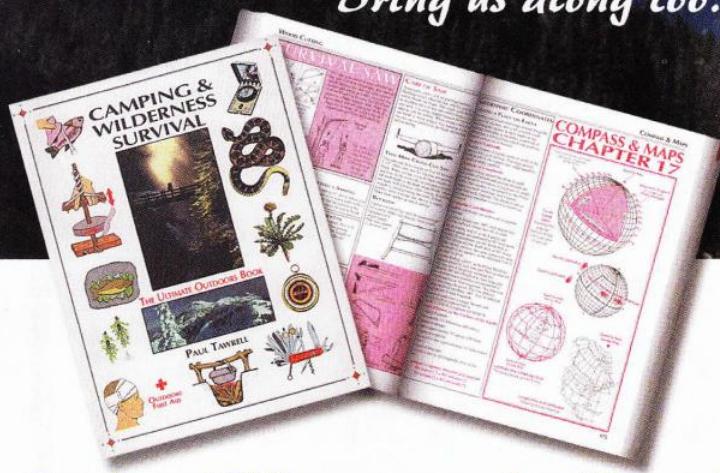
What did the teacher say to the spotted Lion? *"You're a cheetah!"* (cheater) What part of a ship is made out of cards? *"The deck!"*

Attention Senior Commander

This Camping trip,

take it easy on
yourself.

Bring us along too.



Camping and Wilderness Survival

by Paul Tawrell

Describes how to travel, make a camp, understand the environment, and choose equipment. In case of an emergency, it explains how to find water, food, shelter from the weather, and how to care for yourself if you are sick or injured. Easy-to-read with numerous instructive diagrams and illustrations. Paper. 350 pages. 8½ x 11"

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Royal Rangers Buck Knife— Folding Hunter

Rounded gold end with Royal Rangers emblem on one side. Sharpens easily and stays sharp. Comes with black leather sheath. 4½"

17GV0213 \$54.99

Sports Bottle

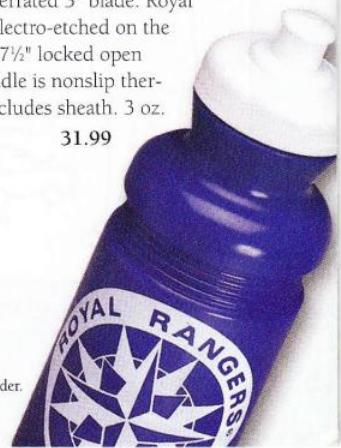
Durable blue plastic beverage bottle with pop-open spout and white Royal Rangers emblem. 20 oz.

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Buck Knife Protégé

Features a partially serrated 3" blade. Royal Rangers emblem is electro-etched on the blade. Full length is 7½" locked open and 4½" closed. Handle is nonslip thermoplastic rubber. Includes sheath. 3 oz.

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