

HIGH ADVENTURE

In the Good Old

SUMMERTIME



<http://ag.org.royalrangers>



HIGH ADVENTURE



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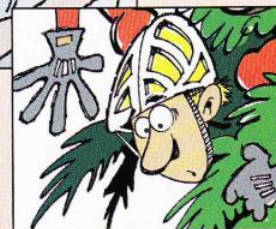
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HIGH ADVENTURE — Volume 32, Number 2 ISSN (0190-3802)
published quarterly by Royal Rangers; 1445 North Boonville
Avenue; Springfield, MO 65802-1894. Subscription rates:
(*High Adventure Leader* only) single subscription \$9.95 a year;
bundle (minimum of five subscriptions, all mailed to one address)
\$9.00 a year, \$13.95 (foreign mailing address).

©2002 General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.,
Gospel Publishing House. Printed in USA.
Periodicals postage paid at Springfield, Missouri.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
HIGH ADVENTURE, 1445 N. Boonville; Springfield, MO 65802-1894

Richard Mariott, Publications Manager

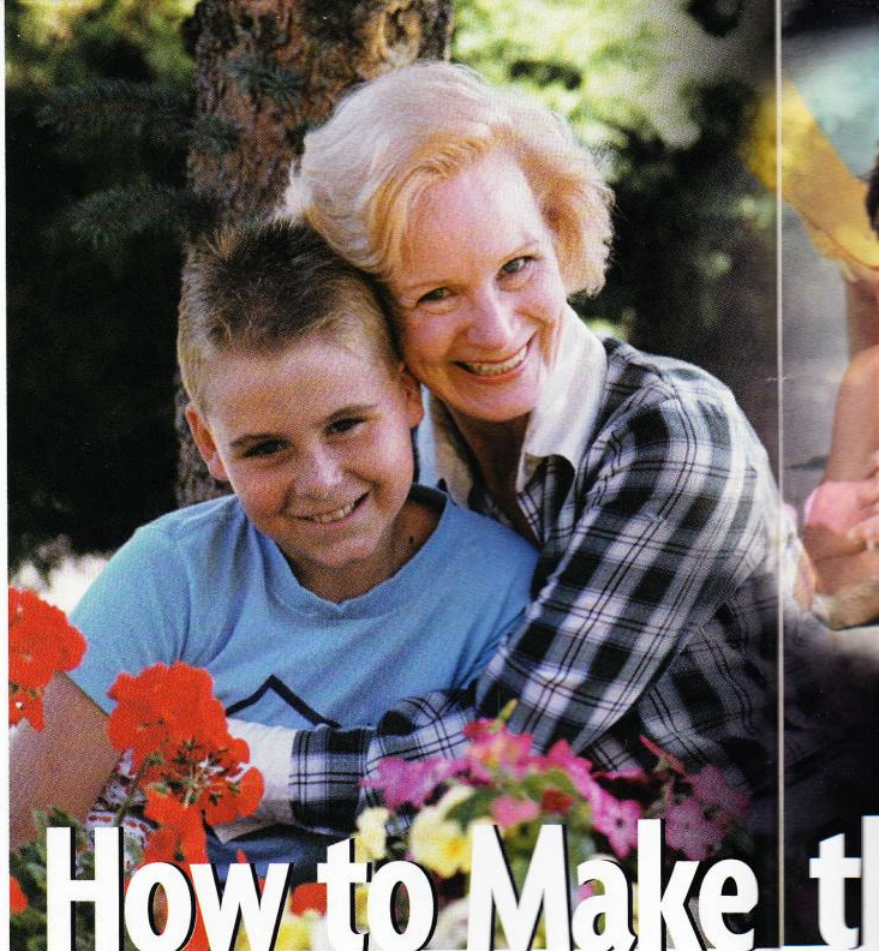
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How to Make t

Make a list. Find a job. Mend a friendship. Plant a garden. Volunteer your services. Read a book. Attend summer school. Learn to swim. Go to camp. Write a letter. Visit a senior citizen. Begin your novel.

What? Do all that in one summer? Not necessarily, but the important thing is to do something besides sit around the house in your grubbies watching TV reruns.

Why make a list? Because then you will know exactly what you want to accomplish and can cross off each goal as it is reached.

If you don't already have a job, good luck finding one now. They are scarce all over the country, but this does not mean that they do not exist. Get in the habit of scouring the want ads with a passion. Follow through on any openings you are remotely qualified for. If it's honest labor, go for it. Few people start at the top, you know.

While regular full-time jobs are hard to find, part-time typing and other clerical positions can often be found through temporary agencies. Out here in Los Angeles are 14 jillion agencies of this type. They advertise constantly, especially during the summer. One catch: the usual minimum age level is 18.

Assuming that you have covered the job market completely and can find nothing, your summer should be far from shot. How about working in your church's Vacation Bible School? They could use



the Most of Your Summer!

by Alan CLIBURN

someone with your skills, regardless of what those skills may be. Service to the Lord never goes unrewarded, unless your motives are wrong.

Reading during the summer is not a waste of time, depending, of course, on what you read. Visit your church's library or a Christian bookstore in the area. Some excellent novels and non-fiction books may inspire you on to bigger and better things.

But perhaps you prefer writing to reading, whether it be a personal letter to a friend you haven't seen in a long time or a creative effort—maybe even a novel that has been lingering in the back of your mind. It will never be anywhere but the back of your mind unless you put something down on paper.

Many high schools and colleges offer interesting electives during summer session. Or you may grab the opportunity to get a required class out of the way so you can take a lighter course load during the fall term.

If your church has a camp, plan to go, either as a camper or a counselor. The change of pace will do you good. There may be someone else at camp who

needs your guidance or friendship. In any case, you are bound to encounter new speakers, new people, and new experiences if you go with an open mind, asking God to speak to you while you're there.

This is the time of your life when you will be deciding some very important things about your future. Many students leave high school without any

definite plans for a career. There's nothing wrong with this, of course. It's probably better than being locked into a definite career choice too soon. But the things you experience this summer can have a real bearing on your future, if you are willing to get involved.

For example, a friend of mine was doing volunteer work at a school for developmentally-handicapped children. The director of the school was

so impressed with how my friend worked with kids that she offered him a paid part-time job which is helping pay his way through college.

The possibilities are endless, but the summer is not. Make every second count.

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GOLD MEDAL ACHIEVEMENT ESSAY

In 2001, we had a total of 279 GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT winners! To God be the glory. This is the second highest total in Royal Rangers history — there were 311 winners in 1997.

by Carl W. **GOMEZ**

OUTPOST 204

I.E.C. Puerta De Las Aguas, Los Angeles, CA

I grew up in a big city populated with almost 4 million people. Famous for its balmy climate, lush scenery, and motion picture and television industry, this is the city of Los Angeles in southern California. My parents were already Christians when I was born, and because of that I learned about God when I was a child. I grew up in a church called Puerta De Las Aguas, meaning the Door

earned my first 5 merits in that camp. Plus, in that camp, I prayed for God to guide me so I could do the best I can for my church, family, and for my outpost. Now I feel He has answered me.

From that day on, I became more and more interested in merits and in my advancements. Midway through the year 1999, I had earned a total of 32 merits, one of the highest in my church's history. Then in 1999, I decided to compete in the Royal Ranger of the Year competition. Unfortunately, I lost. But I didn't feel bad this time. Why? Through a dream, God revealed to me that when I grew up, I was going to reach my goal. And I remembered my goal was to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement.

By the year 2000, I had earned a total of 46 merits, making me the Ranger with the most merits earned in my church's history. (I still have 46 merits today.) In the year 2000 and 2001, I competed in the Ranger of the Year competition again. This time, I won both times at the local level and at the sectional level. Unfortunately, I lost at the divisional level each time. I remembered what my friends told me then, "Never give up."

I cherish those words in my heart. They have given me an extra push when I'm about to give up and when I was down. I remembered my goals: to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement and to be the best I can. Today, I am the best I can be in school, in church, and in my outpost. In school, I am a member of the President's Education Award Program. In church, I was baptized by the Holy Spirit in the year 2000 and I play the bongos in the music ministry. In my outpost, I have earned 46 merits, thanks to the help of my commanders and, of course, God.

In conclusion, I always pray that God will continue to guide me through the path of life until I eventually end up in heaven with Him. I hope that by reading this essay you understand the lesson I learned: be the best you can be through God's guidance. I am glad I learned this lesson through the value of Royal Rangers. God bless you all.

The Value of Royal R

of the Waters. For me, this church was a door to know Jesus. I accepted Him as my Savior when I was about 6 years old. When I was about 5 years old, I became involved in the Royal Rangers ministry. I remember growing up as a Rainbow, a group for both Royal Rangers and Missionettes.

When I was old enough to go on to the Straight Arrows, I started reading a lot of verses from the Bible. I started to read when I was about 3 years old, so reading the Bible was no problem for me. At first I couldn't memorize the verses, but eventually I overcame that problem.

Later on as a Buckaroo, I became even more involved in Royal Rangers. I won the 1997 Buckaroo Local Ranger of the Year, but lost at the sectional level. And to add to that loss, I got last place. I felt like a loser inside of me, but I couldn't tell anybody the way I felt. Because of that incident, I became less involved in the ministry.

Later as a young Pioneer, I started going to outpost meetings whenever I wanted to. I used to go to family reunions and parties, while my Ranger buddies were learning about Royal Rangers and God. When I did go, I wore the uniform incorrectly, something that a true Ranger should never do. All of that changed when I saw Joshua L. Aguilar, one of my best friends now, earn his Gold Medal of Achievement. I started to realize the value of Royal Rangers in a young man's heart. I set my heart to earn the Gold Medal of Achievement and became interested in Rangers once again.

As an older Pioneer, I went to work. My first goal was going to Pioneer Leadership Training Camp. PLTC was my first major camp I went to, and because of that I felt total happiness in my life. I

by David **KELLY**

OUTPOST 60

Spring Valley Assembly of God, Las Vegas, NV

When asked how Royal Rangers has affected my life, I can give no simple answer. Royal Rangers has always been a part of who I am. I have grown up in the program, and it is more of a third parent to me. I cannot put into words everything the Royal Ranger program has done to shape who I am today.

Royal Rangers has always been a lifeline from God when I seem to be drowning in this world. I have gone through many periods in my life where God has not come first. When I seem to be turning to the worldly influences in my life, Royal Rangers is always there to show me the path home.

Royal Rangers has also given me brotherhood. Some people value friendship above most else. Through the Rangers program I have found something much deeper: brotherhood. I have forged relationships with men and boys alike that will outlast any friendship to be found in this world. These men are as close to my heart as my own family. I would lay down my life for any one of them.

Royal Rangers' purpose is reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. I never really understood what part I played in that until just recently. I have come to understand that, as young as I am, there are still younger boys that look to me as an

example. My heart breaks every time I see another of our brothers lose their passion for the ministry. I see myself in a place to help bring those back. My generation seems to lose interest in Rangers at about 16 years old. If I can help keep even one of those young men interested, then I will be happy with my service.

If nothing else, Royal Rangers has given me backbone. It has developed character in me beyond my years. I find myself in situations that I never could have dealt with without that character. Through the years of memorization and recitation, I have gained valuable tools in the fight for my own salvation. I have developed a keen sense for what is right or wrong. So when I am doing something wrong, I know it and stop or continue

"If nothing else, Royal Rangers has given me backbone. It has developed character in me beyond my years."

doing it out of my own free will. The blame only lies on myself.

From the Rangers program I have gained worldly skills as well. I have learned to take care of my own being in many situations. Rangers has forced me to take responsibility. Through the advancements I became more self-sufficient at an earlier age than most. I am confident that, given a survival situation, I would make it through unscathed.

Because of Rangers, I have become more engulfed in the word of God. Thanks to Rangers I was forced to open many doors in my life that would have gone unnoticed. Rangers gave

Rangers

me the opportunity to reach out and witness to other boys my own age. How much easier is it to invite a friend to Royal Rangers than just to ask them to go to church? Royal Rangers is much more appealing to the young people of my generation than church. Church is not "cool" in the world's eyes. Rangers gives an opportunity to get around the world's taboo about church. It is another tool for saving the lost in this world.

Royal Rangers is not something that I just go to on Wednesday nights. It is not Boy Scouts with God. It is not something that I am forced to do. Royal Rangers, plain and simple, is part of my life. It is part of who I am and what makes me, me. It can not be taken out of my life, because it will be with me until the day that I die. If there are only myself and one boy for me to teach, Rangers will be a part of me forever.

by Samuel E. **MATHIS**

OUTPOST 90

First Assembly of God, LaPorte, TX

A Royal Ranger commander's Motto is "to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ." I am one of those boys who was reached, taught, and have now been kept for Jesus Christ. Ever since I have been in Royal Rangers, I have grown mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially—both in Christ

and in my life. I have memorized the eight blue points by heart, and I use them in all of the activities that go on in my life. The four cardinal doctrines of the church are a part of my beliefs, just as my heart is a part of my body. I have grown up by the four ways a boy should grow.

The summer of 1994 was when I was first reached by the Rangers program. My family had just moved into our home, and the pastor of the church invited me to a group for boys called Royal Rangers. When I went, the commanders made me feel so welcome that I decided I wanted to go to Rangers the next week. I went back the next week, and I came home so excited about church my parents decided to allow me to keep going. All of the games, activities, and Bible stories captured my attention. I wanted to keep going, because I didn't want to miss the exciting things we would be doing the next week. When I heard about badges and merits, I knew that I could earn them all.

That is where the teaching started. Each badge and merit that I earned taught me something new. I was taught many different skills that gave me the knowledge of how to survive on my own. My commanders taught me many other things. I was taught the proper respect for both my commanders and the boys who were put in higher positions. I was taught how to take responsibility for my actions, how to start a fire without matches, and how to load and shoot a muzzleloader.

As I learned new things and how to respond to different scenarios, I was also given responsibilities to go with what I learned. As I grew both mentally and physically, I was entrusted to be the senior guide at my outpost. This trust placed in me has both humbled me and made me thankful for my commanders. I have learned humility, because I have always been taught that in order to lead, one must serve; and I am thankful because I am considered responsible enough to complete the responsibilities given to me.

"As I grew both mentally and physically, I was entrusted to be the senior guide at my outpost. This trust placed in me has both humbled me and made me thankful for my commanders."

Many things have kept me in Rangers, but the most influential are the devotions I receive every Wednesday. All of the devotions I have heard have burned their message into my heart and soul. Even though they were taught by different people, the message still said that Jesus loves me so much that He died for me. This fact has kept me going through all the good times and bad. I have been in Rangers for most of my life. All of the things I have learned have been locked in my mind and spirit. Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life, and I am His forever. My commanders have made sure that I am kept in Jesus, and that I have the Word of God in my heart at all times.

All that I have learned and all of the teachings given to me are what make Rangers valuable to me. Christ in me and the Holy Spirit working through me are examples of Royal Rangers' value. Rangers' value is not measured in dollars; instead, it is measured in all of the men's and boys' lives that it touches. A Ranger is a boy who is called into God's grace through the Rangers program. Royal Rangers is meant to "reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ." Its value to me is beyond comprehension. The leaders of this program are great in the Lord, and I am proud to be the product of their faith and trust in God.

the

SPECTACULAR

SOCCER



GAME

by Janet Greenhalf **SMITH**

In a swirl of black and white, Doug dribbled his soccer ball around the dining room table, past the living room couch, down the front hall, where the ball ricocheted off the screen door and bounded out into the summer day.

"Hey, guys," Doug shouted as he ran to where his brother Matt was just beginning a soccer game with his friends. "Can I play? Can I?"

"You're too small," said one.

"We'll run right over you," said another.

"Eat some Wheaties," added a third.

"Watch us, Doug," Matt yelled back over his shoulder as he ran to the middle of the field. "Then...maybe...later."

Doug shuffled to the sidelines to watch. He watched as he retrieved balls that went out of bounds. He watched as he dribbled all around the edge of the field. He watched as he juggled with both feet.

It grew hotter. Doug could feel his face getting warm and his legs getting all tingly. He could stand it no longer! "Hey, guys, do you think I could play now? I've been watching a long time!"

But all he got were a couple of "go away" waves and a few "Naah"s.

Head hanging, Doug dribbled his ball to the next field where there was a big apple tree. He looked into the greenness of the tree at the apples hidden among the leafy branches. He stood and watched as those bright red circles slowly began to change-into black and white soccer balls!

"I know what I'll do! I'll have my own game! I can play all the positions! I can be a forward, a defender, and a goalie-for both sides!"

Running down the field, Doug began the game as a forward. Then quickly he turned and became the defender for the other team, who took the ball away and passed it to Doug the midfielder who volleyed it ahead.

Oh, no! Doug the goalie came out too far!

"Ugh!" Doug exclaimed as the ball slipped past him. Goal

for Team 1! But that didn't last long. Soon it was 1 to 1 as Doug the midfielder on Team 2 went ahead to score a goal unassisted.

"Yes!" he shouted as he watched the ball soar into the net.

In the midst of the excitement, Doug heard a bark. It was Rosie, his golden retriever, who loved chasing the soccer ball up and down the field.

"Okay, Rosie, you can play. But no hoggin' the ball. You gotta pass!"

"Hooray for Doug and Rosie!" he heard from the sidelines. His younger brother Jimmy had brought his teddy bears to watch. They took front row seats as Jimmy lined them up under the shade of the apple tree.

Now he and Rosie had an audience at the game. And what a game it was! Rosie was making sensational runs, and Doug was doing great slide tackles.

He was getting a little hot and tired when his neighbor Martha called to him, "Doug, want something to drink?" She was setting up a lemonade stand under the tree. "You can have a glass free. I even brought water for Rosie."

Refreshed after their drinks, Doug and Rosie headed back to continue their game that was still 1-1.

Doug had just finished another great run when he heard Matt say, "Need a little help? I can handle the midfield."

"What about your game?"

"It's over. I just had some lemonade, and I'm all set to play."

Doug smiled. With Matt in the game, it would really be exciting. Sure enough, in a few minutes, there was a goal and the score became 2-1.

"Need a defender?"

Doug heard from the sidelines.

"I'll play goalie," said another.

"I'll cover the right outside," called a third.

One by one, Matt's friends joined the game. This time no one said anything about Doug not playing. In fact, more and more balls were passed to him. There was, however, a lot of complaining about Rosie, who continued to hog the ball.

When Doug cut through two defenders and scored a goal, he was surrounded by a circle of admiring faces smiling down at him.

"Good job, Doug!"

"Where'd you learn to play like that?"

"Next time, I'll choose you for my team."

It was a sensational game. Everyone thought so. The spectators cheered a lot, the lemonade was cold and sweet, and it ended up a 2-2 tie.

The only problem was what to do with Rosie. Somehow Doug would have to convince her, without hurting her feelings, that it would be more fun to be a mascot on the sidelines than a player on the field!

When Doug cut through the two defenders and scored a goal, he was surrounded by a circle of admiring faces smiling down at him.

Johannes Kepler

Giant of Faith & Science

Johannes Kepler was a giant of science and of faith. His discoveries showed the joy of studying God's handiwork.

While a student, Kepler took a class to study the planets and stars. Most scientists believed that planets traveled around the earth in perfectly circular orbits. Astronomers needed seventy circles to accurately show how the planets moved.

Johannes Kepler became a mathematics teacher. As part of his duties, he wrote a yearly almanac. Kepler knew that God had given the sun, moon, stars and planets as natural clocks and calendars. An almanac helped farmers and travelers by predicting time of sunrise, sunset, full moon, and other events.

Several years earlier, Copernicus had proposed that the sun and not the earth was the center of the planetary system. Few astronomers took Copernicus' idea seriously. Kepler began using the sun-centered planetary system. He became the first well-known scientist to support Copernicus publicly.

Despite his best efforts, Kepler's calculations fell short of predicting celestial events to his satisfaction. The only person who could supply him with better information was Tycho Brahe, an astronomer who lived in far away Denmark. Kepler sighed. "I'll never be able to meet Tycho Brahe."

Then, because of religious persecution, Kepler had to flee Germany. He settled in Prague. Unknown to Kepler, Tycho Brahe had moved to that same city. Kepler became his chief assistant.

Johannes Kepler worked on the orbit of Mars. After six years, Kepler realized his stubborn error. Astronomers believed Mars traveled in a circle around the Sun. Kepler proved that Mars traveled around the sun in a stretched out figure called an ellipse. Kepler swept away the seventy circles and replaced them with a single elliptical orbit for each planet.

In 1609, Johannes Kepler told about his discoveries in his book, *The New Astronomy*. He ended the book with a song of praise for the Creator. "Thus God himself was too kind to remain idle, and began to play the game of signatures, signing his likeness into the world."

All of the astronomers who came after Kepler built upon his discovery. Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen farther it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." Kepler was one of the giants. He enjoyed great fame. On any list of great scientists, he is usually in the top 10. Johannes Kepler believed in a harmony in the universe put there according to God's design. He said, "Great is God our Lord. Great is His power and there is no end to His wisdom."



ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

VOLUME 32

SUMMER 2002

NUMBER 2

Camporama Evening Services

by Steve Schultz

If you are looking for fun and excitement, you won't want to miss the evening services at Camporama. Monday evening will begin with a parade of flags from the districts represented. There will be great special effects and a greeting from General Superintendent Thomas Trask and National Commander Richard Mariott. Each evening Brian Bopp will lead us in both fun and worship songs geared to young people. The first night you will be introduced to the Rapture Ranger Patrol as they help answer questions for selected boys from the audience. It will be a time of fun and excitement as they prepare the way for our evening speaker, James Barger, president of the National Royal Rangers Council and Great Lakes region coordinator.

Tuesday will start with fun songs and audience participation activities. The Rapture Ranger Patrol will again help a selected boy from the audience



Terry Raburn (left), superintendent of the Peninsular Florida district will provide a challenging message on Thursday evening.

answer a spiritual question, and you won't want to miss a dynamic message from Freddie Espinoza, vice president of the National Royal Rangers Council.

Wednesday Brian Bopp will have you moving and singing in the pre-service and the Rapture Ranger Patrol will have you sitting on the edge of your seats in anticipation of National Royal Rangers Commander Richard Mariott's message dealing with "Hero."

Thursday has been set aside as the day to invite everyone to visit

Camporama and stay for the evening service. So invite all your friends, family, pastors, deacons, and Sunday school teachers (Well, you get the message.) so they can see what Camporama is all about. There will be a special performance from BibleMan, a fireworks show, candlelight ceremony, and Terry Raburn, superintendent of the Peninsular Florida district will challenge all of us to take the message of Jesus Christ to our communities.



BIBLEMAN
Coming to
Camporama

BIBLEMAN

JULY 18, 2002



Council, Camporama, and Contributions

by Richard Mariott

RR NATIONAL COUNCIL SUCCESS:

Royal Rangers National Council was a success! If you were not able to attend, you missed a great one. We had close to a thousand in attendance for the ICS and Ranger Basics Training.

Excitement was very high as Ranger Basics was released and ICS, IT, and Transition training being offered. Royal Rangers are preparing for methods to "reach" every boy in their communities. The new program will offer many options and methods to accommodate this plan.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have expressed your support. I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped and taught classes, as well as to the staff who worked so diligently to make it a success.

At Friday's opening session of the National Training Seminar of the March council, Commander Mariott presented the National Medal of Merit and Fred Deaver presented the FCF Flame of Honor to Rev. Thomas Trask, general superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God for his leadership and tremendous support for Royal Rangers. His work has provided finances, encouragement, and the resources of headquarters in order for the Royal Rangers department to move forward at this critical time in our history.

RANGER BASICS & TRANSITION COURSE: The new Ranger Basics course is available through GPH. We are already hearing great comments from commanders in your districts who have taken the course. The plan is that districts will schedule these seminars over the next 6 months and will continue to offer Ranger Basics as



our new introduction training into Royal Rangers. The training gained in the course will enable a new commander who takes the Ranger Basics and uses the new weekly curriculum to be a successful out-post commander. Additional LTA modules are being developed to enable leaders to continue to earn the LMA. Remember in the transition, a commander who has earned his blue or red LMA will go through the Ranger Basics and Transition module and will receive the new Gold LMA.

TRANSITION BROCHURE:

The new Transition Brochure will be sent to every church and chartered non-A/G church in June.

The eight page brochure communicates the transition plan from the old program to the new. This is a very informative brochure and is provided to you in this *High Adventure* Leader's Insert.

FIRST 100 MERITS ONLINE: The RR website, www.royalrangers.ag.org, has the first new 100 merits posted in the correct color groups with the requirements. We encourage you to download the PDF files and start your boys on the new merit awards. Check weekly for new updates as we continue to "chip away on the obsidian to make the arrowhead." It is a process, and we will have a finished product that we will all be proud to use.

40TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTS: We have been overwhelmed by a great response to the 40th Anniversary bolo ties and patches. The bolo tie is available this year and at Camporama. If you don't want to wait until then, you may contact the national Royal Rangers office and we will ship it to you. The bolo is \$7.50 plus \$2.50 for shipping and postage. Patches are \$4.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping and postage.



THANKS TO BGMC: BGMC recently purchased a complete tram trailer for Camporama and challenged districts and regions to do the same. Each tram trailer with cover costs \$5,000. BGMC funds paid for the materials for the visitors restrooms near the Johnnie Barnes Lodge as well. A plaque will be posted on both buildings extending our appreciation to BGMC. Thanks to David and Mary Boyd for the BGMC support.

BIBLEMAN COMING TO CAMPORAMA: Willie Aames, former star of *Eight is Enough* who now plays BibleMan, will be coming July 18th, the final night of Camporama, to present an action-packed pageantry. Thursday will be open to visitors all day and for the final evening service. The service will include BibleMan, a great fireworks presentation, and special closing speaker Reverend Terry Raburn, Penn-Florida district superintendent.

CAMPORAMA MAP: A colorful Camporama map is being designed to be included with each registration with information about activities and a buildings map. It's colorful, it's action-packed, it's Royal Rangers Camporama!

CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS: Camporama and campground improvements include:

- Many new showers and restrooms. We are presently working on the underground development for septic, water and utilities.

- An extra 6 acres added to the meadow in front of Johnnie Barnes Lodge. (You can see all the way down to the rappelling tower and Shower House Number 4!)

- Enlarged roads to accommodate vehicles and foot traffic.

- Expanded amphitheater, with new improvements for video and sound towers, and major plans for the first-ever "Pageantry School" the week prior to Camporama.

- Expanded rifle range to host the first national BB air rifle championship, sponsored and hosted by Daisy BB corporation.

- Eagles Resort Center where registration will be held. All campers and visitors are required to register and receive a ID card. The card will be used as a pass to enter through security. This ID Card will also be a meal card and will serve as the official ID name badge. It must be worn at all times for safety reasons.

- Three food service locations to provide faster service, allowing more time for scheduled activities and events.

- Tram service for visitors and Royal Rangers. Berryville Tractor will supply the tractors to pull the tram trailers for Camporama.

Special thanks to the Southwest region, South Central region, and Northeast region for sending crews to help with completing campground projects. The Gulf region plans to help in May.

You may ask what our greatest needs are. We need electricians, plumbers, concrete finishers, and finish carpenters. Over the next few months we have a lot of work to complete. If you can donate your time for a weekend or more, please contact Rick Dostal at the national Royal Rangers office.

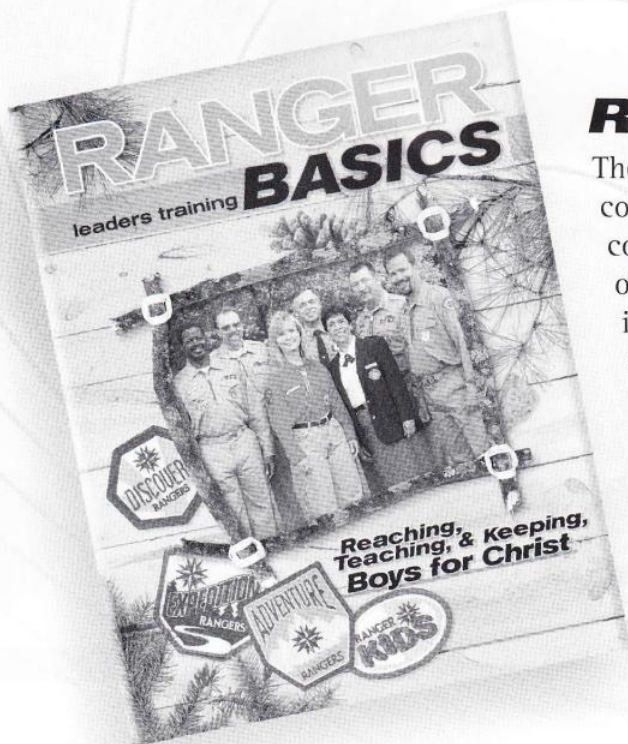


ROYAL RANGERS



NEW PROGRAM TRANSITION

P L A N



Ranger Basics

The first step for every Royal Rangers commander is completion of the Ranger Basics Course. Every commander, councilman, chaplain, or helper in the outpost should take Ranger Basics. This 8-hour course is designed to prepare the commander for the outpost meeting. Veteran commanders who have completed the existing requirements for the Leader's Medal of Achievement will enroll in a shorter overview course highlighting the new program changes.

For the latest updates check our website at

www.royalrangers.ag.org

or call **1.800.641.4310**

Ranger Kids

- **Challenging advancement system**
- **Commander friendly**
- **Flexible, weekly and quarterly themes**

Resources for boys:

- *Ranger Kids Handbook* explains the program and merit requirements.
- *Ranger Kids Workbook* includes activity pages for all 10 lessons every quarter.

Resources for commanders:

- *Ranger Kids Leader's Guide* contains meeting plans for the 3 years of the Ranger Kids program, including lessons that will take the boys through their advancement trail. Meetings plans are integrated with suggestions for helping the boys fulfill any of the 51 available achievement awards.

Straight Arrows and Buckaroos Transition Plan

A boy's transition into Ranger Kids depends on his Straight Arrows and Buckaroos achievements. The chart below shows how a Straight Arrow boy who has earned his Warrior pin will secure the equivalent Antelope through Elk patches in Rangers Kids. If the boy earned his Hunter pin, then he can receive the Antelope through Fox patches. If the Buckaroo did not participate in Straight Arrows then he is only eligible to wear the Trail to the Cougar patches.

CURRENT Advancement System



NEW Advancement System (Available Fall 2002)



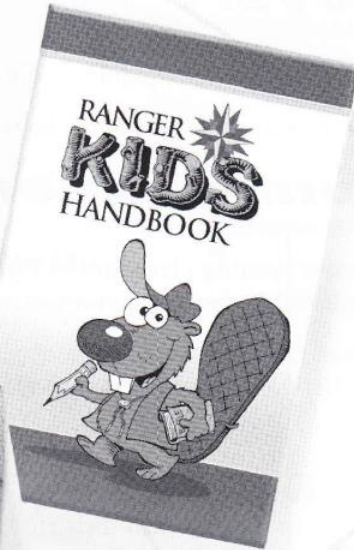
TRAIL TO THE ELK

TRAIL TO THE W



GRADE LEVELS

K **1** **2**



WOLVERINE

TRAIL TO THE COUGAR

Discovery Rangers

- **Weekly planning guides**
- **Improved merit structure**
- **Greater flexibility**

Resources for boys:

- *Discovery Rangers Handbook* thoroughly explains the program and merit requirements.
- *Discovery Rangers Merit Workbook* provides work pages to help boys meet their merit requirements.

Resources for commanders:








- *Discovery Rangers Leader's Guide* contains meeting plans for the 3 years of the Discovery Rangers program, including all elements of the Royal Rangers 10-point meeting plan.
- *Merit Reference Book* includes merit lesson plans, teaching helps, support material for the meeting "Program Feature," plus answers to the *Merit Workbook* pages, and additional merit reference resources.

Pioneers Transition Plan

The transition plan for pioneers is now a merit-based advancement system just like the new program. Using the transition plan (March 2002 through December 2003), boys may earn their current Pioneers advancement ratings (Powder Horn through Mountain Man) by completing the merits required to lead them to the Gold Eagle Medal instead of using the advancement trail in the *Pioneers Handbook*. These merits are listed at the top of the next page. A Gold Eagle advancement chart can be downloaded from our website at www.royalrangers.ag.org.

When the Discovery Rangers program is released in March 2003, a boy's Pioneer rating will transfer to the new Discovery Rangers advancement level based on the number of merits he has completed. For example: A boy who earned 12 merits to receive his Long Rifle rating under the old program will transfer to the Silver Hawk advancement level in Discovery Rangers.

TRAIL TO THE FALCON

Total Merits	1	2	4	6	6+
Red Merits	0	1	2	3	Must be a Discovery Ranger + 1 Hour of Christian Service
Red or Blue Merits	1	1	2	3	
CURRENT Advancement System		 POWDERHORN		 BOWIE KNIFE	
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					



GRADE LEVELS

3

4

5

Red Group Merits

Art
Bird Study
Church
Compass
Cooking
Family Life
Fire Craft
First Aid Skills
Insect Study
Jr. Light for the Lost (LFTL)

Lashing
Models & Designs (Models)
Rocketry (Model Rocketry)
Rope Craft
Safety
Space Exploration
Tool Craft
Weather







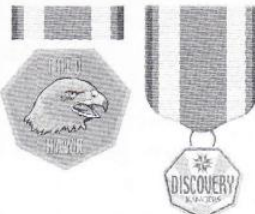
Blue Group Merits

Astronomy
Fishing
Hobby
Law Enforcement
Music







Pioneer Lore
Presidents
Reading
Senior Citizens
Wildlife

For Discovery Rangers merit requirements, download the list from the national website at www.royalrangers.ag.org or contact your section commander. Merit patches available from Gospel Publishing House.

TRAIL TO THE HAWK

Total Merits	7	8	10	12	12+
Red Merits	3	4	5	6	2 More Hours of Christian Service
Red or Blue Merits	4	4	5	6	+ 3 Months in Leadership Position
CURRENT Advancement System		 TOMAHAWK		 LONG RIFLE	+ Minimum 6 Months as Gold Falcon Medalist
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					

TRAIL TO THE EAGLE

Total Merits	13	14	16	18	18+
Red Merits	7	8	9	10	6 Hours Total of Christian Service
Red or Blue Merits	6	6	7	8	+ 6 Months Total in Leadership Position
CURRENT Advancement System		 MOUNTAIN MAN			+ Minimum 6 Months as Gold Hawk Medalist
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					

Adventure Rangers

- **Greater flexibility**
- **Diverse merit structure**
- **Commander friendly**

Resources for boys:

- *Adventure Rangers Handbook* thoroughly explains the program and merit requirements.
- *Adventure Rangers Merit Workbook* provides work pages to help boys meet their merit requirements.

Resources for commanders:









- *Adventure Rangers Leader's Guide* contains meeting plans for the 3 years of the Adventure Rangers program, including all elements of the Royal Rangers 10-point meeting plan.
- *Merit Reference Book* includes merit lesson plans, teaching helps, support material for the meeting "Program Feature," plus answers to the *Merit Workbook* pages, and additional merit reference resources.

Trailblazers Transition Plan

The transition plan for Trailblazers continues to be a merit-based advancement system. Using the transition plan (March 2001 through December 2003), boys may earn their current Trailblazers advancement ratings (2nd Class through Explorer) by completing the merits required to lead them to the Gold Medal of Achievement instead of the advancement trail in the *Trailblazers Handbook*. These merits are listed at the top of the next page. A Gold Medal advancement chart can be downloaded from our website at www.royalrangers.ag.org.

When the Adventure Rangers program is released in March 2003, a boy's Trailblazer rating will transfer to the new Adventure Rangers advancement level based on the number of merits he has completed. For example: A boy who earned 12 merits to receive his Advanced Chevrans under the old program will transfer to the Cedar advancement level in Adventure Rangers.

TRAIL TO THE BRONZE MEDAL

Total Merits	2	4	6	8	8+
Gold Merits	1	2	3	4	3 Hours Christian Service + Must Be an Adventure Ranger
Gold or Green Merits	1	2	3	4 (2 required Red Group Merits)	
CURRENT Advancement System		SECOND CLASS 		FIRST CLASS 	
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					 



GRADE LEVELS

6 7 8

Gold Group Merits

Advanced Swimming
Bachelor Bible
Camping
Camp Safety
Christian Missions
Christian Service
Citizenship
Communications

Cycling
Environmental Science
First Aid – CPR
Hiking
Home Safety
Lifesaving
Nature Study
Physical Fitness
Public Speaking








Green Group Merits

Advanced Disability Awareness
Amateur Radio
American History
Archery
Aviation
Baseball
Basketball
Bugling
Canoeing
Carpentry
Computer
Football
Forestry
Gardening







Home Repair
Horsemanship
Indian Lore
Knife and Hawk
Leather Craft
Orienteering (Pathfinder)
Photography
Primitive Snares
Primitive Shelters
Puppeteer
Reptile Study
Sports (Athletics)
Swimming
Tennis
Wrestling

For Adventure Rangers merit requirements, download the list from the national website at www.royalrangers.ag.org or contact your section commander.
Merit patches available from Gospel Publishing House.

TRAIL TO THE SILVER MEDAL

Total Merits	10	12	14	16	16+
Gold Merits	5	6	7	8	3 More Hours Christian Service
Gold or Green Merits	5	6	7	8 (3 required Red Group Merits)	+
CURRENT Advancement System		ADVANCED 		MASTER 	3 Months in Leadership Position
					+
					Minimum 3 Months as Bronze Medalist
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					

TRAIL TO THE GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Total Merits	18	20	22	24	24+
Gold Merits	9	10	11	12	500 Word Essay
Gold, Green, or Silver Merits	9	10	11	12 (4 required Red Group Merits)	+
CURRENT Advancement System		EXPLORER 			Christian Service Project
					+
					6 Months Total in Leadership Position
					+
					Minimum 3 Months as Silver Medalist
					+
					Be at least 12 years old and in the sixth grade
NEW Advancement System (Available Spring 2003)					

Expedition Rangers



GRADE LEVELS **9** **10** **11** **12**

- **Christian service and ministry events**
- **Challenging advancement system**
- **Junior Leadership Camps**
- **Xtreme sports and activity opportunities**

Silver Group Merits

Auto Mechanics (Auto)
Black Powder
Chemistry
Foreign Language
Golf
Hide Tanning
Home Missions—Construction (MAPS/DHM)
Hunter Safety
Sailing
Sign Language
Skiing
Track
Water Safety Instructor
Wilderness Survival
Winter Camping
World Missions (Foreign Missions)
World Missions—Construction (MAPS/DHM)
Youth Missions (AIM)

Download Expedition Rangers merit requirements from www.royalrangers.ag.org, or contact your section commander.

Resources for boys:

- *Expedition Rangers Handbook* thoroughly explains the program and merit requirements.
- *Expedition Rangers Merit Workbook* provides work pages to help boys meet their merit requirements.

Resources for commanders:

- *Merit Reference Book* includes merit lesson plans, answers to the *Merit Workbook* pages, and merit reference resources.

Challengers Transition Plan

The transition plan for Challengers combines the merit-based advancement system with Spirit Challenge Steps. Using the transition plan (March 2002 through December 2003), boys may earn their Challenger advancement ratings by completing the merits and Spirit Challenge units required to lead them to the Achievement Medal.

Silver or Green merits earned while a Trailblazer do not apply to the Challenger Transition Plan.

The new Achievement Medal will be available with the Challenger Transition Plan.

NEW

Advancement System
(Available Fall 2003)

CURRENT Advancement System

QUESTER

1 Silver or Green Merit
+
2 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step

ADVENTURER

3 Silver or Green Merits
+
6 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step

VOYAGER

5 Silver or Green Merits
+
10 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step

DISCOVERER

8 Silver or Green Merits
+
16 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step

NAVIGATOR

11 Silver or Green Merits
+
22 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step



15 Silver or Green Merits
+
28 Units
from any Spirit Challenge Step



TRAIL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

For fundraising ideas visit our website!
www.royalrangers.ag.org



Leaders Who Serve

Help your outpost leaders to understand that they are to be servant-leaders. These are not elevated positions, but lowly positions dedicated to caring for the boys under their leadership.

The main task of a servant-leader is living a Christ-like life before the boys and other leaders in the church and outpost. This type of leadership position will cost leaders several things—time, availability, and some hard work.

Each servant-leader is responsible for the group of boys to whom he is assigned. He is to reach into the lives of these young boys and minister to each of them as Timothy did. Paul describes Timothy as a leader who had this type of relationship with those he led: "I have no one else like him [Timothy] who takes a genuine interest in your welfare" (Philippians 2:20). Timothy sincerely cared about people. Train your commanders to follow Timothy's example.

Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, died in a boating accident at the age of 50. He was in the

boat when a young person fell overboard. Dawson, a great athlete, dove into the water and lifted the person who was drowning to safety. Something went wrong, and Dawson fell back into the water and died.

In reporting his death, *Life* magazine wrote, "He was always lifting others up." What a tremendous epitaph! The servant-leaders in our outposts need to remember that others come first. They should know how their boys are doing—spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially. They should know how they are doing and "lift them up."

This type of leadership position will cost leaders several things—time, availability, and some hard work.

Outstanding Service Award

Ivy Church, long-time Royal Rangers leader, was presented with the Outstanding Service Award during a ceremony at the Fostoria Metropolitan Airport, Fostoria, Ohio. Presenting this prestigious award to Church were two members of the National Royal Rangers Council: James Barger, National Council president, and Harry Hunt, National Council secretary.



Church was honored for meritorious service to his country during World War II, including three major battles in the European theater. Following an injury from mortar debris, Church was honorably discharged in December of 1945.

He was actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America for 5 years and in the local Royal Rangers Outpost 11, Fostoria Assembly of God, Fostoria, Ohio,

for 40 years. Church's accomplishments include the Commander's Leadership Medal, National Training Trails Award, Royal Rangers Camping Award, Red Cross Multimedia Award, Northwest District Leadership Award, Local Outstanding Leadership Award, 30-Year District Award, and the Senior Commander Award.

He was also the first

person in Ohio to earn the coveted FCF Trappers Brigade Award.

The Royal Rangers are blessed to have dedicated servants like Ivy Church who are willing to give of their time, finances, and talents for others. His positive influence over young boys, teens, and men will never be measured in this lifetime, but will be acknowledged through eternal rewards. His godly example can be used as a pattern for our lives. Thanks, Ivy!



Devotionals for Boys

by Joey Ellis

LESSON ONE

Do Not Be Conformed To The Image Of The World

KEY VERSE:

"Do not be conformed to the image of this world"
(Romans 12:2, NKJV).

PROPS NEEDED:

- Two different plastic molds
- Playdough

Our memory verse says, "Do not be conformed to the image of this world." But what does the word 'conformed' mean?

I want to use these molds to show you exactly what it means. We will let this mold stand for Jesus (*Hold up one of the molds.*), and the other mold will stand for our enemy, the devil (*Hold up another mold.*). How many of you have ever played with modeling clay or play dough? Probably all of you. So you already know what I'm going to do.

If I take play dough and press it inside this mold (*Press it into the mold representing the devil.*), it is going to come out looking just like the image of what is on the inside. The same thing would happen if I took these to the beach and put sand in them. The sand would conform to the image of this mold. The devil would love nothing more than to have you fit the image of the rest of this world. He would love for you to live a selfish lifestyle. He would love for you to be more concerned about yourself than anybody else. The devil hates it when you are like Jesus. The devil will make it appear that being like the non-Christian kids at school is a lot of fun. It is actually a trap.

Your enemy just wants you to be as far away from Jesus as he can get you. He wants you to fit the mold. (*Take the play dough out. It should resemble the mold.*) This is what being "conformed" means. It means being shaped into an image, so that you look like the image, you talk like the image, and you act like the image.

But Jesus wants you to be "transformed" by the renewing of your mind. The word transformed means "to change shapes." (*Take the play dough that was in the first mold, and reshape it to fit into the second mold.*) You need to place the Word of God in your brain. You need to think on good things, not bad things. You need to say positive things, not negative things. You need to pray and ask Jesus to help your mind to be transformed, to be change into the image Jesus wants. (*Take play dough out and let the kids see the change.*) When we allow Jesus to transform our minds, He will begin to make us into His image.

LESSON TWO

Courage (or What Courage Is Not)

KEY SCRIPTURE:

*"Be strong and of good courage ...
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"*
(Joshua 1:9, NKJV).

PROPS NEEDED:

- Hand grenade (deactivated, can be purchased from an Army surplus store)

(Choose a well-behaved boy to be your assistant. He will come up, and you will let him hold the hand grenade.)

What is this, boys? (*Boys respond.*) Right, it's a hand grenade. What is it used for? (*Boys respond.*) Right. During war times grenades are used to fight the enemy.

This is a real hand grenade. The explosive part of it has been taken out, but the outside shell, the handle, and the pin are all real. I want us to look at this hand grenade a little differently right now.

Let's think about how we think we should be courageous at times. Many times we think that getting into fights is courageous. If somebody has done us wrong, we think we should stand up and fight with our hands and fists. Or we think we should fight back with our words.

In other words, we think we should be like this hand grenade; we should just blow up all over everything. If fist fighting is not the thing you do when you feel like you have to be courageous, you might use your mouth to blow up. You say things that make you seem like the good guy, the hero.

That's hand grenade courage. You blow up and make yourself look and feel courageous. But are you really? No. Courage is not acting mean and ugly toward somebody else.

Courage is acting like Jesus. Courage is standing up for what you believe in as a Christian. Courage is knowing that when you act like Jesus, He will always be right there beside you.

Sometimes you can actually be afraid and still act courageously. Have you ever been afraid to talk with someone about Jesus, but you did it anyway? That is being very courageous. Many times simply doing what is right, even though we may be afraid, is acting with courage.

Be courageous, act like Jesus.

LESSON THREE

God Erases Our Sin at Salvation

KEY VERSE:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and he will forgive our sins" (1 John 1:9).

PROP NEEDED:

- Cassette tape

Our lives are much like this cassette tape. (Begin pulling the tape out of the bottom of the cassette and let it hang.) A cassette tape is used to record things to be heard later.

Our lives are being recorded by God. All of the things that we do in life are being recorded, and one day we will stand before God and give an account for our lives. (Continue pulling out tape.) All the good things of our lives and all the bad things of our lives are being recorded.

The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the plan of God for our lives (Rom. 3:23). The Bible also says that there is no way we can save ourselves (Eph. 2:8,9). We can not do enough good things to have our sins forgiven so we can get into heaven.

So Somebody else had to save us. Who was that Somebody? (Boys respond.) Right, it was Jesus. Jesus came and died in our place and took God's punishment for our sins.

And when we turn away from our sins and ask Jesus to forgive us and live in our lives, it is as if God takes the cassette recording of our lives and breaks off the old part. (Wrap the tape around your finger a couple of times and break the tape.) We start all over with a brand new life and brand new heart. The Bible says that if anyone repents of their sins and asks for forgiveness, then all things become new in their lives. God wants to give you a brand new life. He wants to save you from your sins.

LESSON FOUR

Honesty

KEY VERSE:

"The LORD detests lying lips but He delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22, NIV).

PROPS NEEDED:

- 1 Pitcher of water
- 1 Large clear bowl
- Food coloring
- 1 Clear glass (3/4 filled with water)

(Show the children the clear pitcher full of water.)

This represents our lives when Christ has cleansed our sins, crystal clear. But when we lie, even in small things, our lives become tarnished and dirty. Even though it starts out very small (Add one drop of yellow food coloring to the cup of water.) and insignificant, it makes our lives dirty. You say, "I lost my homework today," but you really know that you left it at school because you didn't want to do it.

Then to cover up for that lie, we tell another one to hide it. But this one is a little worse than the first. (Add two drops of red food coloring.) "Oh I forgot, my teacher said we didn't have any homework tonight." And the same thing happens over and over and over again.

The more we are dishonest (Add two drops of blue food coloring.) the more our lives become "discolored." Before long we are completely filled up with lying (Add enough food coloring to darken the water in the cup.), because we have continued to tell a string of lies. God wants to deliver us from our lying lips and make us honest in all that we say and do.

Ask God to forgive you when you lie. Then go to the person you have lied to and tell them. Then ask God to help you stay honest and stay away from lying. He will once again make your life clean and pure again.

(Place the cup inside the large clear bowl, pour the water from the pitcher into the cup with enough force to displace the dirty water and replace it with clean water. Hold up the cup of water that is now clear to illustrate a clean life.)

HINT: Practice before presenting this to determine how swiftly you need to pour the water into the cup to displace the dirty water. The effect is not as good if the water is still a diluted color. The water needs to be totally clear.



Building the Wall and Standing in the Gap

By *H. Franklin Cargill*, Oklahoma District Council superintendent

The prophet Ezekiel issued a cry of despair when he announced, "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30). The vessel has always been a critical and an important item in the plan of God. In fact, the ultimate need of God has been for a voice. One who will stand and proclaim the day of the Lord.

The importance of the messenger is found in the words of the writer of Romans when He asked, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (10:14).

The prophet Isaiah was moved to respond personally following a vision of the Almighty. God questioned, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" The prophet volunteered by saying, "Here am I. Send me!" (6:8).

No agency of the church is more prepared to assist in leadership development than Royal Rangers. It responds to the need through a discipleship process that begins with young boys. It embraces the teachings of the church while it relates to the socially relevant aspects of growth. It continues to offer resources throughout the development stages of adulthood.

Rangers provides the structure for investment in the lives of boys. Our world is desperately in need of someone to care. Every individual needs a mentor, and no better opportunity can be found than the relationship model that exists through Royal Rangers. It is here that a boy can witness Christianity firsthand. It is a program that can assist in the development process that occurs when a boy becomes a man.

We live in a world that lacks heroes. Every boy wants to be someone or something that he is not. He dreams of becoming bigger than life—a sports star, an astronaut, a daring stunt driver. Many boys grow up without a father or even a big brother figure and become desperate for someone with whom to identify. This is where Royal Rangers enters with an opportunity to influence these boys through this life-changing program. After all, a boy never forgets his first commander.

As a pastor, I was always amazed at the power of the uniform. Once a young boy received his first award and

had it pinned to his Ranger uniform, he immediately possessed a new radiance. It was an amazing transformation! One could quickly observe the pride and sense the excitement. Someone cared. Someone had taken time to invest in a young man's life. The boy had found a new role model in the form of his commander.

The church must take its requirement to train and properly prepare each age seriously. I know of no arm of ministry that is more age-relevant than the Royal Rangers program. It connects the spiritual with the practical. It allows room for mental development while not restricting time for the physical as well as the emotional. The church comes alive in the heart of a boy as he grasps the precepts of salvation, divine healing, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the second return of Jesus Christ.

Once a young man has reached adulthood, Royal Rangers provides leadership development and enrichment for the man. It is through the many opportunities afforded through Rangers that a man becomes available for service to the Master. As he invests in the lives of boys, a man strengthens his grasp on eternal values. As he teaches the fundamentals of the faith, he comes to understand the unreachable riches of God's Word. As he takes on the role of a mentor, he becomes available to respond to the call of God for a man who will build up the wall and stand in the gap.

The commander must constantly apply himself to further training. It becomes a training ground for all leadership positions within the church. Through leadership training conferences and campouts, along with sectional and district activities, the commander prepares himself for other avenues of valuable ministry. There is no better training ground for potential deacons and elders.

Royal Rangers is my choice of vehicle for the training of boys through the auspices of the church for the development of men.



H. Franklin Cargill is the Superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God, a position he has held since November 2000. His ministry has been devoted to Oklahoma where he has served as pastor in three churches, as well as giving 18 years as Assistant District Superintendent and 8 years as District Youth Director.

Uruguay National Evangelistic Outreach Impact Continues

by Isaac OLIVAREZ

On the outskirts of Uruguay's capital, Montevideo, Maria overdoses on painkillers. Moments later, medical personnel rush her to a hospital where she is resuscitated.

Angry that her suicide attempt has failed, Maria flees from the hospital with a new plan to kill herself. As she runs, she encounters the Assemblies of God-sponsored street evangelism outreach, Uruguay for Christ. She hears the message of salvation and accepts Jesus as her Savior. When frantic family members and the police find her in the outreach tent, they tell her it is time to leave. "No, I am not leaving this place," she responds. "I have found what I was searching for."

As a result of the Uruguay for Christ nationwide outreach in January 2001, radical conversions such as Maria's are becoming more frequent in this South American country bordering Argentina and Brazil. During the two-week stretch of 100 street outreaches conducted throughout the country, 3,500 people committed their lives to Christ. More local evangelistic campaigns followed the national outreach, and nine churches were planted last year.

"It's a new day," said Isaac Smythia, the U.S. Assemblies of God missionary who coordinated Uruguay for Christ. "This is just the beginning of what God wants to do in this nation." After the Uruguay for Christ outreach, church members followed up on the new converts. More than 1,000 of them are regular church attendees today.

Gabriel Ricca, a graduate of Instituto Biblico Asambleas, the only residential Bible school in Uruguay, is pastor of Nuevos Rumbos (New Ways), one of the nine churches started last year. Sunday attendance at the church in suburban Montevideo has reached 70, and 35 people were baptized recently.

At Templo Nahaliel, a church in the northern city of Salto, 180 people accepted Christ as their Savior. "As God continues to change people's lives, we're going to see things continually happen," Smythia said.

"Uruguay for Christ touched this nation."

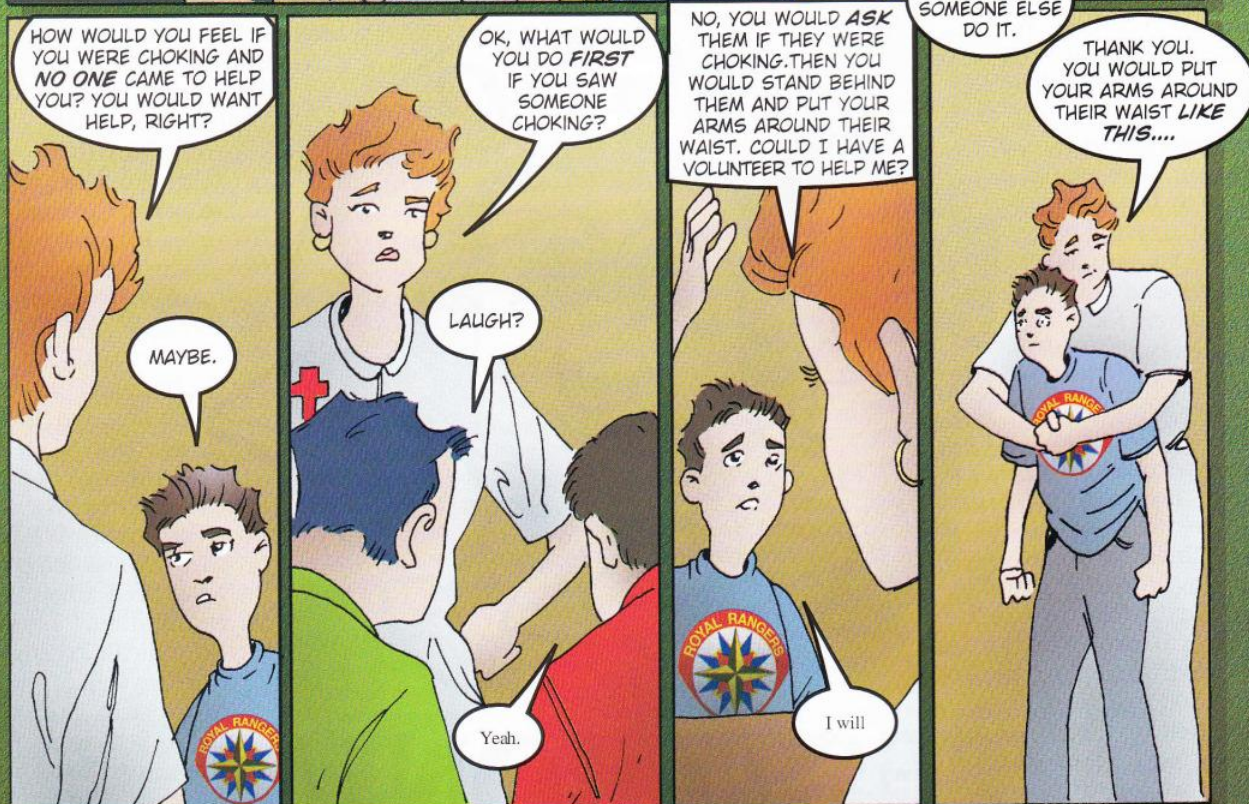
Richard Nicholson, Latin America regional director for U.S. A/G World Missions, said Uruguay has been among the toughest nations on the continent to penetrate with the gospel. "Historically it's been hard because the country has been atheistic by its constitution," he said. "It's also difficult because so many people are well-off financially and satisfied with their lives."

Nicholson, who attended a national mis-

sions convention in Uruguay in November, said the country is slowly becoming more open to evangelical Christianity. The national church recently approved its third foreign missionary couple. The U.S. Assemblies of God has five missionary couples in Uruguay, and Nicholson said Uruguay is starting to see the fruit of their consistent ministry.



TESTIMONIAL



A FEW DAYS LATER...



LET'S GO OVER THERE AND SWING!

AFTER I FINISH MY HOT DOG.

NO, COME ON, LITTLE BRO'-- I'LL RACE YOU.



LET HIM FINISH AND THEN HE WILL BE OVER.

LET'S GO!



CHOKING



COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE'S CHOKING!

SLAP HIM ON THE BACK!



NO, WAIT-- DON'T DO THAT.

WHY NOT?

WE LEARNED WHAT TO DO IF WE SAW SOMEONE CHOKING. WE PUT OUR ARMS AROUND THEIR WAIST....



BACK IN RANGERS THE NEXT WEEK...

THANKS, COMMANDER.

FOR WHAT?

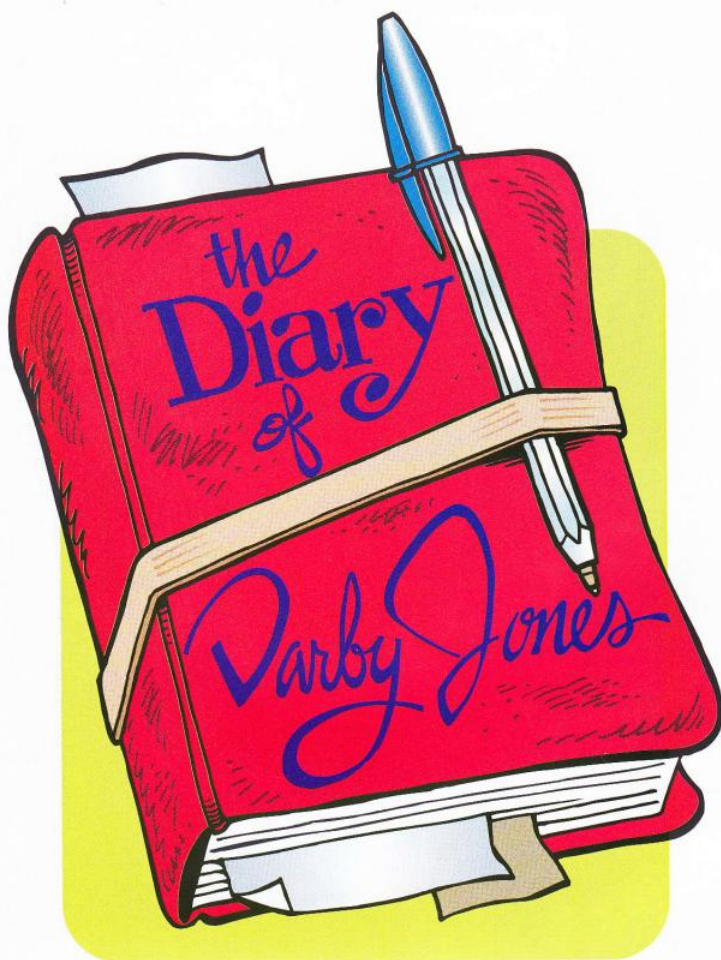
WHY?

WHAT SHE TAUGHT US HELPED ME SAVE MY BROTHER THE OTHER DAY WHEN HE STARTED CHOKING.

FOR HAVING THAT VOLUNTEER FROM THE RED CROSS HERE LAST WEEK.

ME TOO!

I'M GLAD YOU LISTENED AND LEARNED HOW TO HELP SOMEONE THAT IS CHOKING.



The Flight of the BMX

by Rev. Robb HAWKS

"What do I do now?"

We all ask that question at least once in our lives. For me, Darby Jones, the question had arrived here and now. I was not expecting it. Actually, I was not expecting to be hanging upside down from the branch of a pine tree either.

That was my problem. I was hanging upside down about 20 feet off the ground and did not have the slightest idea how to get down. Of course, you are asking the obvious question, how did I get up here in the first place? Life is full of decisions. Make the right one and you end up winning a race. Make the wrong one and you end up hanging upside down in a tree. It happened something like this:

"On your mark. Get set. Go!" Commander Jones cried. Roy, Jerry, Mike, and I kicked our BMX bikes hard and pedaled like crazy. The race was on.

Roy got off to a quick start and led the way up the twisting trail toward the top of the mountain. Mike and Jerry were not that fast, and so it was going to be a race between just Roy and me. My lungs were burning as I pedaled harder and harder trying to catch Roy. The rules to the race were quite simple. Take whatever trail you want to the top, circle the pine tree at the top of the mountain, and then race back to the Start/Finish line.

Roy was just finishing his circle around the pine when I hit the top of the mountain. I was in trouble. The downhill part of the race was the fun part. You just had to steer. I had used all my energy getting to the top and now Roy had a good lead. As I began my lap around the pine tree, Roy disap-

**Suddenly the trail
became very steep.
My bike began to go
faster and faster.**

**This was good,
I thought.**

peared down the main trail. My mind was spinning.

It was at this point that I made a really bad decision. Instead of chasing Roy down the main trail, I decided to take a shortcut. I knew the trail was

COMEDY CORNER

How do you make an egg laugh? *Tell it a yolk!*

It did not want to be a hot dog!

Why did the dog sit in the shade?



"I'm worried about Junior, he just doesn't seem to give a hoot."

What did one eye say to the other eye?
There's something between you and me that really smells!

If a rooster lays an egg on top of a pointed roof, which side does it roll down on?
Roosters don't lay eggs!

Where's the best place to see a man eating fish?
A seafood restaurant!

What did the polite mouse say?
"Cheese" and "thank you."

If two's company, and three's a crowd, then what's four and five?
Nine.



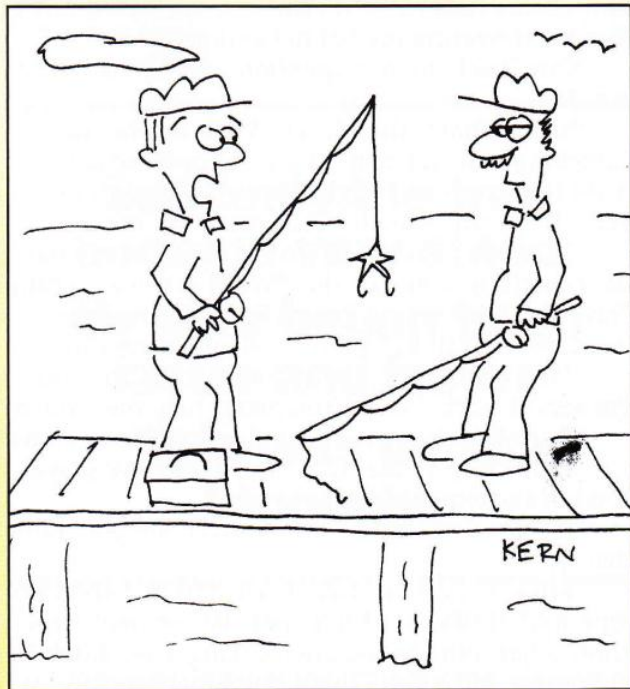
"That's a strike? You mean two more strikes and I'm out?"

What has eyes but no nose, a tongue but no teeth and is a foot long? *A boot.*

Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants? *Just in case they get a "hole in one."*



"Since I just got baptized, can I skip tonight's bath?"



"This bait's good for catching starfish."

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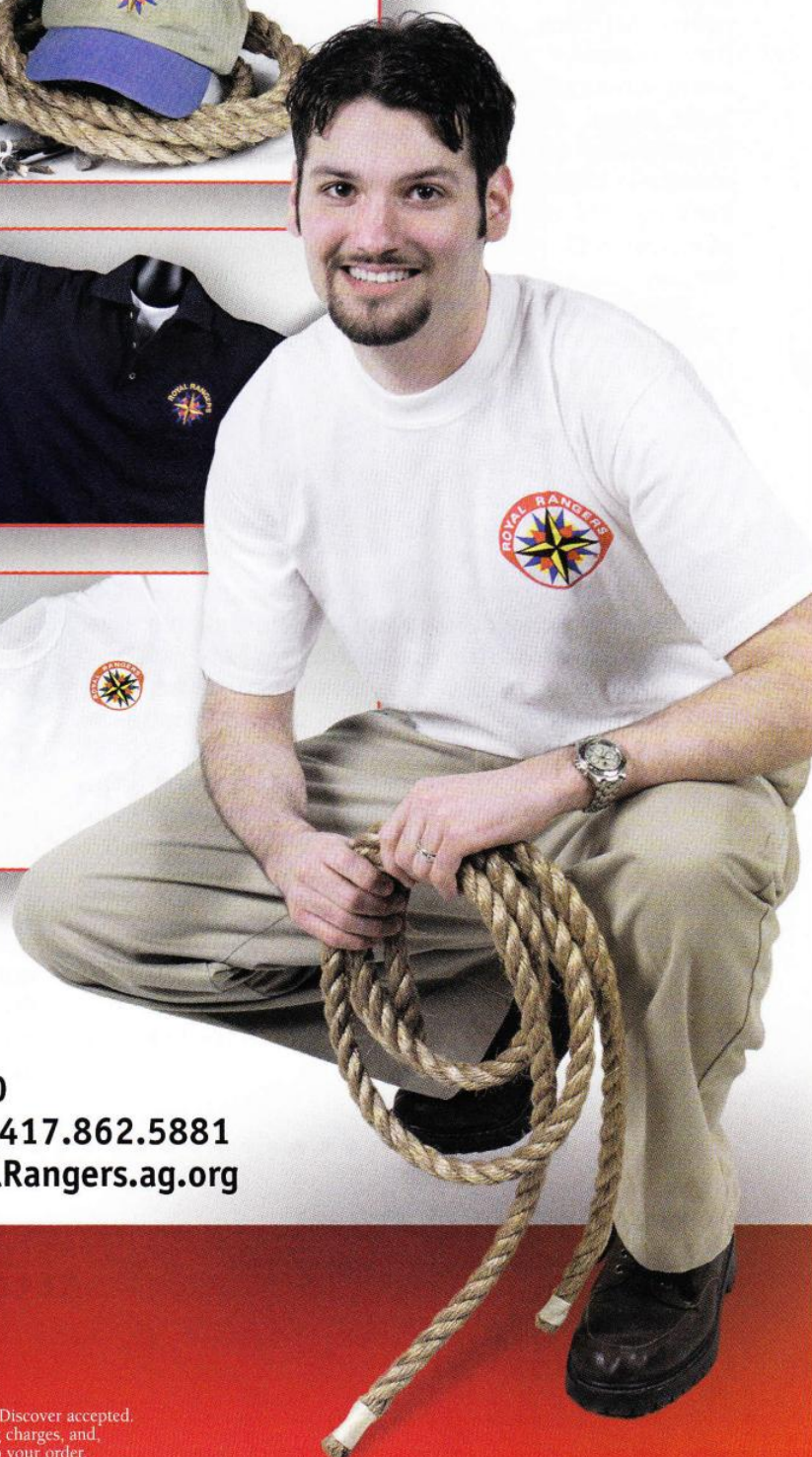
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Bravery in the Face of Terror

September 11, 2001 will be engraved forever in the minds of millions of people who were literally frozen in their tracks as they witnessed the tragic events surrounding the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorism. Few of us were close enough to observe the events first-hand, but one person in particular will never forget that day.

Stuart R. Fluke, a Pioneers Commander at Royal Rangers Outpost #114, Fairfax, VA, began his day like so many others. He traveled from his home in Vienna, VA to the hustle and bustle of Washington, DC, and the confines of the Pentagon to carry out his daily work schedule. A computer specialist, Stuart worked alongside Janis Ann Jackson, and both were observing the televised events unfolding in New York City when they were jolted with a tremendous impact. The Pentagon was violently penetrated by a terrorist-controlled commercial airplane.

The crash caused the second floor to collapse on them and they were immediately surrounded by fire. Jackson recalled, "The only thing we could see was a great fire ball." Fluke, Jackson, and a third co-corker, Raquel Kelly, crawled over piles of debris toward a hole that the explosion created in the outer wall. In their rush to escape they didn't notice that Jackson's hair was on fire. Fluke saw her burning hair, quickly tore off his shirt and smothered the flames. The three continued to edge their way closer to the hole and climbed outside to safety.



Jackson was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for several days with second- and third-degree burns and smoke inhalation. Fluke was treated for second-degree burns on his left hand and multiple abrasions.

For his bravery during this tragedy, Fluke was honored during a special ceremony hosted by the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas E. White, and the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric K. Shinseki, and the Department of the Army. He was presented with the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service for Bravery. Awarded to those "who have

exhibited great courage and voluntary risk of life in performing an act resulting in direct benefit to the Government or its personnel." This is the highest award a US citizen can receive.

He was also recommended for the Royal Rangers Medal of Valor Award. This award is given to individuals who have "saved a life at the risk of their own." The award will be presented by Daniel Harlan, District Royal Rangers Commander at Fluke's home church, Way of Faith Assembly of God, Fairfax, VA.

"Lest we forget" will echo as a rallying cry for many years to come. The memory of Stuart Fluke and his co-workers and their brush with death will linger on, but Praise God they are still alive to remember how their lives were inexplicably drawn together one fateful day in September.

Attention Senior Commander