

ISSUE 01



SPRING 2003

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LEADER'S EDITION

# High Adventure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS



# READY FOR ANYTHING



## PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING



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# High Adventure

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*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

1 JOHN 3:1



## inside

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# GOLD MEDAL of Achievement

## The Value of Royal Rangers

by David J. **MOTT**

OUTPOST 206

*Radiant Life Church A/G, Dublin, Ohio*

I have been in Royal Rangers since I was 5 years old and in Straight Arrows. Over the years, I have had plenty of time to discern what Royal Rangers is and what the ministry is all about. The Royal Rangers mission statement is "Reach, Teach, and Keep Boys for Christ." The methods used to accomplish this mission are camping and outdoor adventure. However, I believe that the core purpose of Royal Rangers is to develop boys into men who are leaders in the home, the workplace, the community, and the church.

The value of Royal Rangers is that it develops the whole boy for Christ. The outpost and patrol system gives a boy an understanding of leadership, responsibility, and how to resolve conflicts, all of which develop his social skills. The Advancement Trail is designed to challenge him mentally, providing huge opportunities for the boy to develop mental prowess and an ability to think independently and logically. Campouts, games, and the Junior Leadership Training Academy all provide ways for a boy to develop his body, learn to care for it properly (even in less than ideal circumstances), and explore his limitations, as well as build confidence in his abilities. The spiritual aspect of a boy's development is addressed through both the Advancement Trail and weekly Bible study lessons. Our outpost also uses a point system to encourage boys to spend time in the Word daily. The large turnouts seen at powwows and Camporamas of boys seeking salvation, the Holy Spirit, and guidance from God are a result of the countless hours invested by the boys' commanders in training the boys, sowing truth into their lives, and praying for the boys. These commanders, sure of their faith and solid on the Rock, are the backbone of the Royal Rangers ministry.

To me, Royal Rangers has been a training ground for life. Throughout my years in the program, I have learned, among other things, the importance of authority, organization, rules and adherence to them, and honesty. I have learned the importance of integrity, following through and doing what I say I will. I have learned how to be a

minister engaged in a non-ministerial occupation. I have learned how to incorporate service into my life by taking opportunities where they arise, depending on God and obeying the Spirit's promptings. Through my experience in Rangers, I have gained a faith and trust in God and His provision that rarely allows me to worry. My commanders have instilled in me the importance of prayer as a means of worship, petition, and most importantly, preparation. It was through the influence of my Royal Rangers commanders that I first began seeking "the wisdom that comes from heaven," which is "first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17). By the grace of God, I believe I have started down the path that leads to this wisdom.

The value of Royal Rangers is that it takes any boy who is willing to be trained and then develops the whole boy into a Christlike leader. I am a living testimony to the power and mercy of God and the effectiveness of Royal Rangers.

by T.J. **PARKER**

OUTPOST 200

*New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Royal Rangers has had a huge effect on my life. It has given me a will to know God more, a sense of self-confidence, godly men to look up to, and a chance to work with other boys and make new friends. Many valuable life lessons have come along with these.

The first time I had been away from my family for more than one night was a powwow. I had just moved up to Pioneers and I didn't know very many people. It was a test for me, and it helped me to step out of my comfort zone. This is a problem that many boys face. Some have a nice little world where they can just go to their mom and dad for help. Then they're forced to leave their comfort zone and they turn to drugs and alcohol instead of God. Royal Rangers has helped me step out of my comfort zone so I can achieve my goals in life.

One thing I concentrate on more is God. The older I get the more I want to know God. From Straight Arrows through Pioneers, Royal Rangers has helped me know God more. My commanders have always been strong Christians. At campouts, while we were at council fire, we'd have praise and worship. I think that the sound of men and boys singing together and praising God is one of the neatest things in the world. I received my prayer language at a powwow. That was an amazing experience that brought me much closer to God.

Many kids aren't close to God. Think about all the kids who go through life doing only things like school, homework, watching TV, eating, and sleeping. I don't need to live like that. Royal Rangers gives me something else to do, and it helps me concentrate on God more. It has taught me to take my eyes off worldly things and set them on God. Like sometimes while I'm doing my chores, I'll think about Royal Rangers and I'll start reciting the Romans Road to myself.

Another thing that Royal Rangers has taught me is teamwork. The patrol system is really neat. I remember one night at a powwow when everything was getting out of hand. Then the patrol system started to work. The senior guide went to the patrol guides and commanders to get everything sorted out. By the time we were ready to go to bed, everything was settled. My friends, commanders, God, and I all make a really great team.

I go through life and find many things that Royal Rangers has helped me get through. I have many friends who I can talk to about anything. Royal Rangers has given me role models and standards to achieve. It has given me a sense of self-confidence and confidence in the Lord. Royal Rangers has taught me to set high standards and has helped me to grow in Christ. That's what makes the value of Royal Rangers high.

by Jonathan **PIMENTEL**

#### OUTPOST 132

*Mount Calvary Church, New York, N.Y.*

**R**oyal Rangers has been a great inspiration for me while following in God's footsteps. The Royal Rangers emblem has been a blueprint in guiding me onto that path. The four gold points have been the main foundation of my development, encouraging me to grow mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially by reaching manhood under God's guidance. Royal Rangers has provided a positive place where I could fellowship with others like me. Moreover, Royal Rangers has been one of the main keys for the lock of my salvation, feeding me with the spiritual food that I required. But most importantly, Royal Rangers has opened up my eyes and shown me how wonderful God is. However, before fully understanding God's grace, I went through trying times.

This society has made it nearly impossible to become a faithful Christian youth. At one point I isolated myself and began to question God's will. I found myself wanting to be a part of many worldly things such as partying and drinking. This led me astray from God's will. While slipping and falling, God remained close to me by keeping His Holy Spirit by my side. No sinful pleasures could ever compare to His everlasting love. I have always known that God has a special plan for my life, but it became painfully clear after an unfortunate chain of events. During a period that my local church had been disciplining me for improper behavior, my Royal Rangers commander, Alexander Fernandez, felt compelled to call and invite me to fellowship with a group of friends before our youth service. After our fellowship and on our way over to church, Alexander was counseling me. Before he could finish the phrase, "God has a wonderful plan for you," we noticed a minivan speeding toward us. The minivan was 10 to 15 feet away and closing. I managed to get away because of a force pushing me back and out of harm's way. It turned out to be my commander, Alexander. Before we knew it, Alexander was hit by the minivan and was thrown in the air. His physical appearance showed me that he wasn't seriously hurt, but it would have been a different story if it had been me. That day I realized the devil wanted my life because of how important I was to God. It took a brother in Christ, a friend and Royal

Rangers commander, putting his life on the line for me to open my eyes.

I have learned that the "spiritual" in the gold points is our cornerstone. With a strong spiritual life we can overcome all obstacles. As the scriptures state, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

So what is the value of Royal Rangers? My salvation. Rangers has given me a gift no one else could top—it has guided me toward salvation. I pray that one day I can repay those leaders who sweat, shed tears, and prayed for my salvation by doing the same with the future boys of my outpost. My burden has been to bring forth an army of young men who are not afraid to pray and witness the gospel. It has become my duty to share this gift. I have learned that the path to eternal life is hard and only the faithful will survive.

by Joshua **RUSSELL**

#### OUTPOST 3

*Bethesda Community Church, Ft. Worth, Texas*

**W**hen I was 4 years old, I went on my first Rangers campout with my father, who was a Rangers commander. I learned a very big lesson that night. I touched the knob on the top of the lantern and burned my hand. Great lesson—I will never touch the top of a lantern again. But that was just one of the many lessons I have learned through Rangers. When I was in Straight Arrows, I memorized my first long passage of Scripture when I memorized the Lord's Prayer for my Hunter Badge. (Thanks, Chief Morning Star.) This taught me to hide God's Word in my heart.

When I was a Buckaroo, I read my first book of the Bible by myself (Malachi) and gave a report over it for the Bible Badge. (Thanks, Ranch Boss Ron Schaffer.) This led to my desire to read the whole Bible, which led to a whole bunch of lessons learned.

Then in Pioneers, I became assistant patrol guide my first year. This was a good thing, because I had always been shy in groups and this taught me to be brave. (Thanks, Commander Darrel.) It also taught me how important your example is—if you are a leader you have to be a good example.


In my second year of Pioneers, I started to work on my GMA seriously. The amount of dedication that it took has taught me to be diligent. Later, when I became the senior guide of our Pioneer group, I learned that leadership is very tough, and you have to be very patient. (Thanks Commander T.J. Crabill.)

By this time, I was 11 and had almost finished my GMA. I had set a goal to finish by my 12th birthday. But sometimes in life, things do not go as you plan. I was not able to finish by my birthday, but I was close. This taught me persistence. Even when things don't go your way, you should keep trying. I then advanced up to Trailblazers.

In Trailblazers, we were trained to lead others. We started coming up with devotions, where we had to find an object and make up a devotion about it. We could use anything from a basketball to an acorn. This taught me to listen to the Holy Spirit to find out what to say. It also reinforced that reading and memorizing the Word is important for everyday life. You never know when the Lord will have you witness to someone or when the devil will try to attack you. In these situations, you can use the Word that you have stored in your heart, or the Bible that you carry in your pocket to succeed.

Working through the various merits has taught me a wealth of things. I have learned the importance of academics, the joy of a physically healthy body, the fun of puppetry and firecraft, the power of knowing how to survive, the pride of knowing how to tie the right knot when you need it, and the strength of knowing how to use various tools. Knowing these things is very rewarding.

So what does Royal Rangers mean to me? Rangers is fun and adventurous, excitement and work all combined to form the method the Lord is using to teach me the lessons I need to learn in order to become a godly man.



**Thunder boomed.**  
**Lightning fingers**  
**danced across**  
**the sky.**  
**Rain cascaded**  
**down the mobile**  
**home's**  
**windowpanes.**

# Wall of

Inside, 11-year-old Michael sat at the computer tapping on the keys. When the thunder boomed again, he closed the program and turned the computer off. "Jenny, get the baby."

Twelve-year-old Jenny picked up the crying baby and wrapped a blanket around him. Comforted, Juan Miguel sucked his thumb.

"When will Mom and Dad be home?" asked Jenny.

"Mom's at the store, but Dad will be back as soon as he checks the dam." Michael frowned, remembering what his Park Ranger father had said about the earthen dam.

"Michael," his dad had said, "It's been three days of heavy rain, and I'm afraid the dam's not going to hold." Michael watched the worry increase on his father's face.

"Oh Dad, you worry about everything," said Michael, laughing.

"And you, Son, don't worry enough!" Michael's father's faced turned red. "One day you'll learn everything is in God's hands, not yours!"

Under his breath, Michael mocked his father. "One day you'll learn..." Then louder, "Get a life, Dad!"

"I'll be back shortly," said his dad,

"and we'll talk about this."

The memory disappeared as rain drummed on the rooftop. Suddenly the lights flickered.

"Michael!" wailed Jenny, "I'm scared." She turned to the fussy baby. "It's all right, Juan," she crooned to the newly adopted child. She tucked the blanket around him, then patted his back.

The lights flickered again and went off. Outside, the storm buffeted trees, shrubs, and trashcans with insane fury. New storm clouds gave birth to sheets of rain, which slanted across the landscape of mobile homes.

Michael pulled back the curtains and whispered, "Like Dad said, 'God's in control.'"

"What'd you say, Michael?" asked Jenny.

# Water

by Nanette THORSEN-SNIPES

"Uh, I just said God's in control." A sound like an exploding firecracker startled him. He clapped his hands over his ears.

"The dam!" he shouted. He flung open the door and stepped out. Water covered the ground and inched up the steps. He looked across at the other homes. Water rose everywhere.

Through the blinding rain, he could barely make out the dam holding back the lake above them. The crashing sound was a blown transformer, and above him, electrical wires danced like fireworks.

As the rain slackened, he saw the first surge of water breaking over the dam. It spewed like a fire hydrant, blasting everything in its path.

"The dam's broken, Jenny!"

Jenny hugged the baby close. Michael grabbed her arm. "Come on," he shouted.

Water soaked the bottom of Michael's jeans as he sloshed through the yard. He banged on each mobile home door.

"Flood!" he shouted.

People raced out with children in tow. Some people carried their belongings, but most left with nothing.

"Hurry, Jenny," he said, "take the baby and climb that hill. Don't stop until you're safe."

He started toward the Duncan's home, then realized they were gone. The sound of rushing water made him gasp. He looked up to see a great wall of water heading for him.

"Please God," he prayed, "I want to live." Just as prayers raced through his mind, the water bowled him over. Immediately, he bounced up spitting out muddy water.

Before he caught his breath, another wall of water tossed him around like a puppet. Soon he felt himself swept downstream past uprooted trees, huge rocks, and other debris.

Michael tried to swim, but the current was too swift. From out of nowhere a table swirled by, bobbing like a cork in the water.

He reached for a wooden leg, caught it then pulled himself toward it. "Lord," he said, "I can't make it. I can't hold on." In seconds, he lost his grip and sank beneath the water's fury. He held his breath as long as he could before he once again broke the surface. His breathing sounded ragged and came in big gulps. His chest ached.

Unbelievably, a small car bobbed up and down in the water just feet from him. On the muddy bank, people huddled together in groups. He tried to swim toward them, but couldn't.

A tall pine tree stood directly in his path. If he could just grab a limb, he could climb the tree and ride out the flood. Briefly, he thought about his father. How he wished he hadn't talked back to his father. How he wished his dad was with him right now.

The current carried Michael too far right, but in one last desperate attempt, he grabbed a tree limb and hung on despite the pain.

Inching forward, he wrapped his legs around the swaying tree. He fought just to hold on. If he tore loose this time, his life would be over. Lord, give me strength, he prayed. Minutes later, he had enough strength to climb the tree. He hugged it like a long-lost friend.

He wondered about Juan Miguel and Jenny. Where were they? Did they make it to safety? He scanned the muddied banks, but couldn't make out the faces. He could only see people waving.

Some time later, Michael saw someone wading into the water pushing a wooden door toward him. He squinted at the now familiar face. Dad!

"Grab it!" his father shouted.

Michael eased himself into the water, afraid to let go. "I can do all things through Jesus who gives me strength," he whispered. Then he closed his eyes and let go. He grabbed the door and held on as his father pulled him to safety.

Once on the bank, Michael heard Juan Miguel's familiar cries. He turned to see Jenny, her hair wet and stringy, still holding Juan Miguel. They looked like a pair of wet gerbils.

"You were right, Michael, God was in control," said Jenny.

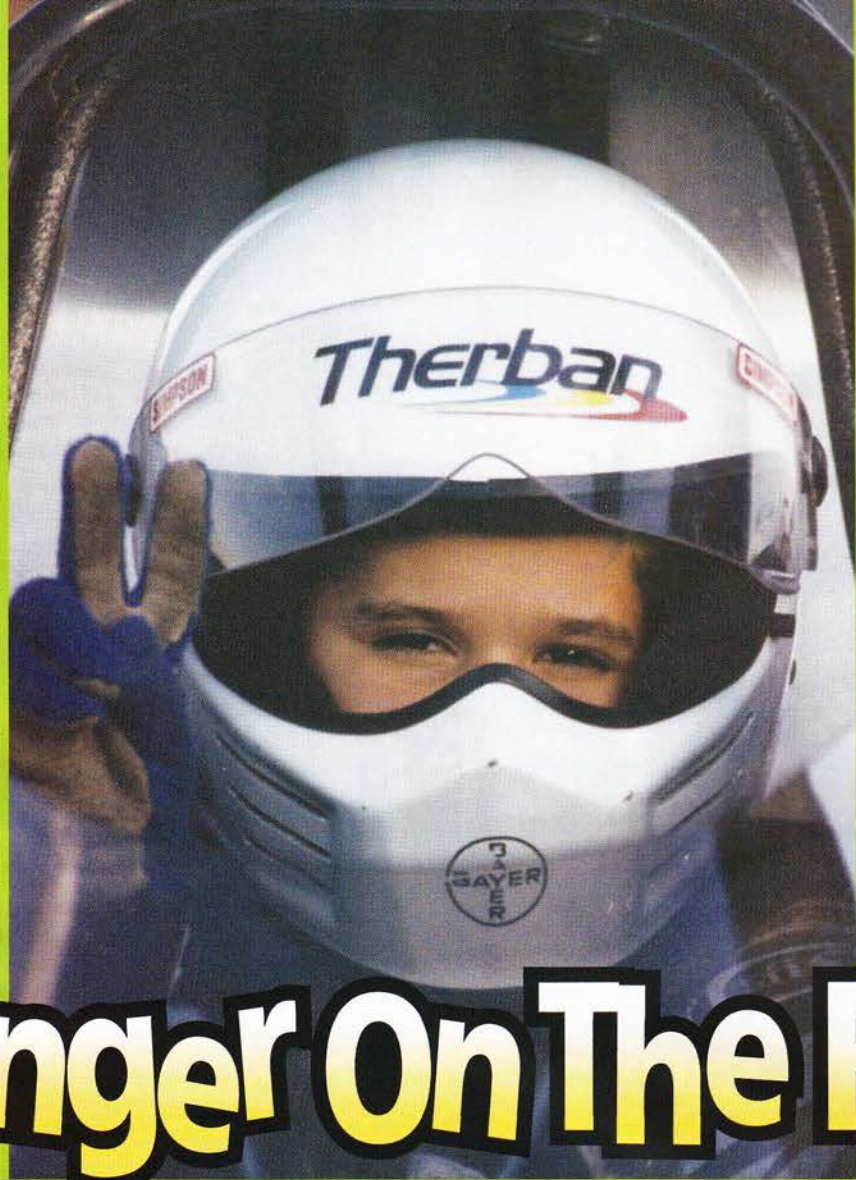
"Oh, it was nothing," said Michael. "I knew Who was in control all along." He smiled, then winked at Dad. Before Michael could say another word, his father gave him the biggest bear hug he'd ever had.

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**Michael eased himself into the water, afraid to let go.**

**"I can do all things through Jesus who gives me strength," he whispered.**

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# Ranger On The Run

JPG MOTORSPORTS

by Mario "CHIEF" GALIVIZ

TEAM GALAVIZ

Pioneer and longtime Royal Ranger Stephan Cody Galaviz has been on the run since he turned 8 years old. At 11, his weekends are spent in moments of do or die in 9 seconds at speeds approaching 80 miles an hour. There are no third strikes, no fourth down, no penalty box—only hundredths of a second to react and thousandths of a second to determine if he is caught. Cody protects himself with a fire-resistant uniform, gloves and shoes; his racing helmet fits snug against his face. He slides feet first into a race car that looks more like an arrow waiting to be shot from a bow. It wraps around his body with metal tubing stronger than steel and is covered by a fiberglass skin adorned with names like Therban, Bayer, Enders Racing, and Poweraid. He is strapped down by a 5-point safety harness. Now the dragster has him in its



belly like Jonah in the whale. A hand reaches down and grasps his and they pray.

Cody lowers his visor and his gloved fingers wrap around the narrow dragster steering wheel. He flips the kill switch to the "on" position, then gives a thumbs up, signaling the OK to start the engine. The car's only purpose is to go fast. It is a bad, bad machine that uses 100% alcohol to burn in its all-aluminum engine. Suddenly the car is alive and wanting to move. Cody applies pressure to the brake to restrain it. He is no longer just in the dragster, he is a part of it. The car shakes and loudly vibrates, sitting still with the engine running. Alcohol fumes fill the air. Cody rolls forward into the burnout area and then stomps on the gas pedal. The engine instantly goes to 8,000 rpm. The back of the dragster raises up as the racing slicks spin and then grow from centrifugal force. Cody eases off





# ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

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NUMBER 1

## Contact and Impact: Royal Rangers at Work

by Clarence ST. JOHN

*District Superintendent of the Minnesota District of the Assemblies of God*

Ministry to boys must be a focus of the ministry of any church seeking to impact society in a meaningful manner. There is probably no other emphasis that would prove to be a better long-term investment for the Church. The need for positive male role models in our society has never been greater. Our communities are not only open to the Church stepping in to fill this void, but are actually begging for it. The Church must take advantage of this major window of opportunity!

Our fellowship has been blessed to have had visionary leaders who have developed impressive tools for the local church to use in this mission. Our RR program puts resources in the hands of every church—materials developed for the purpose of reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ.

History shows us that it works! Every year thousands of boys across our nation are touched by the RR ministry. As a pastor, I viewed Rangers as one of our prime entry-level programs in our quest to impact our community. It was our door into the lives of many needy families, many of whom eventually ended up in our church. Now, as superintendent, I see an even bigger picture. It is exciting for me to look across our state and see many godly men whose first contact with the Assemblies of God came through an RR program.

An amazing opportunity came to one of the churches in our state a few years back. The local Boy Scouts of America program in this particular city was struggling. They had recently lost their place to meet, as well as several of their key leaders. As a result, that community's entire scouting program was placed in jeopardy. The local A/G pastor heard about the need and volunteered use of the RR clubhouse to the Boy Scouts group. The scouting group then made a startling request. They asked the pastor if the church would be willing to take the whole scouting program

over. They proposed folding the floundering local Boy Scouts group into the church's RR program, no strings attached! Of course, the pastor was thrilled. For several years the Royal Rangers and the Boy Scouts were all run by the A/G church in that community. What a privilege and honor! Many boys were touched and transformed as a result.

Beyond their initial introduction to Christ, many were also taught and kept in the faith through Royal Rangers. A successful pastor in our district's introduction to the Assemblies of God came through the RR program in a church near his boyhood home. Some time ago, I stood with this pastor on his church property looking at a new facility they had built, and he told me, "I am here because an RR leader took an interest in me during a formative time in my life." He is one more example of the influence godly men can have on young boys. There are stories like this all over our nation confirming the fact that Royal Rangers not only reaches, teaches and keeps boys; but goes a step further and develops them into leaders.

Although Royal Rangers has always been a wonderful tool for reaching outside the church walls, some new ideas have been incorporated recently that make it even more visitor-friendly. It is now possible to come into the program at any level and immediately become a part of that particular group. This should make Royal Rangers an even more important and effective tool the local church can use to impact its community.

*Clarence St. John is the District Superintendent of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. He has served in this capacity since 1989. Prior to assuming these responsibilities, he and his wife, Vicky, pastored in Hibbing, Minnesota for 21 years. The St. John's have two sons, Jason and Kirby who are both serving in full time ministry. Pastor St. John's ministry is based on integrity and an awareness of the needs of the church and the world we live in.*



# Is it Really About Pinewood Derby?!

Here at the RR office we have several statements we like to use such as: "Life is good!" used generally when things are going great or we hear a great report from the field; "There's more!" used when something unexpected comes along that needs to be done; and "Please no more!" used when you are having one of those days and can't get a handle on everything to be accomplished. The following is an account of "Life is good!"

I enjoyed the sport of motocross and racing for several years, but I wasn't known for building fast Pinewood Derby cars. I made many Pinewood Derby cars for my four daughters and the boys in the outpost, but I didn't make fast cars. My daughters seemed to be content with winning the workmanship and having a nice-looking car, so that worked for me!

Pinewood Derby has a new dimension around our house with grandkids. Kody, our 8-year-old grandson, has a couple of seasons under his belt and has had a couple of winning cars, thanks to his dad. However, unlike my daughters, Kody is not content having a winning workmanship car. He could care less what the car looks like—he wants a fast car, to win races!

Now add to this Kiana, our 6-year-old granddaughter and Kody's sister. Kiana feels her calling in life right now is to have a car that looks good and beats Kody's car! (Beating Kody's car being the highest priority.)

Now we know it's not unusual to have healthy competition between siblings, healthy, being the "key" word, and Kiana's car has beat Kody's for the past two years. Kody did get trophies in his class, so that helped.

Kody has not beat Kiana's car the past two years, so Kody is trying to recruit Grandpa to build a fast car for him. I go back to my first statement: I have made many

Pinewood Derby cars, just not fast Pinewood cars. Now most would agree Grandma and Grandpa are supposed to remain neutral. I like the idea of being neutral (remember Grandpa builds slow cars).

At this same time Kody and I have been building a fort for him on the back of our property. This is a wonderful grandpa-grandson project. I have building experience, I'm just a little rusty and have a sore thumb to prove it. Kody is excited about finishing the fort and looking forward to having it completed to spend some nights in it with Dad and Grandpa.

After last night's Pinewood Derby race Kody came to me and said, "Grandpa, Kiana got two first place trophies and I didn't get a trophy. I got sixth place." He was looking a little disgusted.

I said, "Kody, it's not about always winning the race! It's about building the car, and sometimes it's about building the fort!"

His eyes lit up, and with excitement he said, "Grandpa, are you coming home early tomorrow so we can work on the fort?"

It's not about Pinewood Derby. It's not about who wins the race. It's not even about building forts. It's about building disciples! It's about getting dads, grandparents, commanders, and sponsors spending time with boys. When you spend time with a boy, you are building a disciple!

Next year, Kody and I will probably build a fast fort.



Rich Mariott, National Commander



# Paddles Ho!

The only National Canoe Expedition of 2002 was held at Priest River, Idaho. Five trainees from four states and five staff gathered at Priest River Assembly of God for orientation and training classes. From there we traveled to Priest Lake to hit the water and have several more training classes. Lee Curtis, expedition commander, paddled the lake last fall and had planned the route and campsites for each night.

The patrol started with the traditional course of picking a patrol name, making a patrol flag and bolos, and creating a patrol song. Three of the five trainees were named Dave. They took parts of the FCF names of the two non-Dave's and came up with the name: Dave's Soft and Fuzzy Beaver Patrol.

After finishing classes the expedition put into the water to paddle north to Little Priest River and then to Little Priest Lake. One canoe, with two of the Daves, zigzagged up the lake. They struggled to paddle as a team. By the second day they were working as a team and usually led the expedition by several thousand yards.

The first night we camped on Little Priest Lake. The Forest Service had warned of bear sightings in the area, so we secured our food. During the night a violent wind-storm blew through northern Idaho and Washington. Friday morning the expedition paddled the length of the lake and hiked a half-mile to an 1880s era cabin built by trappers. Four members of the expedition had found this cabin as they hiked cross-country on a NTT seven years ago. After lunch the expedition paddled back down Little Priest Lake and Little Priest River to our launch site. As we cleared the breaker wall coming into Priest Lake, the wind was blowing. Waves came over the sterns of the canoes.

Several times as the sternsmen put their paddles into the water to stroke, the canoe sterns were so high out of the water that the paddles just barely touched the surface.

We needed to fill our water containers. The wind-storm had knocked out all the electricity in the area. The pumps for the wells had not worked all day. The electricity came on just as we started to pump water.

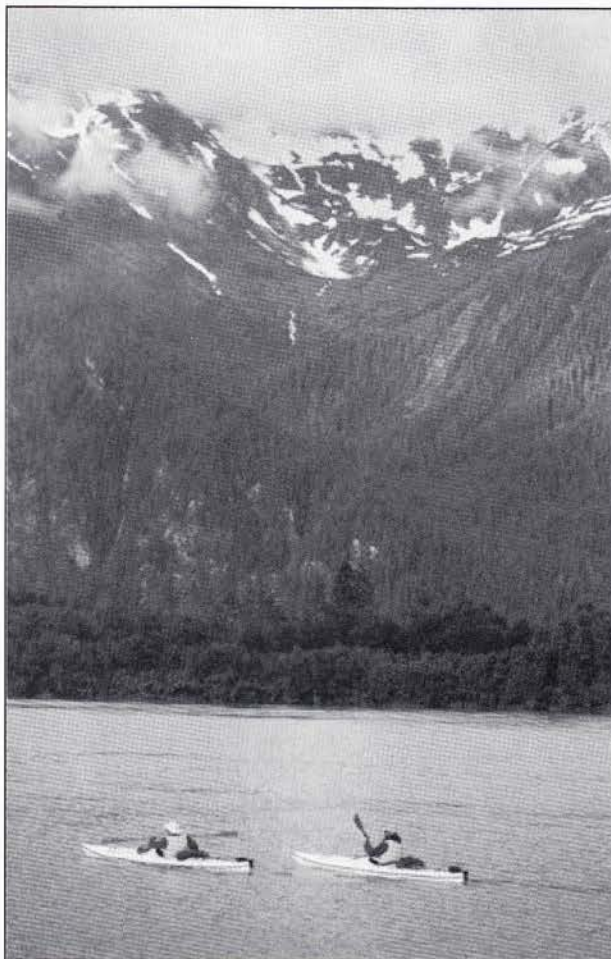
We filled our containers and continued on down the lake.

Saturday saw the expedition paddle four more miles down the lake. The canoes were transported around the dam to Priest River. River canoeing is a different type of paddling than lake canoeing. The sternsman must watch for boulders, logs, and shallow water. The sternsman must let the bowsman know of obstacles so he can maneuver the canoe around before the canoe strikes it. The expedition continued on to the final campsite.

Before graduation on Sunday we had a final service. Communion was served and the expedition chaplain, Rob Barrans, gave a challenge. Commanders were challenged to take what they had learned and use it in their outpost to teach boys. The commanders were reminded to share the gospel with others. Graduation was conducted. Graduates exchanged addresses.

One commander from Minnesota, David Sunde, decided to wear his uniform home on the plane to be able to share the gospel with those with whom he came into contact. We all prayed with David that God would send people to sit next to him who needed Christ.

You too can have a life-changing experience as you attend a National Canoe Expedition this year!



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*Postmarked after*

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*or Walk-in registration*

\$75 — Old-Timers \$60 — Young Buck

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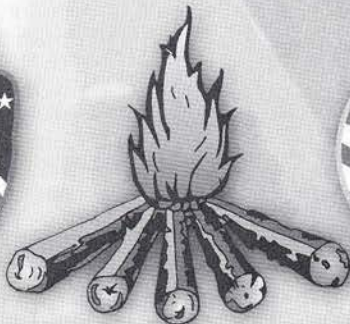
*(To receive at registration)*

2 — 2004 National Rendezvous Patches

1 — 2004 National Rendezvous T-shirt

1 — 2004 National Rendezvous Hat

1 — 2004 National Rendezvous Registration Medallion



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# Why Worry? Trust God!

by Laura Neary

**D**o you worry about something every day? If worry has become a bad habit that grips you before you even open your eyes in the morning, then you need to change how you think. You can learn to respond to every situation with peace and confidence. Follow these simple steps to learn to trust God at all times.

**Step 1: Pray.** As soon as you begin to worry, stop and talk to God. In Psalm 50:15, God promises, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you." God not only hears your prayer, but He has a plan to help you and deliver you.

**Step 2:** To find out what His plan is, read your Bible. In God's Word you'll discover His many promises to you. He cares about everything that pertains to you. Remember, God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

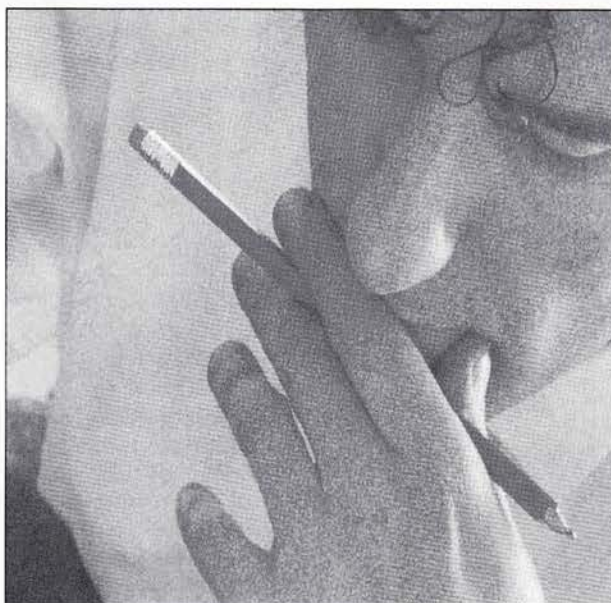
**Step 3:** Guard your mind against negative thoughts, such as discouragement, fear, and hopelessness. God wants to give you peace, but you must focus your attention on Him and on His love for you. Isaiah 26:3 promises that God "will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts" in God.

To trust God, don't listen to anyone who tells you that God can't help you or that He doesn't care. God loves you so much that He has already taken care of the biggest problem you will ever confront—the sin in your life. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price for your sins.

When you accept the truth that Christ died for you, and you ask God to forgive you, Ephesians 1:6 says God has made you "accepted in the Beloved" (KJV). God expects you to see yourself as He sees you, as a child of God in good standing with access to every promise, "for no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2Corinthians 1:20).

**Step 4:** Look for God in your situation. Train your-

self to watch for and expect God's blessings—even in the most unpleasant, difficult, or heartrending circumstances. Remember nothing can happen to you that God doesn't allow. He is in control, and you don't have to fear the outcome of your situation. Romans 8:28 states: "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."



God's purpose in allowing heartaches and struggles is threefold. First, He is molding you into the image of Jesus Christ. Little by little, through your successes and your failures, God is teaching you to act like Jesus, to talk like Jesus, and to love like Jesus.

Second, God is strengthening your faith in Him. As you learn to rely on His faithfulness, God helps you to trust Him until you can say, with perfect assurance, "A righteous man may have troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all" (Psalm 34:19).

Third, God is making you a living witness of His goodness and His love. By

your attitude and your actions, you demonstrate to others what faith in God can do. Others see your faith in the face of adversity, and some will choose to trust God, too.

**Step 5:** Consider the nature of God. When worry bombards your mind, remember what God said in Jeremiah 32:27: "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" God is eager to meet all your needs. You only have to ask Him and believe that He will always do what is best for you.

Next time worry threatens to rob you of your God-given peace, remember to think about your situation from God's perspective. Problems are opportunities for God to show you all He wants to do in you, for you, and through you. Learn to watch and wait in thankful expectation for God's answer to your every prayer. Instead of worrying, you will rejoice in the promise of Philippians 4:19: "God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."



# Discovery Rangers & Adventure Rangers

by Mike Laliberty

## What's Happened?

Four years ago Royal Rangers was presented with the challenging task of enhancing the Royal Rangers program to provide workload relief for the local commander, increase participation on



the part of our smaller churches, update the training process to prepare leaders for effective ministry, and reverse our ministry's declining numbers. The first portion of that task was completed with the August and

September 2002 release of the Ranger Kids materials. That release covered about 35% of our leader and boy population. The second portion of the program enhancement arrives in March 2003 with the release of the Discovery Rangers (3,4,5 grades) and the Adventure Rangers (6,7,8 grades) materials. This release will equip an additional 55% of our leader and boy population. That's 90% coverage—leaving just the Expedition Rangers materials to be completed in August 2003.

The truly amazing thing about the Discovery and Adventure Rangers process is that more than 4,000 pages of materials have been created in less than 3 years. This is the result of more than 60 Royal Rangers commanders and numerous other resource members from around the country working together to make this a reality. It was a team effort developed in and by the field.

## What's Different?

There is some change that is immediately noticed—like changing the program names from

Pioneers and Trailblazers to Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers, respectively. There are changes in the names of the advancement steps. There are even a few minor uniform changes. But the big changes come in the form of curriculum for the leaders and workbooks for the boys. The leaders still teach skill topics to the boys, and the boys still demonstrate their knowledge of these skills by completing a list of requirements. However, these skill requirements are now logically grouped into age-appropriate merits rather than being distributed across all advancement steps.

This design feature marks a major change in the advancement trails for Discovery Rangers and above. In the past, the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) was the only merit-based award. Now all the advancement steps are merit-based. The design provides the leader with an effective method of successfully moving each boy through the advancement trails. The leader teaches the same merit to all the boys at the same time. Each boy then moves up the advancement trail based on the number of merits he has completed. The new boy may be completing his first merit while another boy, a veteran of two years, may be earning his 12th merit.

Also instead of just five advancement steps for each 3-year program, there are now 15 advancement steps for each group. Every fifth step results in a significant medal of achievement for both Discovery and Adventure Rangers.



## How Should The Groups Be Organized?

One method will not work for everyone. Organization depends on the size of your outpost and how many leaders are available as group commanders. The merit-based advancement structure allows for a variety of organization options. Here are a few possibilities.

### Large Church:

- Have one or two leaders for each grade level.
- Plan which merits will be taught at each grade level so that boys will not be taught a merit more than once.

### Medium-sized Church:

- Combine grade levels together as needed, such as one third grade group, one combined fourth and fifth grade group, etc. Plan which merits will be taught for each combination.
- Have a Discovery Rangers group and an Adventure Rangers group.

### Small Church:

- Have a Discovery Rangers group and an Adventure Rangers group.
- Have Discovery and Adventure Rangers combined into one group. The leader should consider teaching mainly red, gold, and green skill merits. Discovery Rangers would complete green merits (to be credited as optional merits) and red merits for their advancement steps. Adventure Rangers would complete red (four required), gold, and green merits for their advancement steps to the GMA.

## When Should The New Program Be Started?

Again, there is not one method that will work for everyone. Most of the concerns with the new program revolve around the transitioning of the boys from the old advancement system to the new, not with the use of the curriculum. Keep in mind that the new curriculum and the lesson plans can be used immediately with the old advancement pins by using the March 2002 Transition brochure. This allows the outpost some flexibility to switch advancement awards and patches at an opportune time, such as the next Council of Achievement, the end or beginning of the school year, etc. There are many possibilities. The key to a successful kickoff for the new program is to carefully plan and schedule this important event.

Here are a few things to consider when selecting your church's kickoff date:

- Has your outpost been using the suggested transition plan for the Pioneer and Trailblazer groups which operates as a merit-based advancement system like the new programs?
- Did your outpost change its grade groupings

(K-2, 3-5, 6-8, etc.) when the Ranger Kids program was launched?

- Have your leaders completed the Ranger Basics training and Transition training modules?
- When will your outpost order the new materials?
- Have the parents and boys been informed of the changes and the start-up schedule?

## How Do We Transition From the Old to the New Advancement System?

The answer to the above "How Do We Transition" question has been made available in 3 different ways:

- The *Transitional Brochure* was distributed at the March 2002 National Council
- Printed in the Summer '02 *High Adventure Leader*
- Available on the National Rangers website: [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org)

Look over the following most frequently asked questions to assist your outpost with the transition process.

### Q & A—Advancement Transition

**Question:** The Discovery and Adventure Rangers Handbooks have advancement charts that include requirements for Bible merits. The Transition charts do not mention Bible merits. Is the completion of Bible merits required at transition time?

**Answer:** No. First transition the boys from the old advancement pin to the new advancement patch. The completion of the Bible merit requirements now becomes required for earning all additional advancements in the new program. The boys may complete the Bible merit lessons in their workbooks on their own until they catch up with the advancement step they are working on.

**Question:** I have a boy who has earned his Tomahawk pin using the old Pioneer system but only has a total of 5 merits. What advancement patch should he be given?

**Answer:** A boy with the Tomahawk pin and less than 8 total merits would cross over to the Red Hawk award immediately. It is not necessary for him to catch up in order to keep his Tomahawk pin or receive the equivalent Red Hawk award. However, to obtain his Bronze Hawk, he would need to earn a total of 10 skill merits and 16 Bible merits.

**Question:** I have a boy who has earned his Tomahawk pin using the old Pioneer system but has a total of 11 merits. What advancement patch should he be given?

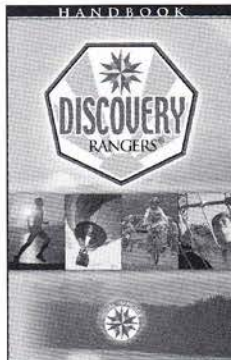
**Answer:** In this case the boy with the Tomahawk pin and a total of 11 merits would cross over to the Bronze Hawk award immediately because he has earned more merits than the minimum required for the Red Hawk award. However, to obtain his Silver Hawk, he would need to earn only 1 more skill merit and 24 Bible merits.



# Available March 2003

## Discovery Rangers Handbook

Designed for boys and their parents. Provides uniform information, merit listings, requirement steps, and check-off lists for the Trail to the Gold Eagle. There are also age-appropriate chapters on "Becoming a Man of God" and "What Should I Believe," which includes a simple method for leading someone to Christ. 132 pages.



## Leaders Red Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 19 out of the 20 Red-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 450 pages. 3-ring binder.



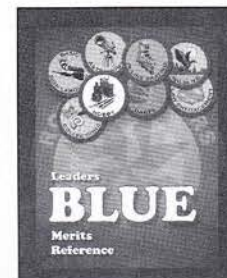
### Red Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

- |                  |                   |                |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Art              | Bird Study        | Church         |
| Compass          | Cooking           | Family Life    |
| First Aid Skills | Fire Craft        | Fingerprinting |
| Insect Study     | Jr. LFTL          | Lashing        |
| Models & Designs | Rocketry          | Rope Craft     |
| Safety           | Space Exploration | Tool Craft     |
| Weather          |                   |                |

### Red Merit (non-lesson plan) BGMC

## Leaders Blue Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 14 out of the 30 Blue-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 400 pages. 3-ring binder. This reference includes the following merits.

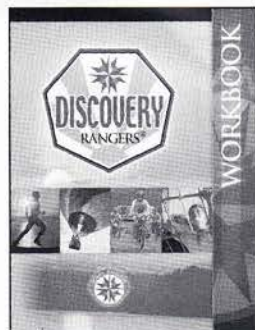


### Blue Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

- |                 |                      |           |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Astronomy       | Basic Sign Language  | Chess     |
| Coin Collecting | Disability Awareness | Dog Care  |
| Firearm Safety  | Law Enforcement      | Hobby     |
| Marksmanship    | Pioneer Lore         | Sculpture |
| Senior Citizens | Wildlife             |           |

### Blue Merits (non-lesson plans)

- |                 |                   |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Basketry        | BB Gun            | Collections |
| Darts           | Fishing           | Ice Skating |
| In-Line Skating | Junior Bible Quiz | Music       |
| Painting        | Pets              | Presidents  |
| Railroading     | Reading           | Roller      |
| Skating         | Rowing            |             |



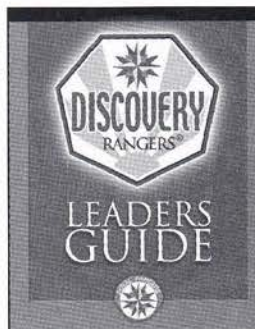
## Discovery Rangers Workbook

Provides age-appropriate worksheets for the boys to complete the lesson plan and non-lesson plan merits. A total of 50 Red- and Blue-bordered skill merits are included in this workbook. Also includes all of the Bible merit worksheets for the 24 Orange-bordered Bible

merits; 120 Bible study lessons in all. The program is designed so that boys can join Discovery Rangers at any time during the year and be able to immediately begin completing merits on their advancement trail. About 400 pages. 3-ring binder.

## Discovery Rangers Leaders Guide

144 complete 10-point meeting plans for 3 years of Discovery Rangers program material. Includes devotions, Bible studies, plans for 12 Council of Achievement ceremonies, and leadership training tips. About 800 pages. 3-ring binder. Program features are selected by the leader from the Red or Blue Merit Reference Books.





### Adventure Rangers Handbook

Designed for boys and their parents. Provides uniform information, merit listings, requirement steps, and check-off lists for the Trail to the Gold Medal of Achievement. Includes age-appropriate chapters on "You and Your Bible" and growing up physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially. The handbook also includes a simple method for leading someone to Christ. 240 pages.



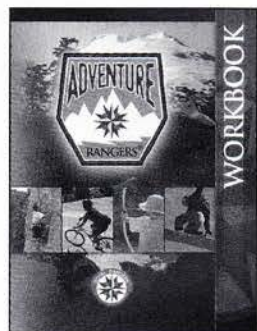
worksheets and merit requirements. About 380 pages. 3-ring binder.

### Gold Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

Bachelor	Bible
Camp Safety	Camping
Christian Service	Citizenship
Communications	Cycling
Hiking	Environmental Science
Home Safety	Nature Study
Physical Fitness	Public Speaking

### Gold Merits (non-lesson plans)

Advanced Swimming	Christian Missions
First Aid-CPR	Emergency Preparedness
International Service	Lifesaving
Light for the Lost	



### Adventure Rangers Workbook

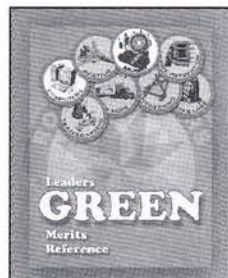
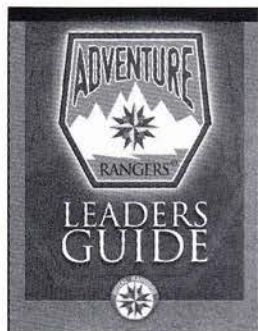
Provides age-appropriate worksheets for the boys to complete the lesson plan and non-lesson plan merits. A total of 72 Gold- or Green-bordered skill merits are included in this workbook. Also includes all of the Bible merit worksheets for the 24

Brown-bordered Bible merits; 120 Bible study lessons in all. The program is designed so boys can join Adventure Rangers at any time during the year and be able to immediately begin completing merits on their advancement trail. About 450 pages. 3-ring binder.

### Adventure Rangers Leaders Guide

144 complete 10-point meeting plans for 3 years of program material for Adventure Rangers. Includes devotions, Bible studies, plans for 12 Council of Achievement ceremonies, and leadership training tips. About 800 pages. 3-ring binder.

Program features are selected by the leader from the Gold or Green Merit Reference Books.



### Leaders Green Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 23 out of the 51 Green-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit

requirements. About 750 pages. 3-ring binder.

### Green Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

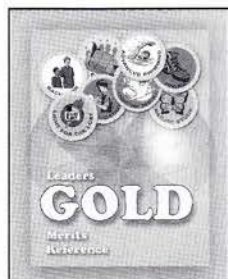
Adv. Marksmanship	Archery	Aviation
Backpacking	Carpentry	Computers
Church History	Crime Prevention	Energy
Dutch Oven Cooking	Family History	Forestry
Indian Lore	Knife and Hawk	Orienteering
Photography	Pioneering	Plant
Science	Primitive Shelters	Primitive
Snare	Puppeteer	Reptile
Study	Woodcarving	

### Green Merits (non-lesson plans)

Academics	Advanced Disability Awareness
Air Rifle	Amateur Radio
History	Baseball
BB Gun	Bible Quiz
Canoeing	Convoy of Hope
Football	Gardening
Repair	Horsemanship
Craft	Pottery
Skateboarding	Soccer
Stamp Collecting	Swimming
Truck Transportation	Wrestling

### Leaders Gold Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 14 out of the 21 Gold-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson



**New Discovery and Adventure materials will be available through Gospel Publishing House.**

**Call toll free 1-800-641-4310 to place your orders.**



# Training Boys for the Future

by Steve SCHULTZ

Along with the release of the new Discover and Adventure Rangers programs, the national office will be releasing updated guidelines for the boy's camps. For the past two years the boys camps committee has been looking into revising the boy's camps. Look for the release of these new and exciting courses and camps.

The new basic DTC will be a video course with workbook. It will focus on the patrol system and help to train patrol leaders. This could be taught at the outpost or sectional levels. The new DTC (Discovery Training Camp) will replace the PLTC and will give in-depth training in the patrol system. Boys will also develop soul-winning skills.

Basic JTC will be a video course and workbook. It may be taught at the outpost and sectional levels. It will teach boys about formations, patrol staff meetings, leading games and Bible studies, as well as presenting of colors. The new ATC will be offered as a district camp and will focus on basic camping skills as well as the patrol system.

The Junior Academy will start with JTC. This camp will teach boys how to be leaders. It will be game/activity-based and use team-building exercises to build confidence and skills.

AJTC will allow boys to learn by assisting in leadership of other camps. Boys will focus on orienteering and pioneering skills. Upon completion of JTC and AJTC, graduates may attend any two of the following camps to complete the Junior Academy and to receive their sabers:

JCE district camp will focus upon instruction that will be reinforced by activity and leadership roles performed while on a canoe or kayak trip. Decision-making skills will be developed through time-management issues.

JWC district camp focuses on decision-making skills developed through goal setting and will be reinforced while involved in cold-weather camping.

JTT, a district hiking adventure, will help boys develop advanced backpacking, orienteering, and wilderness skills.

JSC is a district camp where boys will develop



advanced survival skills. Confidence and decision-making skills will be developed while on this camp.

The JMC district camp is being designed to help prepare boys to participate in home mission trips. Skills such as soul winning, plumbing, puppeteer, carpentry, masonry, home repair, and many others will prepare boys for mission trips.

JAC district camp will involve water-related activities and teach safety, leadership,

and decision-making.

Upon completion of the Junior Academy graduates may attend the Elite JLC. This camp will focus upon instruction reinforced by activity and leadership roles performed in a variety of opportunities. Classes could cover subjects like pageantry, orientation, emergency preparedness, color guard, and drill and ceremony.

The National Junior Academy is a camp designed to prepare both boys and men to properly run a district junior training camp. Trainees will be given opportunities to solve problems through scenario, assignments, and teamwork.

Merit Camps can be run at the section, division, and district level. They are designed to provide opportunities for boys to complete work on merits or earn merits they are unable to complete at the outpost level.

This year the national office will be sponsoring a DTC, ATC, JTC, AJTC, and JTT. A first-class staff is being assembled and space will be limited. These camps will be held simultaneously at Camp Eagle Rock, July 16-19, 2003. Applications and further information will be available on the Royal Rangers web page soon.

Plan to attend the Eagle Rock Adventure Merit Camp, August 4-8, 2003. This camp will offer high-action merits and activities. Rappelling, Rock Climbing, High Ropes, Low Ropes, Mountain Biking, Swimming, Archery, Firearm Safety, Marksmanship, Advanced Marksmanship, BB-Gun, Air Rifle, Black Powder, and Shotgun Merits are some of the merits boys will have the opportunity to earn at this exciting camp. Look for the application and further information on the Royal Rangers web page.



# Silver I Have None...

by Michael SHINE

In 1976 I really did have some silver—an Olympic silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles. At that time it was probably the most significant thing to ever happen to me. At 23 I accomplished a goal that many dream of but few ever reach in a lifetime.

But let me take you back a few years and fill in some of the highlights on the road toward that goal. I grew up in a small town named Youngsville, Penn. My dream began in seventh grade after a lot of encouragement from my older brother who set two school records, which of course I vowed to break. Five years later as a senior, I had broken seven of my high school records and added 5 state championships to my already successful career. I attended Penn State University on a full scholarship, and over the next four years of struggles with grades and difficult workouts, attained a world ranking of 15th in the 400-meter hurdles.

It was near the end of my junior year that my coach and I began to realize that I might actually make the Olympic team. Making that team would not be an easy task. I attained the qualifying time necessary to be invited to the U.S. Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore. The competition that year turned out to be one of the toughest fields in the history of the event. Nine of the hurdlers in the final had run faster than 49 seconds flat. Only 12 hurdlers since 1896 had ever done that! A top three finish was required to make the Olympic team. I was only ranked eighth in the prerace favorites.

Two months later, I was standing in front of a set of blocks in lane one at the Montreal stadium, getting ready to run the race of my life. Nine years and thousands of hurdles later, there were now only 10 hurdles standing between that dream and me. Could I become an Olympic medallist? I had my answer 48.69 seconds later! I was the second-best 400 hurdler in the world! I finished behind Edwin Moses, who would not only break the World and Olympic records at that moment, but go on to win another gold in 1984 and a bronze medal in 1988.

I really thought that I wanted to coach track for a living, and things started out better than I could have imagined. I became an assistant coach at the U.S. Military

Academy at West Point for 3 years. I moved on to a two-year stint at my alma mater, Penn State, and then moved to Champaign, Ill., as head women's track coach for two more years.

It was during those two years that God started getting my attention. I was struggling with the responsibilities of being a Big Ten coach. Coaching was in many ways more challenging than running. When I was running, I had control over everything. In coaching, there are many non-physical tasks that didn't happen quite so easily, and I couldn't control what others did.

As the frustration grew, I decided to leave coaching. It was the first time I felt I had ever failed at something. Over the next few months, God helped me to understand that I couldn't do everything on my own! I really needed Him in my life. I felt like God wanted me to stay involved in the church that we were attending at the time. He had some work to do.

God sometimes allows us to wander into the lowest valley, just so we have to look up. When we do, we see Him standing there with His hand stretched out to help us climb out! I took that hand almost 18 years ago and turned my life over to Him.

I got involved in Royal Rangers back in 1986, became an FCF member in 1988, and have enjoyed watching my son Jayson

start out in Straight Arrows. He is now working on his Gold Medal of Achievement as a Trailblazer and member of FCF.

I thank God for what He's done in my life, but even more so in my three children's lives, and in my marriage of 25 years to my beautiful and loving wife, Jaymie.

I look back and stand in awe of what God allowed me to accomplish on that day, and today give Him all the glory. For like everything else, it was really His silver to start with, not mine.

*Michael Shine and his family attend Meadowbrook Community Church, Champaign IL, Outpost 163. Shine has three children; Jason (14), Janessa (21), and Janell (19). Jayson is close to finishing his GMA requirements.*





# Things You Can Learn From An Eight-Year Old

by Herb CONNER

In December of 1999, our church started posting in the bulletins that they needed help in the Buckaroos group of the Royal Rangers ministry. Troy (my son) begged me to be his commander. I told him I'd have to check with Sam, the head of the ushers, to make sure he didn't need me on Wednesday nights. Sam let me down by saying that he had never planned to use me on Wednesday nights, anyway. So, the hook was set and I was being reeled in. There are still fingernail marks on the sanctuary floor!

So, that January, I walked into the mayhem that was my first Buckaroo meeting. The boys had no fear of the rookie commander. Fortunately, Commander Harold walked in, and things calmed down to chaos. Still, through it all, I locked eyes with a blonde boy with a sly, knowing grin. I can't really explain it, except to say the Holy Spirit was busy at work, but Adam and I connected on more levels in that moment than I've ever connected with anyone in my life.

Harold was teaching the kids about physical fitness for the first few months. In the reviews, Harold would ask a multitude of health-related questions. Eventually, he'd ask the question, "What are some bad things you can do to your body?" Now, from a group of 1st and 2nd graders, you'd expect "smoking" or "drinking" or maybe "junk food," right? Adam was always the first to answer.

"Crack cocaine" was his response of choice. After hearing this answer a few times, I figured I needed to have a talk with his dad. Gary and his wife had adopted Adam about 5 months earlier. We didn't get into it deeply but I got the impression that life had been a little rough on Adam prior to his adoption (like calling Antarctica "a little chilly!").

A month or so later, Adam told the Buckaroos that the last time he saw his birth dad, he (his birth dad) handed Adam a gun and said to shoot anyone who came in the house. Harold and I stared, mouths open in shock.

I told Adam that this wasn't the place to go into it, but I'd be willing to talk to him if he needed to. He said he was "okay with it."

Suddenly, I wondered if I could handle this ministry. Still, God gave me no outs. Harold and Don were going to be out for a few weeks. So, even though I was a coward, I was stuck, lest I show my cowardice!

For three weeks out of four, I was on my own with the boys. Adam controlled those meetings. I maintained the best I could until I had reinforcements, passing out corner time generously, trying to show the boys the errors

of following one of their own. It just didn't work!

So one night I pulled Adam out of the room. I wanted to say, "Look, you little brat, I'm going to duct tape you to the chair if you don't calm down!" But, the Holy Spirit had other things in mind. When I looked Adam in the eyes, I saw the same knowing look minus the smile. I knew he knew what the problem was. So I said, "Adam, you know what the problem is. I'm not going to ask you to be a leader. You already are. What I'm going to ask you to do is be a good leader." I could tell that I struck a nerve. Adam wasn't quite the same Buckaroo afterwards.

***"Look, you little brat, I'm going to duct tape you to the chair if you don't calm down!"  
But, the Holy Spirit had other things in mind.***

Though he wasn't even close to qualifying for Buckaroo of the Year in September, Adam finished the 4th quarter strong enough to win Buckaroo of the Quarter and qualified to compete for Buckaroo of the Year. While it didn't look promising, going against Ranger of the Year veterans, like my son, Troy, Adam beat the odds and won the competition!

While I was happy for Adam, I was a little disappointed that Troy, my son, hadn't won. I wondered if I could have fairly done more to help him. I determined that I couldn't... but it still bothered me a little.

It wasn't until I was driving to work that it hit me. God revealed exactly what he had shown me. He had plucked Adam out of his former life, probably quite unwillingly, and placed him in a home that understood what love was.

It's the same with us, isn't it? We are quite content with our lives until God lets us know that we aren't supposed to be living that way. Then we come kicking and screaming into His grace.

God used this to turn me into an official Royal Ranger. Before, I was just occupying space, hoping for an out. Now, I'm sold out for this ministry.

Here's something cool, too. The Royal Ranger of the Year package asks if the contestant is saved, and if so, when. His dad told me Adam accepted Jesus as his personal Savior while they were studying his Buckaroo manual together.

Yep, I'm going to die in this ministry! That's okay. To die is gain, right?

I also misspoke, earlier. I said Adam beat the odds. That wasn't very Ranger-like of me. To correct myself, I offer the Royal Range Pledge: "With God's help, I will do my best to serve God, my church and my fellow man, to live by the Ranger Code, and to make the Golden Rule my daily rule." It all starts with relying on God. The things you learn from an eight year old, eh?



# From Vegas to Harleyville

by Mark RITTERMEYER



**I**t all started in March of 1982 with a trip to Las Vegas, Nev., to visit family. That visit ended with MaryAnn and I being invited to church and each of us giving our hearts to Christ. I should have known God wanted us in a special area of ministry when He saved us in Las Vegas!

From March of 1982 until September of 1986 we studied and prepared ourselves for full-time ministry. We were involved in a church in Kansas City, Mo., that showered us with attention and provided training for us to fulfill the call of God on our lives, which included Berean College instruction. In September of 1986 we began pastoring our first church. We pastored a total of three churches before God called us to a ministry that would challenge us to reach out to the more than 9 million bikers and motorcyclists of America.

It was during our third pastorate (in Tarkio, Mo.) that God began to place a burden on our hearts for the lost bikers and motorcyclists. It all began when one of the deacons from the church invited us for a casual bike ride. Somehow the fuel got into my blood and rekindled a desire to get back into biking—a joy I gave up years ago. A little further down the road, God helped us find a good deal on a good bike. Before we knew it, we developed a good rapport with the biking community.

God's direction to leave the pastoral ministry was clear, so we began to follow His map instead of ours. After much prayer I met with Brother Hackett, the director of Home Missions, to share what God had laid on my heart, and to my surprise he was more excited than I was. He led me to Ricky Davis, then Director of Institutional and Occupational Chaplaincy, and we began the process of becoming chaplains/home missionaries. From there we raised our budget and now work continually to reach those who ride.

Our new "congregation" is not your typical congrega-

tion. Our church is not the typical church. You may find us under a tent, in a parking lot, in a field, or on a busy street corner. We go where the bikers and motorcyclists go, and we meet them on their turf to minister to their needs. We may be giving out cold water or hot coffee. We may be giving away Bibles, or even a motorcycle, but we are there. We are bikers. We dress like bikers and we associate with bikers, hoping that we may win even one. They don't come in at regular times or places, but we are there when they need someone—someone to talk to, or someone just to listen. We ride with them (more than 20,000 miles per year), we eat with them, and we pray with them. They are our congregation. These are men and women who feel that they won't be accepted if they walk into a church on Sunday. They know that they need change in their lives, but don't know how. We are taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to them, so they can find the power to make the changes they need.

The keen biker eye for scrutinizing the road also examines people. This new congregation expects us to talk the talk of a Christian, but more importantly to walk the walk of a Christian. They are tired of hearing the Church talk one way and live another. They often tell us that we are the "real deal," so we win a listening ear. We all need to be known as the real deal.

Mark and MaryAnn Rittermeyer are chaplains/home missionaries to the millions of bikers and motorcyclists in America. Mark served as pastor in the Northern Missouri district for 13 years, as the HonorBound/Light for the Lost director for 6 years, and District Royal Rangers Chaplain for 2 years before becoming a chaplain/home missionary. They now reside in Lakeland, Fla.



The following devotionals were provided by students from the Children's Programming Class taught by Children's Ministry Specialist, Dan Rector, North Central University, Minneapolis, MN.

# Devotionals for Boys

## LESSON ONE

### The Attractiveness of Good

by Katie Stoll

#### SUPPLIES:

Magnets with north and south ends, a Bible, a picture of praying hands, a picture of ears, a toy, a jump rope, the words "pow" or "bam" on a piece of paper, the words "I don't like this" or "This isn't fun" on paper, a picture of cigarettes, a closed school book, paper with symbols representing bad words on it.

**SCRIPTURE:** "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil, cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9).

**THEME:** Do good and hate evil.

#### PRESENTATION:

- Hold up the symbols and discuss the good items. Ask the boys for more "good" ideas.
  - Reading the Bible (*Bible*)
  - Praying (*Praying hands*)
  - Listening to parents (*Ears*)
  - Sharing toys (*Toy*)
  - Exercising (*Jump rope*)
- Hold up the bad item symbols and discuss them. Ask the boys for more "bad" ideas.
  - Being mean to others (*"Pow" paper*)
  - Complaining (*"I don't like this" paper*)
  - Smoking (*Picture of cigarettes*)
  - Not doing homework (*Closed school book*)
  - Using bad language (*Bad word symbols paper*)
- Pick out a magnet to be a person and put the other magnets with the characteristics of good and bad.
- Take a good item magnet and hold it up to the "person" magnet, making them attract. Then take a bad item magnet and make the magnets repel each other. After the "bad" magnet is repelled, flip it and tell the boys that it means not doing the bad thing. Allow the magnets to attract. Continue through as many items as desired, making a chain out of the magnets after they have been attracted to the "good." End on a good item.
  - Explain that we want to cling to what is good and repel evil, just like the magnet attracted good things to itself and repelled the bad things away.
- Take the last good item used and show what happens when good isn't being done any longer by flipping the magnet, causing the magnets to repel.
  - Explain that our behavior can change the way we cling to good. If we don't keep repelling evil, we can't keep building the good things in our lives. So cling to what is good and hate evil.

## LESSON TWO

### Rooted in Christ

by Rachel Finkenbinder

#### SUPPLIES:

a partly neglected plant; a water can, or cardboard representation, with a picture of a Bible on it; a sun labeled "Time in the Son of God—i.e. Prayer." (Optional: fertilizer, or something to represent it; pictures of children doing good deeds; air poster labeled "Air=Holy Spirit"

**SCRIPTURE:** "How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him" (Hebrews 2:3).

**THEME:** Spiritual growth: Do not neglect your salvation.

#### PRESENTATION:

- When we become believers in God and accept Jesus into our lives, God's seed is planted into our hearts. But we need to help it grow. We cannot neglect our salvation.
- How do we help plants grow? What do they need? They need water, sun, the air, and fertilizer.
- (*Hold up plant.*) Here is a plant that someone has taken care of in the past. It was able to grow pretty big. This plant represents a Christian. This Christian took care of himself for a while by reading the Bible. (*Water the plant with the watering can.*) He also took care of himself by spending time in the Son of God. He prayed and spent time with Jesus, God's Son. (*Hold up the sun.*)
- But look at these leaves. Some of them are brown. Now this Christian must be forgetting to pray, and he must be forgetting to read the Bible. Uh oh. He is neglecting his salvation. We must not neglect our salvation. If he doesn't start taking better care of himself, he may die.
- Plants get food from the air. They take the carbon dioxide out of the air and make food. Air is like the Holy Spirit. When Christians receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and helps us understand God. Just like the plants take carbon dioxide from the air, we take understanding from the Holy Spirit when we read the Bible. He also helps us hear God when we pray.
- Fertilizer also helps plants to grow. When we choose to do good deeds, we are fertilizing our lives and helping ourselves grow spiritually. What are some good deeds we can do?
- Instead of neglecting our salvation, we need to take care of it. What are ways we can take care of it? (*Point out the visuals to help the boys answer.*)

## LESSON THREE

### What Is There To Rejoice About?

by Tanya Smith

#### SUPPLIES:

Small plant; a few schoolbooks; photo of family; flashlight; loaf of bread; CD (preferably a kids' worship CD)

**SCRIPTURE:** "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

**THEME:** Rejoice in the Lord always.

#### PRESENTATION:

Quote Bible verse. Ask the boys what rejoice means. Explain the meaning to them. Ask them what they rejoice over (*ex. baseball games, ice cream, playground*). Then present the objects one at a time to the children and ask them which ones we should rejoice over. Read the verse again and explain that we should rejoice over all of the items because it is what God wants us to do.

#### Items to Present:

1. Plant: We can rejoice over the plant because it is something God made. Plants give us oxygen so we can breathe. And plants grow like we do too.
2. Schoolbooks: We can rejoice over the books because this is how we learn. If we didn't do our homework, we wouldn't learn. And by learning we can know about Jesus.
3. Photo: We can rejoice over our families because they are here to love and protect us. We need to rejoice over our siblings too. God gave them to us so we wouldn't have to be alone.
4. Flashlight: We can rejoice over the flashlight because it gives us light. If we didn't have light we would stumble in the darkness and might get hurt.
5. Loaf of bread: We can rejoice in this bread because we can eat it and not be hungry.
6. Worship CD: We can rejoice over this CD because we are able to express our love to God through music and words.

Philippians 4:4 says that we are to rejoice always in the Lord. Whether something appears good or bad to us, we should always rejoice over it.

## LESSON FOUR

### Who Cares? God!

by Noelle Dalen

#### SUPPLIES:

Flower; Match or lighter; Metal bowl (*Be prepared with a fire extinguisher or something to smother the flame in case of an accident.*)

**SCRIPTURE:** "Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need" (Philippians 4:16).

**THEME:** God takes care of us.

#### PRESENTATION:

1. (*Hold up the flower.*) Talk about how God takes care of the flowers and the rest of His creation (*animals, trees, etc.*). A flower doesn't have to look for sun. God gives the flower sun when it needs sun. A flower doesn't have to look for food; God gives it rain.

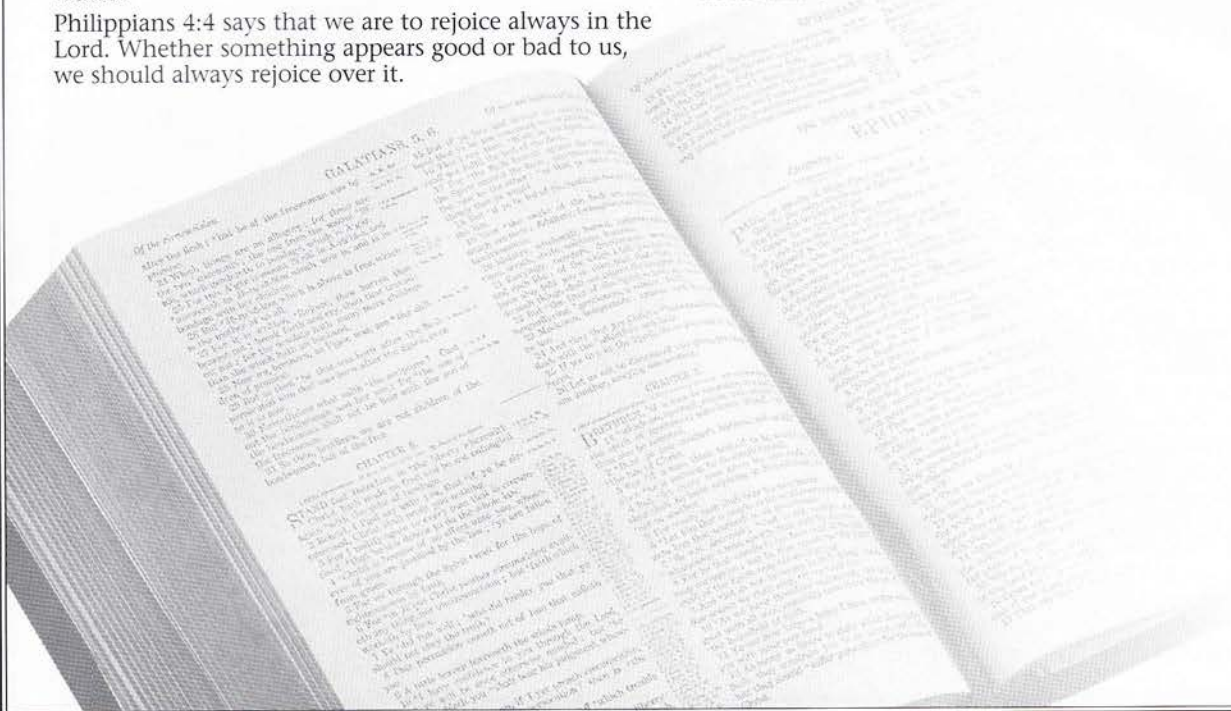
2. (*Keep holding flower.*) Compare the flower to people. Just like God takes care of the flowers, giving them sun when they need it and rain when they need it, God will take care of us and give us what we need when we need it. (*Share a personal testimony about a time when God took care of you, if you want.*)

3. (*Light the flower with the match or lighter.*) Explain that one day this flower will die/wither away, but Christians will live forever. God will always take care of us. (Place flower in bowl and allow to burn out.)

4. Explain that God loves us more than any other creation. Read Matthew 6:28-30.

5. Ask the question, "If God takes care of the beautiful things on this earth such as the flowers, how much more do you think He will take care of His children?"

God has promised to take care of us. We need to have faith and believe that He is in control. He will meet our needs and care for us!





# - ANTC - A Life Changing Experience

By Ricky Elias

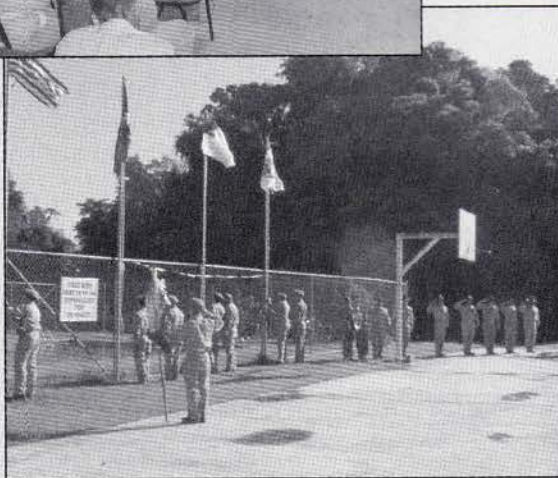
God has a way of using these national training events as life-changing experiences. In every camp that I've been a part of, as trainee or staff, I have seen God work in an awesome and miraculous way. This year's only ANTC was a remarkable display of God's power. Many men were stirred to grow in the ministry, to get out of their comfort zones for Christ, to leave aside past experiences and prejudices and to rededicate themselves to the cause we serve. They were inspired to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ!

It was an international training camp, since we had trainees from Florida, Connecticut, Germany, and, of course, Puerto Rico. The trainees were treated with the biggest, tallest, and best-looking professional Chippewa Kitchen ever built. The monkey bridge, pageantry, survival, and GPS class setups were magnificent. A key factor of this camp was that the staff worked great together. Since it was the first ANTC in Puerto Rico, there was a lot of extra work prior to the arrival of the trainees, but the staff stepped up to the challenge by working hard until late at night.

The closing of the camp left a profound impression. The trainees surprised the staff with a camp song. Rev. David Craun shared the way the Passover bread was handled in the Old Testament and how it typified Jesus. God's anointing and presence was powerful.

The results speak for themselves: 64 trainees graduated from the camp and went back to local outposts on fire for Jesus and committed to the Royal Rangers ministry. This camp, together with many other things God is doing in that district, is bringing a Royal Rangers revival. Over 300 commanders attended this year's Commanders Conference in Puerto Rico. The first Rangers Basics had 150 attendees. The following national training event in Puerto Rico, an RKTC just a short 6 months after the ANTC, had 84 trainees preregistered.

As you can see, it is evident that the ANTC is a life-changing experience! Dios te bendiga.





**"He has WATCHED OVER our children during the hundreds of runs they have made.**

**Even with all the safety equipment in the cars and at the dragstrip, it is the PRAYER before each run they make that gives us peace."**

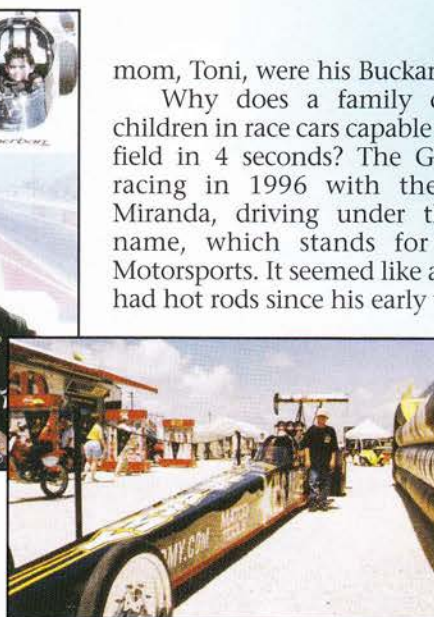
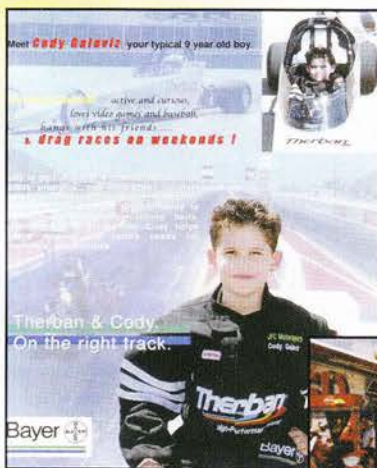
the pedal and the car shoots forward and his head is snapped backward as the hot and sticky slicks grab the track. The burnouts are cool and he smiles. Cody slowly moves the 14-foot long dragster into the staging beams and readies himself for the rush of acceleration. A large white cross emblem is on the front of the dragster and two "Racers for Christ" logos are on each side of the roll cage.

This Ranger is ready to run, and God rides with him.

Cody Galaviz and his 15-year-old sister, Brittany, are team drivers for the Bayer Corporation's Therban High Performance Elastomer Racing Team. They compete in the National Hot Rod Association Junior Dragster League as well as the International Hot Rod Association. The team races at Houston Raceway Park in Texas and in several other states. They have had corporate sponsorship from Therban since 2000 and have been renewed to represent Therban for the 2003 season. Cody and Brittany's race cars are half-scale versions of the Top Fuel dragsters that professional racers drive in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Cody picked up his first win in 2001, capturing the Buz Post Gold Cup Championship, also at Houston. At the 2002 NHRA Castrol GTX Western Conference Finals in Denver, Colo., he came within three rounds of reaching the final round in a field that started with 60 of the best junior dragsters in the nation. He credits his good performance to his prayer buddy Gregg Enders; his family; his pals and engine builders Joe & Judy Amend; Chaplain Jim Jack and his wife Linda of "Racers for Christ" who prayed with him before every round; and his mom, Toni.

The Therban Racing Team attends church at the Community Christian Church in Orange, Texas, where Cody has been involved in Royal Rangers from Straight Arrows through Pioneers. His dad, Mario, and



mom, Toni, were his Buckaroo commanders.

Why does a family decide to put their children in race cars capable of covering a football field in 4 seconds? The Galaviz family started racing in 1996 with their oldest daughter, Miranda, driving under the JFC Motorsports name, which stands for Juniors for Christ Motorsports. It seemed like a natural fit since Dad had hot rods since his early youth and the family

attended drag racing events as spectators.

In 1998, Miranda retired, and the team asked a young boy from church named Eric Hinton (who also won the Rookie of the Year award

at Houston) to drive. Brittany fielded a second team car in 1999, and in 2000 Cody joined his sister as teammate. The Therban Team has used the race cars as a mini-ministry over the last few years, giving talks and presentations to the youth and Rangers meetings at Community Church.

As the 2002 racing season drew to a close, Team Crewchief and Dad Mario felt a need to expand this ministry part of the team to reach youth at other churches, schools, and community events. "From the beginning the Lord has always provided for us when we needed support to continue racing. He has always provided us with safe passage and the ability to fund our team. He has blessed us with team sponsors through the years. Even our primary sponsor, Therban, was introduced to us from a friend at church. They have encouraged and supported our work with the youth and are fully aware of our Christian background. Spiritually, He has brought people into our lives through

racing who love the Lord and helped to strengthen us with their prayers.

"He has watched over our children during the hundreds of runs they have made. Even with all the safety equipment in the cars and at the dragstrip, it is the prayer before each run they make that gives us peace."

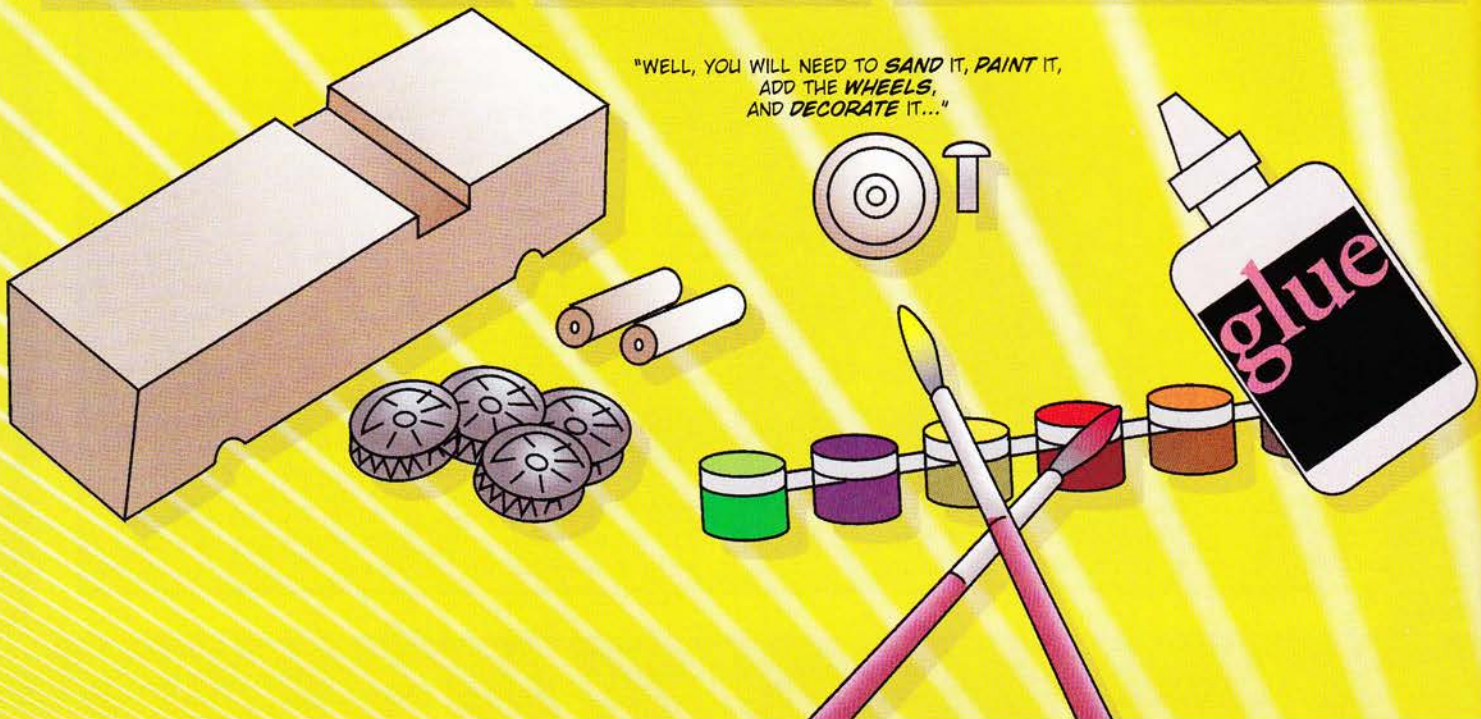
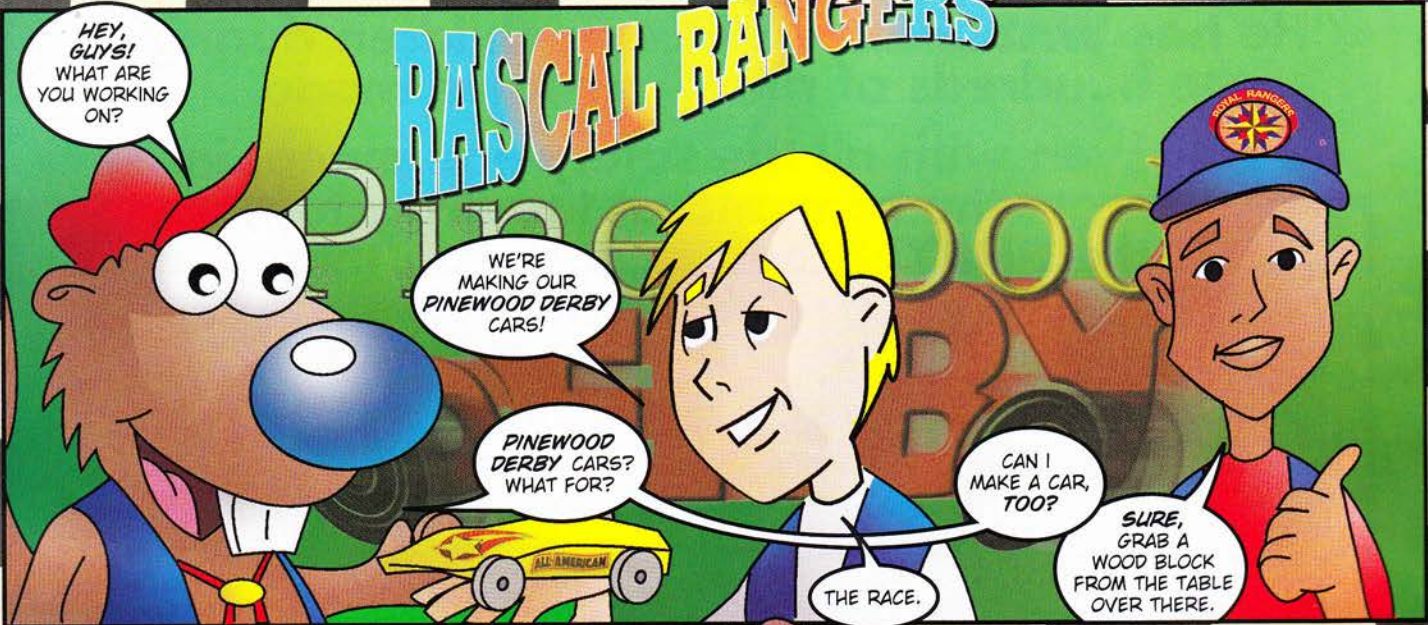
### **racing slick:**

tire with no tread  
(Because maximum rubber is in contact with the track, the wheel turns before the tire does, making the tire "shrink." When the brake is released, the tires seem to grow bigger as the force pulls them outward.)

### **burnouts:**

the "warming up" of the tires so they will grab the track better

# RASCAL RANGERS



One week later...

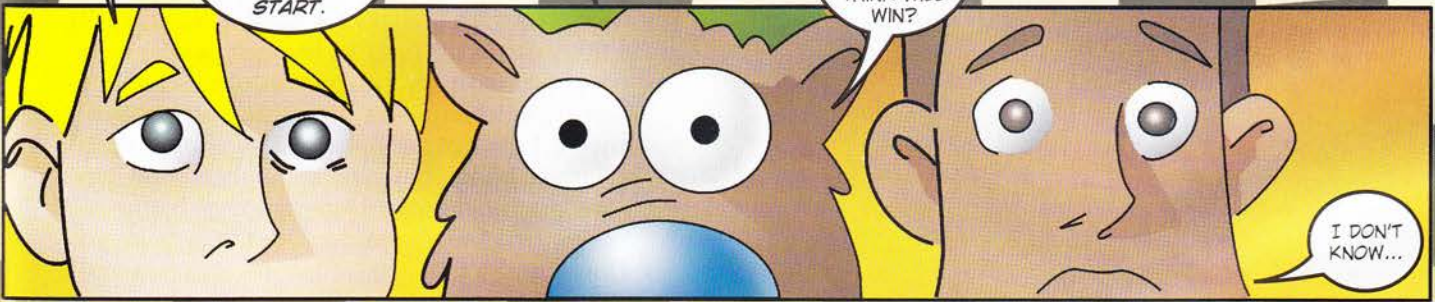


I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE RACE STARTS.

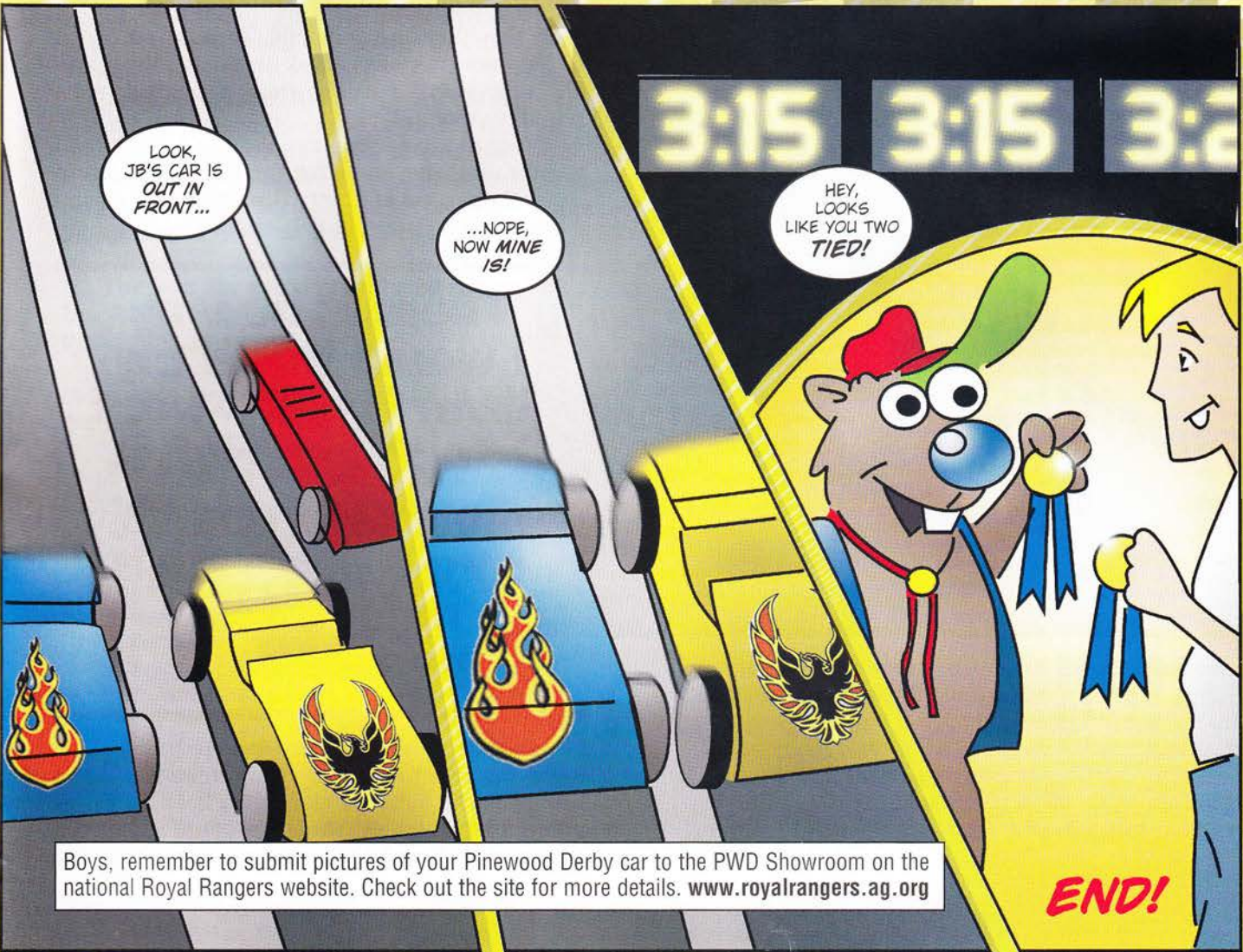
I WANT TO SEE HOW FAST ALL THE CARS GO DOWN THE TRACK.

HEY, LET'S GET A SEAT NEXT TO THE TRACK. THEY'RE GETTING READY TO START.

LOOK, THERE ARE OUR CARS. WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?



I DON'T KNOW...



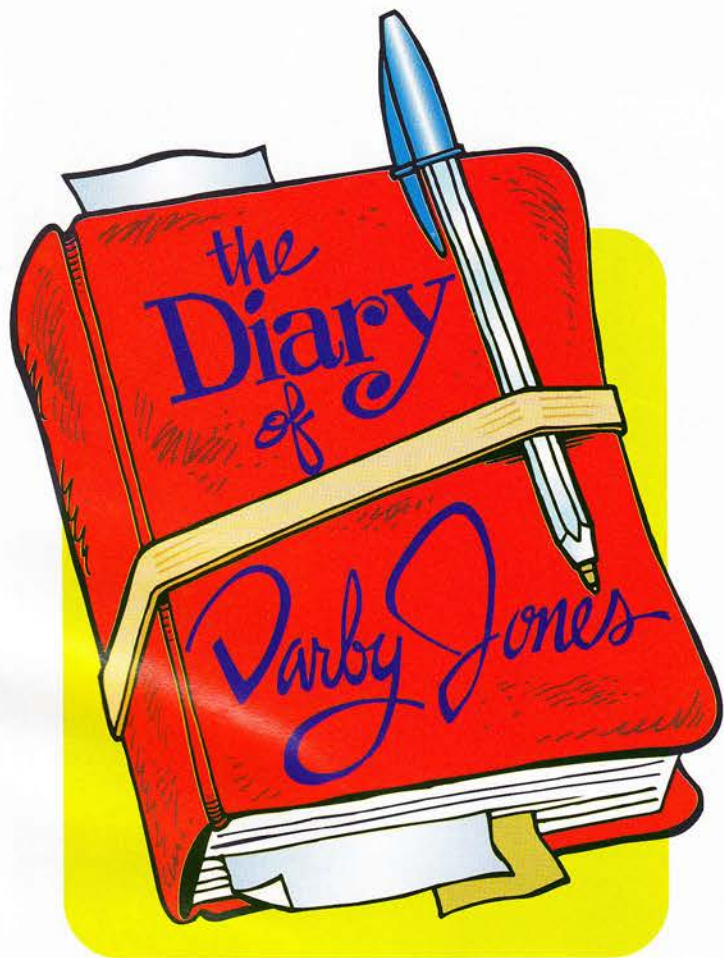
LOOK, JB'S CAR IS OUT IN FRONT...

...NOPE, NOW MINE IS!

HEY, LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO TIED!

Boys, remember to submit pictures of your Pinewood Derby car to the PWD Showroom on the national Royal Rangers website. Check out the site for more details. [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org)

**END!**



## “But I don’t want to change!

I like Rangers just the way it is!” I said loudly to my father, Commander Jones.

“Change happens, Darby. You must learn to accept it,” he said to me.

Let me tell you, I didn’t want anything to do with change. I have been in Royal Rangers my entire life and I like the way things are. Of course, my dad kept telling me the changes were going to make Royal Rangers more fun and exciting. But I couldn’t see it. Instead, I just stared at the water a few feet away rushing past us as it fell hundreds of feet over Gullfoss Waterfall in Iceland.

Iceland is a beautiful island that is not covered with ice. The vikings who founded Iceland in the early 900s named it Iceland to keep people away. But here I was with my father on another one of his mission trips. Iceland was beautiful, but I was in a bad mood. I did not want Royal Rangers to change.

“Darby, change happens throughout our lives. How we face it determines whether the change will be good or bad,” Commander Jones said. “Can you imagine standing on the edge of this waterfall, holding your most important possession, and then throwing it into the falls?”

I thought for a moment. There is no way I would throw my Silver Hawk Award into the waterfall. Who would possibly throw away their most prized possession?

“One thousand years ago the vikings of Iceland did just that. They stood here on this very rock and threw their pagan idols into this waterfall. Can you imagine what it must have been like?”

# Over the Falls

## (or When Change Isn’t Easy)

by Rev. Robb HAWKS

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**There is no way I would throw my Silver Hawk Award into the waterfall. Who would possibly throw away their most prized possession?**

---

The viking Christians prayed through the night. Just yesterday all the viking chiefs had met at the Law Rock for the annual parliament. The pagan vikings worshipped Thor and Odin. But the Christians believed in Jesus. Both groups angrily

refused to follow the laws of the other. Swords were drawn and it looked like there would be a bloody battle. But the chiefs were able to calm everyone down. Iceland had only been a country for a mere 60 years or so, and now, in the year A.D. 1000, it looked like the young country was about to tear itself apart.

"We pagans serve Thor!" one Viking yelled.

"We Christians serve Christ!" another Viking replied.

"We must all be united!" Hallur Thorsteinsson shouted. Hallur was the leader of the Christians. But he also knew that everyone would die if a war broke out. "Do you trust God?" he shouted again.

"Yes!" came the reply from the Christians.

"Then agree with me now. We will agree to allow Thorgeir to decide for the entire people of Iceland," Hallur shouted.

"But he is a pagan Chief!" someone shouted back. The argument had raged for over an hour. Finally, all the Christians agreed with Hallur. They would allow the pagan chief Thorgeir to decide for the nation.

Thorgeir wrapped himself up in a warm blanket and sat on upon the Law Rock for a day and a night, thinking. Meanwhile the Christians prayed. Everyone knew that the next day would bring a change for Iceland. But no one knew what that change would be.

The next day everyone gathered at the Law Rock for the Althing, the assembly of the viking parliament.

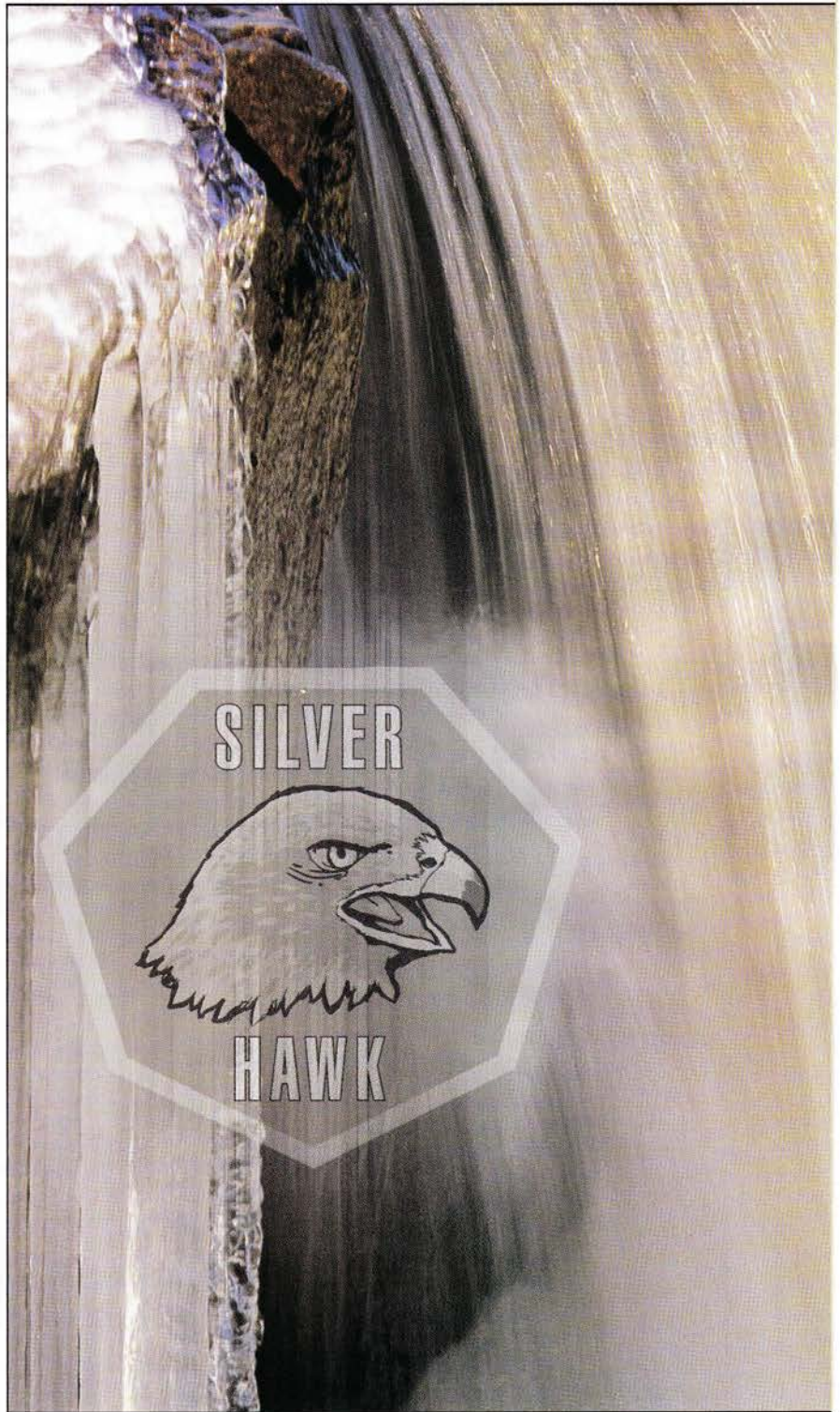
Thorgeir stood to his feet and after quieting everyone down, he pronounced his decision.

"I have thought long and hard trying to decide what is best for us Icelanders. Here is my decision. Today, the entire people of Iceland will become Christians." Thorgeir announced.

The vikings all gasped. The pagans had thought that Thorgeir would decide in their favor. The Christians had feared that their prayers would not be answered.

"We will compromise on some of the laws, but there will be no compromise among the people. We will all be baptized and we must destroy our idols," Thorgeir said.

Which led to this very waterfall where my dad and I stood. The vikings had marched to this waterfall, stood on this very rock, and had thrown their idols into



the waterfall. The entire nation of Iceland had been converted to Christianity in one day.

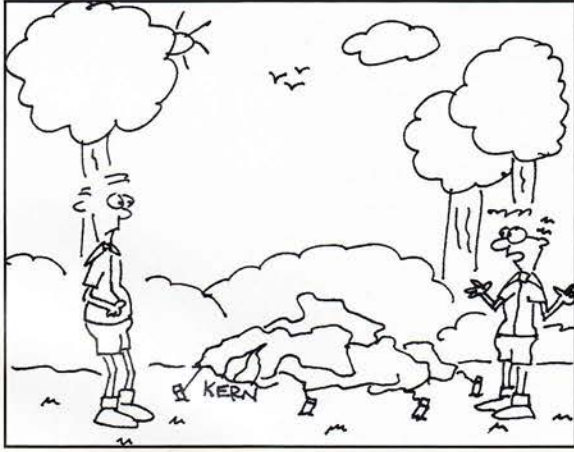
"Wow! Now that is what I call a big change!" I said.

"Yes, and it was for the good of all those thousands of people," Commander Jones said.

"Hmm. I guess change can be a good thing. Can you explain to me again how the new Rangers program works?"

# COMEDY CORNER

What turns everything around but does not move? *A mirror!*



**"I think we need to call room service."**

Did you hear about the fight at the fish shop last night?

*Two fish got battered!*

What do you add in oil to make it boil?

*The letter B!*

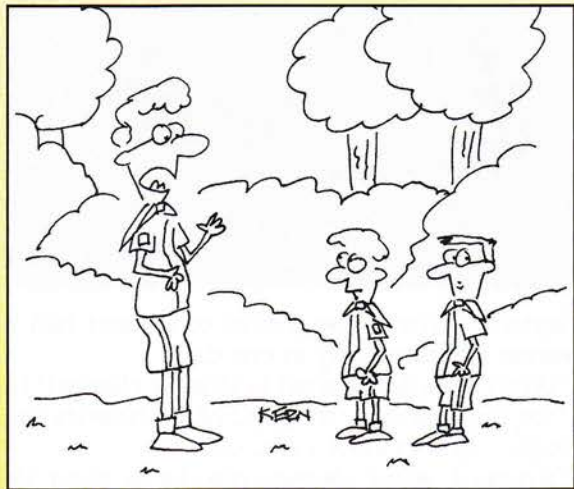
What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with a dog?

*A very nervous postman!*

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?

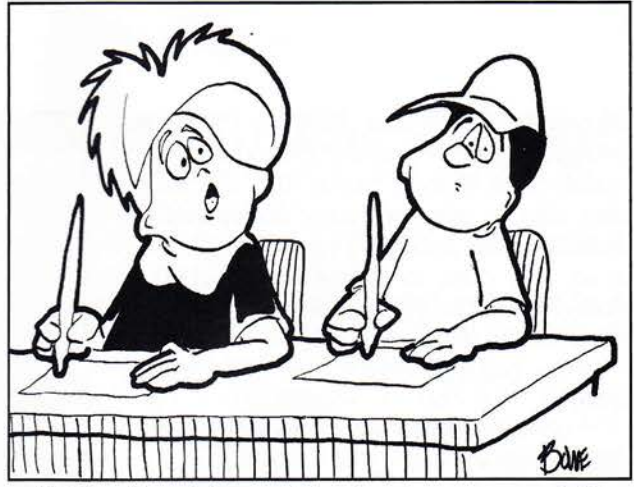
*Mt. Everest—it just hadn't been discovered!*

What's a carnivore's favorite game? *Swallow the leader!*



**"During our hike, did anyone see a McDonald's?"**

What makes a chess player happy? *Taking a knight off.*



**"If there's a right angle is there a wrong angle?"**



**"My dad caught a bigger fish than your dad!"**



Why did the baker stop making doughnuts? *He got tired of the whole (hole) business!*



# Stewardship for You— Impacting Boys for Eternity

**Mike Laliberty,**  
Deputy National Commander

**Christopher Dalla Rosa,**  
Adventure Rangers Program

**Matthew Klika,**  
Ranger Kids Program

**Alice Laliberty,**  
Ranger Kids Commander



**T**he Royal Rangers is an Assemblies of God organization that can benefit from your good stewardship when you consider an Assemblies of God gift annuity. An Assemblies of God gift annuity guarantees you a regular annuity payment with no investment worries or responsibilities. Other benefits you may receive include:

- Immediate tax deduction for the gift portion of your investment.
- A portion of each annuity payment may be tax-free.
- If funded with appreciated assets, only a portion of your capital gains is taxable.
- At your death, the ministry of your choice, such as the Royal Rangers will be blessed.

**With one call, let us show you how an Assemblies of God charitable gift annuity can work for you.**

## Gift Annuity Sample Rates

YOUR AGE	ANNUAL RATE
60	6.4%
63	6.6%
66	6.8%
70	7.2%
73	7.6%
76	8.0%
80	8.9%
83	9.7%
86	10.8%
90	12.0%

Service provided by:



Gift annuity rates change. Please call Assemblies of God Foundation to receive the current gift annuity rates based on your age and circumstances.

**Call toll-free: 1.877.242.8112**

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**Attention Senior Commander**