

ISSUE 04

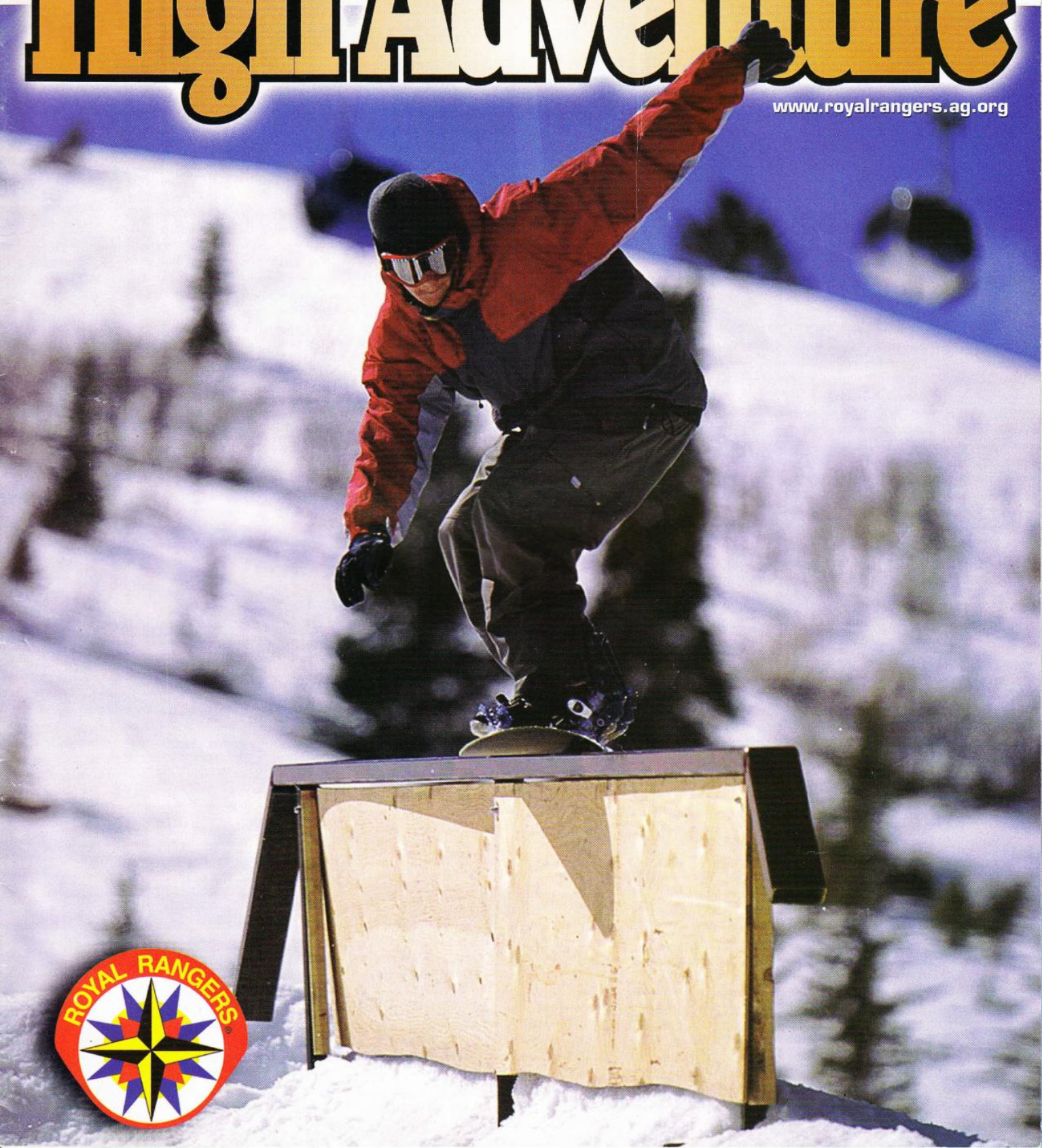


THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS  
LEADER'S EDITION

WINTER 2004

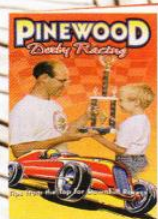
# High Adventure

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# High Adventure

ISSUE 04 WINTER 2004

*The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.*

*He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you  
with singing.*

— ZEPHANIAH 3:17



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We would like to give you  
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*Hope to hear from you soon!*

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Royal Rangers

**6**  
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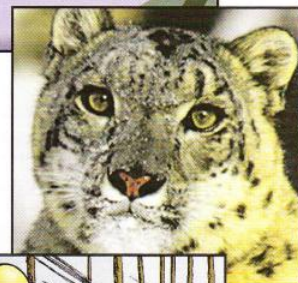
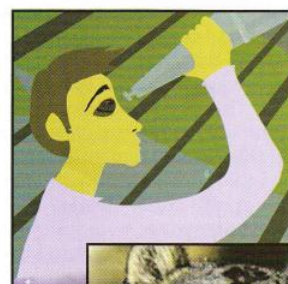
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# GOLD MEDAL of Achievement — The Value of Royal Rangers —

by Joshua **ANCHAN** — OUTPOST 2

*Trinity Assembly of God, Lanham, Maryland*

"How could my dad have asked me to join Royal Rangers?" I asked myself. "Doesn't he know that I'm almost 16 and everyone else my age is in youth? Doesn't he know how awkward I'll look in that khaki uniform?" These questions and others ran through my mind as I stood alone in the church gym on that cold Wednesday night in October 2001. We had arrived at church a little early, and my dad was waiting for the service to start. I was in the gym where the Royal Rangers met.

It was just a few nights ago that my dad suggested he wanted us to start going to Wednesday night services at the church. I thought it was a great idea until he said that I was not only to come with him, but I was also to join Royal Rangers. I had almost no experience with outdoors-type activities. I had never even been camping a day in my life, and I could not understand why anyone would want to. If anything, I was the anti-Ranger. However, since I was not usually one to argue with my dad, I said I would join.

This brings me back to that first Wednesday night. I met my commander, and my career as a Royal Ranger officially began. In that meeting, my commander asked me about my interests and hobbies. As I told him about my interest, he quickly pointed out that I could earn merits closely related to the things I liked. Music, chemistry, and foreign language were just a few that I could get right off the bat. I was a bit surprised, because I thought Royal Rangers was all about tying knots and going camping. As I left that first Ranger meeting, I never imagined the amazing, life-transforming impact that Royal Rangers would have on me.

It took me a couple of months to get used to Royal Rangers. As I began to get advancements and merits, I also began to understand one of the biggest values of Royal Rangers—the value of hard work and dedication. If you want to achieve anything in Rangers, you must work for it. Nothing is given to you. I remember after making rapid progress through the program in only a few months, a commander told me to look into the GMA requirements. He felt I might have a shot at getting the award. Thing it would be a push-over, I confidently opened my handbook only to be shocked at how much work it required. I was often tempted to give up and settle for lesser achievements but my commanders always pushed me to work hard and never accept anything less than the best I was capable of. Learning a good work ethic has also benefited me in my schoolwork, and I know it will help me throughout college and the rest of my life.

Royal Rangers also taught me about true friendship. Even though many of the other Rangers were a few years younger than me, by camping together, playing together, and praying together, we developed a closer bond than I ever thought possible. Royal Rangers allowed

me to get to know friends that, God-willing, will last for a lifetime.

Leadership is another value that I am grateful to Royal Rangers for thrusting upon me. Prior to Rangers, I did not want to have anything to do with leadership. I thought it was strange when everyone voted for me to be senior guide. I did not feel I possessed the qualities of a leader. But slowly, through being the outpost senior guide, I have learned that God has expectations for the kind of leaders He wants Christian men to be. He is helping me to become His kind of leader.

Additionally, I have learned that the spiritual value of Royal Rangers is its biggest asset. In working through merits like Bible, Church, and Christian Service, I grew a great deal closer to God. Also, I have never experienced anything like a council fire service at a powwow where hundreds of boys are broken and yearning for the presence of the Lord. Royal Rangers has had an immense influence on my life and has made me "ready" for anything.

Although I may never be the greatest knot tier or camper, that will not detract one bit from the value of Royal Rangers to me. Yes, outdoor adventure is a key aspect of Royal Rangers that I have grown to love, but the value of the program to me goes much deeper than that. To me the true value of Royal Rangers stems from the deeper personal relationship with God that a Ranger can attain by going through the program. From the awesome Christian fellowship received at regular outpost meetings, powwows, and Pinewood Derbies to the inexplicable joy of seeing young boys commit their hearts to the Lord—these are the aspects that make the Royal Rangers ministry priceless.

Two years ago I was worried about how I'd look in the uniform and what I'd lose by joining Royal Rangers. Today I am fully aware of what I have found: self-discipline to achieve all that I am for, friends I can count on, a deeper walk with the Lord, and self-confidence in a decked-out uniform I am honored to wear.

by Jackson **HUNT** — OUTPOST 153

*Oak Grove Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri*

I've been in Royal Rangers since I was 8. I've learned a lot about life since then and have grown closer to the Lord.

One key thing Royal Rangers has taught me is leadership. I was born a natural leader, and Royal Rangers gave me the place to share this gift. Ever since being in Pioneers, I've held some kind of leadership position. I remember the first time I was appointed senior guide. I was so excited. Boys naturally looked up to me. I've helped a lot of boys through advancements and many life problems since I've started. My problem was that I was always everyone's best friend, so when it came time to work on powwow projects, the guys didn't listen to their best friend. Becoming a leader doesn't mean you get to boss everyone around—it means you're the first one to get your hands dirty. If you lead, they'll follow. So in order to be a leader, you have to lead in the activity, not just sit there and watch them. That means being the first



to volunteer, to not complain, and to set an example for everyone to follow. These are the key leadership characteristics that I have carried away from Royal Rangers.

I also value the outdoor experiences. Most boys don't get to go hiking or camping, learning knots and so much more. I take it for granted, I guess, because my outpost (153, the best!) always did a monthly activity. The most memorable campouts were always powwows, Camporamas, and backpacking trips. My craziest was when we went backpacking to Hercules Glades and pitched our tent on an incline. The next morning, we had slid all the way down the hill. And I almost blew up a propane stove, but that's another story. If it wasn't for Royal Rangers, I wouldn't know half my knowledge about knot tying, fire starting, low-impact camping, and everything else. How often do you get to start a fire using one match or by rubbing sticks together?

But the most important of all is the spiritual growth. I always say Boy Scouts have it easy—they don't have scripture references. You can't be in Royal Rangers and say you didn't make a difference for the Kingdom. I've seen more men and boys come to Christ through Royal Rangers than any other ministry of which I've been a part. There's just something about nature and Commander Rob's council fire stories that bring you closer to God while making you laugh several times before he's through. We also make a difference through volunteering hours for the community and our local church.

You couldn't discuss the value of Rangers without mentioning the friendships you make. Over the years I've learned the meaning of friendship as I've met boys from across the state and stayed in contact.

There is one thing I wish more boys could learn—commitment. It was always my dream to be a National Ranger of the Year. For years I tried but never won my section. But God said to compete one more time, so I did. I'm so glad I listened to Him, because I became not only the first from my outpost to win the section, but I also went all the way to nationals. Amazing how God works, isn't it? But no one showed me more commitment than my mom. My mom always brought us to Rangers Wednesday nights and dropped us off at most of the events. Some nights she would sit in the car and wait until Rangers was over when we didn't have church. Now that I'm older I realize how much she sacrificed. I can't thank her enough.

I also want to thank the greatest commander in the world—my dad. You made a difference to all the Trailblazers and me. (Long live the ferrets!) Without you, I would have starved on our survival campout. You always planned the best backpacking trips. I would also like to thank all of my commanders who have helped me through the years—without you I wouldn't be writing this essay: Roger and Star, R.T., Mr. Torgeson, Kurt Watson, Jack Lawrence, Nester Rey, Curt Bailey, Randy Donnellson, Mark Julian, Rob Batchman, Mark Jones, Chuck Vessey, Kyle Tardy, Rob Miller, Rick Miller, Caleb Nance, Lonnie Nance, and anyone else I forgot. To everyone at Southern Missouri district, Jerry, Rick, and Kenny—you guys know who you are. You're the best!

I wish Reverend Barnes could see what this ministry has developed into today. I'm glad that I was, in some shape or form, able to be part of it. I plan to be a commander and "reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ!"

## by David **MUSSELMAN** — OUTPOST 124

*Jubilee Christian Center, Fairfax, Virginia*

Writing about the value of Royal Rangers is going to be fun for me. When I think about all the great times I have had with my friends and family, it makes me really appreciate being in Royal Rangers. Going out on Royal Rangers camping trips with everyone in my outpost is always fun. Even though ours is a small outpost, we have a really good time working together.

I first became a Royal Ranger because my dad was a commander. It did not take me very long to realize that Royal Rangers was for me. It has been great having my dad involved because I can work with him, and he helps me with any trouble that I have in Royal Rangers.

When I was in Straight Arrows, there were times when my commander picked me to lead the class when he was busy with something else. I was really proud to be asked to help my commander. It was the trust he put in me, along with the fun we had, that caught my interest while I was so young.

In Buckaroos, I went to a field day that I will never forget. There

was a God's Creations costume contest. I won first prize in a lizard costume. That made me feel so good inside that I showed my trophy to everyone and couldn't wait to take it home.

When I became a Trailblazer, I went on a hike that was extremely difficult. Even though it was physically challenging, it was worth it to be on top of the highest point in Shenandoah National Park. It taught me that, even though the going can get extremely tough, achieving your goal gives you a feeling of pride for what you can accomplish.

Though being chosen to lead as a patrol guide or a senior patrol guide is an honor, I realize that the work I have put into Royal Rangers can benefit not only myself but others as well. When I help a younger Pioneer with a compass and then see him later orienting a compass correctly, it gives me a sense of accomplishment too. When I go through a time of challenge, such as the FCF testing, and pass, I know that the knowledge I have gained in Royal Rangers will surely be put into practice as I continue in the program.

I have been in Royal Rangers for as long as I can remember. Every time I think of Royal Rangers, I think of the fun times and how much I have learned. A Ranger friend of mine once asked me, "What would your life be without Royal Rangers?" When he asked, I thought my life would be pretty boring without Royal Rangers. Whether I'm helping someone in need or I'm doing something to move myself up the achievement ladder, Royal Rangers has taught me that "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me," and I know that I will always be "ready."

## by Morgan **WOODARD** — OUTPOST 96

*Parker Christian Center, Parker, Colorado*

When I first came to Rangers, I saw it as a group of boys who came together just to wrestle around. Little did I know the changes going on inside me. Being a Royal Ranger has affected me physically, mentally, socially, and, most importantly, spiritually.

Royal Rangers has taught me how to play most of the games I know. The physical exertion displayed during recreational time is immense. Not to mention how certain requirements such as the Physical Fitness and Bachelor Merits have shown me how to take care of my body. These games have shown me that aerobic exercise is as important as anaerobic. The menus at camp have also played a part in demonstrating the importance of a well-balanced meal.

Most people think of Rangers as a bunch of boys who just goof around. But with all the research and discussion involved, generally our minds are exercised more than our bodies. From memorization to writing essays, the commanders encourage us to use our heads for something more than a hat rack. Rangers has encouraged and taught me to take a different approach to solving all of life's problems. I feel as if I would be ill-equipped to handle life's obstacles if it weren't for Royal Rangers.

One of the most visible attributes to being a Royal Ranger is the amount of social growth displayed while at a Rangers function. Events such as Junior Leadership Training Camp teach us to rely on fellow Rangers for help, forming a camaraderie that would be impossible otherwise. Royal Rangers has taught me to listen to other people's problems, as well as to accept others for who they are. I believe the teamwork I've developed is one of the key things I will need to succeed in life. I love that whenever I need help or someone to talk to or pray with, either my commander or another Ranger is a simple phone call away. I have friends through Rangers whom I will keep in touch with for the rest of my life. These things are what Rangers is really about.

The most important way Royal Rangers has affected me is in my spiritual walk. The way God has touched my heart and soul during some of the campouts is beyond words. It's funny, because if God is the fire in my soul, then I guess Rangers is the firewood. The spiritual counselors and accountability partners I have gained through this program are irreplaceable. I was Baptized in the Holy Spirit at a Rangers outing, and Rangers and Rangers commanders have helped me to realize my gift for prayer.

Through thick and thin, Royal Rangers has been there for me. Be it mental, physical, social, or spiritual, Rangers has shown me how to handle myself. So I guess to sum it all up, the value of Royal Rangers is its ability to always be there. Rangers is there to guide us through life's problems, to teach us about real world issues, but most importantly, to point boys and men alike to the Master Ranger, Jesus Christ!



# the BIG DIPPER

by John HUDSON TINER

The hidden wonders  
of the Big Dipper  
have fascinated sky observers  
for thousands of years.





The Big Dipper has been a favorite star figure for thousands of years. Shepherds, sailors, and people with imagination of ancient times saw the same stars that we see today. They gave the unique pattern several different names.

Ancient Egyptians described it as a hippopotamus. In England, the stars formed a plough. In Europe, the stars made a wagon. American pioneer families gave the star group the name Big Dipper. Four stars formed the bowl of the Big Dipper. Three stars made the handle. Pioneer homes had a dipper hanging next to a bucket of drinking water. Like many tin dippers, the handle of the Big Dipper is crooked in the middle.

The stars of the Big Dipper along with some nearby dimmer stars make the constellation *Ursa Major*, which means Great Bear.

The first mention of the Great Bear is found in the Bible in the book of Job. The Lord asks, "Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?" (Job 38:32 NIV.) Hebrew shepherds imagined that the bowl of the Big Dipper formed a bear. The three stars of the handle were three cubs following along behind the Great Bear.

North American natives imagined the stars of the Big Dipper's handle as three hunters chasing after the bear. The bear always escaped by circling the northern heavens year after year.

The Big Dipper is made of stars that neither rise nor set. Instead, they circle around and around, always above the horizon for most people in the Northern Hemisphere. Even as far south as Florida, you can see part of the Big Dipper at any time during the year on any clear night.

The Big Dipper is by far the best known star group. It is the easiest one to spot. Sailors have used the Big Dipper for thousands of years as an aid to navigation. The Phoenicians were the best sailors and explorers of the ancient world. They lived along the southern and southeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Two of their ports were Tyre and Sidon, mentioned in the Bible. Ancient Phoenician sailors pictured the Big Dipper as a sky chariot. To travel west, they sailed with the sky chariot to the starboard, or right side, of their vessel.

The two bright stars at the front of the dipper point to Polaris, a Latin word meaning "pole star." The Phoenicians were the first to recognize the importance of the pole star in guiding them. Today, Polaris is less than one degree from celestial north pole. However, the earth wobbles on its axis. A complete wobble would take 25,800 years. At the time of the Phoenicians, Polaris was about seven degrees away from celestial north. The Phoenicians took this into account.

Columbus, too, used Polaris during his famous voyage across the ocean. He could not buy expensive navigational equipment. Instead, Columbus pointed his ships on the right course by using the pole star as a guide to direction.

You can find the celestial north pole yourself. The two stars at the front of the bowl of the Big Dipper are known as The Pointers. They make a line aimed almost directly to Polaris, the pole star. Today, Polaris is a more accurate guide to true north than a magnetic compass is.

A traveler can use Polaris not only for direction, but also for position north of the equator. A traveler farther north sees Polaris higher in the sky. At the North Pole, Polaris is directly overhead. At the equator, Polaris sits right on the horizon.

The Big Dipper is made of ordinary stars of average brightness. Of the 20 brightest stars in the sky, not even one is found in the Big Dipper.

Despite the lack of bright stars, the Big Dipper is one of the most rewarding objects for stargazing with the unaided eyes. Look at the star in the crook of the handle of the Dipper. At first, you notice only one star. But if your eyesight is good, you will see a smaller star almost in contact with it.

Arabian stargazers named the brighter of the two stars Mizar and the dimmer Alcor. These names mean "horse



*View the stars in the crook of the Big Dipper's Handle (middle star)*

and rider." Natives of North America knew of the pair, too. To them, the second hunter Chickadee (Mizar) carried a pot (Alcor) to cook the Great Bear after he was caught.

But for thousands of years, another secret lay hidden in the twinkle of light from the two stars. The first small telescopes showed that between Mizar and Alcor, and off to one side, is a third dim star. It is visible today in binoculars.

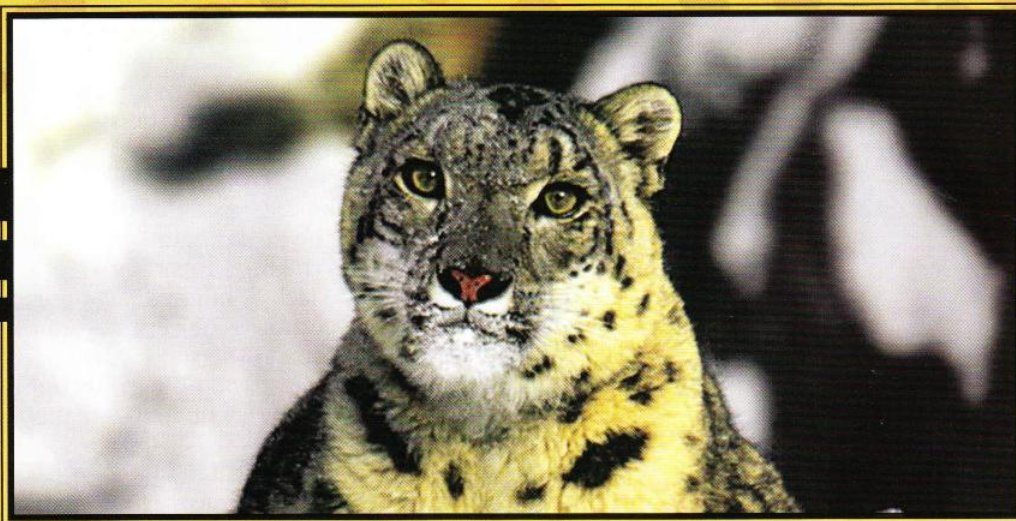
Another secret is hidden at the crook of the Big Dipper's handle. In binoculars, Mizar looks notched or egg-shaped. The reason is simple. Mizar is a double star—two stars that appear very close together. An amateur astronomer usually tries out a new telescope by turning it to Mizar in the crook of the Big Dipper's handle. A good telescope easily shows it as a double star.

Where one star is noticed at first, keen eyesight discloses two, while binoculars show three, and a telescope reveals four. Mizar and Alcor prove the full richness of God's creation. To describe the beauty of the night sky, a person can only quote what the young shepherd David saw as he tended his sheep at night: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1 NIV).



# Feature Creature

by Ann M. BAUERS



## Snow Leopard

**GENUS:** Panthera

**SPECIES:** uncia

**LENGTH:** 210 - 255 cm  
(84" - 120")

**WEIGHT:** 30 - 75 kg  
(66 - 165 lbs.)

**HEIGHT:** Approximately 60 cm  
(24") at shoulder

**RANGE:** Central Asia, Afghanistan,  
Mongolia, Nepal,  
Pakistan

**HABITAT:** Alpine meadows, treeless  
rocky mountains,  
rhododendron forests

**T**he snow leopard is quite a cool cat. The coloring of a snow leopard is a smoky gray to yellowish with pale black spots and rosettes. In fact, these big cats are known for their beautiful fur. Their tail is heavy with fur and the bottom of its paws are covered with fur as well. This

protects the leopards from the snow and the cold, because they live in cold snowy areas in the mountains.

Snow leopards live up to 15 years in captivity. They are native to, or live in the wild, in the high mountains of central Asia and are most frequently found in the Himalayas, Altai, and Hindu Kush. These big cats have a broad home range that covers approximately 100 square miles. The leopard has such a large range because they have to cover a lot of area to find prey.

The snow leopard's prey includes wild sheep, wild boars, gazelles, hares, markhor, bobak, tahr, marmots, mice, and deer. Snow leopards stalk their prey and normally spring from a distance of 20 to 50 feet to capture the prey.

Snow leopards are solitary animals who only pair during the breeding season. They do not roar and are most active in the early morning and later in the day after they have taken a cat nap. Snow leopards live in dens made in rocky caverns and crevices in the mountains.

These cool characters are very rare. Their status is endangered. Unfortunately, only 3,000 to 7,000 of these big cats are left in the wild and approximately 370 snow leopards live in captivity in zoos and other animal parks. The snow leopard is so rare and endangered because poachers hunt them for their beautiful fur. It is illegal to trade or sell snow leopard fur, but it still continues. This illegal trade threatens the snow leopard's existence, and that's just not cool.

If you would like to help protect the snow leopard and/or learn more about ways in which to protect them, you can contact Defenders of Wildlife, 1101 Fourteenth Street, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005-5605

### Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior?

If you haven't asked Jesus into your heart as Savior and asked Him to forgive you of your sins, it is as simple as following these steps:

**A. ADMIT YOU HAVE SINNED.** *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

**B. BELIEVE IN JESUS.** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

**C. CONFESS AND LEAVE YOUR SIN.** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

If you would like someone to pray with you about your decision to know Jesus as your personal Savior, talk with your Royal Ranger commander, your pastor, or call: 1-800-4PRAYER, the National Prayer Center.





# ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

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NUMBER 4

## How To Use the New Curriculum

*Questions from the field concerning the use of the new curriculum*

by Mike LALIBERTY

**T**he focus of this article is to provide some helpful hints on the use of the new curriculum. We believe it is safe to say that the curriculum is still new, since the Ranger Kids, and the Discovery and Adventure Rangers materials have only been available for about two and a half years and one and a half years, respectively.

Royal Rangers has gone from a program with little or no materials to one with an abundance of materials. Nearly all the leaders we have talked with over the last 2 years have stated that there was an initial adjustment period, especially if they had been involved with Rangers for a long time.

However, once the adjustment period is made, they also agree that their boys' motivation levels for advancement and excitement toward involvement in Rangers' has jumped significantly. It is not hard to understand considering that the advancement trails are clear and provide incremental and frequent opportunities for positive reinforcement. We are encouraged by the successes being reported.

"Now, what about those questions on how to use the curriculum?"

Yes. First, here are just a couple of important pieces of information before we get started. Although there have been a lot of questions, they tend to be similar in nature or fall into common topics or groups. For this article we have picked the ones that get asked most often. They usually have occurred during the adjustment period or they are situations that show up in outposts where individual leaders would like assistance. Maybe one of the following scenarios fits your outpost.

### Small To Medium-Sized Church

- 4 TO 18 RANGER KIDS
- K-2ND GRADES IN SAME CLASSROOM
- ONLY 1 TO 2 LEADERS

**Question:** *I'm using the common theme approach suggested in the RK Leader's Guide, but I'm having a hard time keeping up with the Elk, Wolverine, and Cougar advancement work being all at the same time. What can I do?*

**Answer:** Teach only one trail at a time to all the boys, no matter what grade they are in. All of the advancement steps in each of the trails have the same value. The Elk trail does not need to be completed before the Wolverine or the Cougar. It's a three-year rotating curriculum, so boys just entering Ranger Kids will eventually go through all the steps. This organization technique has been successfully used in a number of small church environments. This will significantly lower the amount of administration needed to run the RK group.

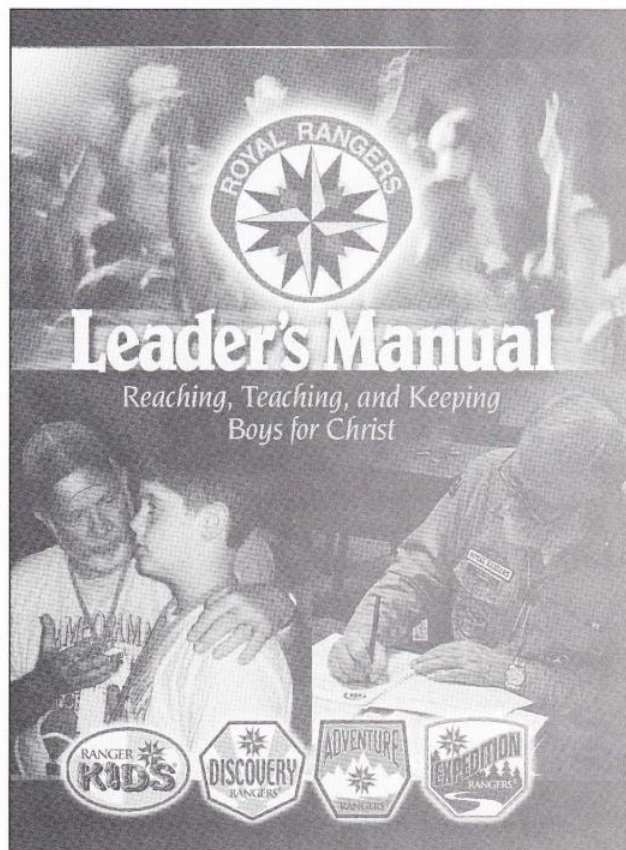
### Small To Medium-Sized Church

- 4 TO 18 RANGERS
- K-12th GRADES
- ONLY ONE HUSBAND-WIFE TEAM OR 2 LEADERS

**Question:** *With such a wide range of grade levels, how can our church organize the outpost to meet every boy's needs?*

**Answer:** First we must state that it would be very difficult to be successful with only one leader. A minimum of two leaders are required. If it was a husband-wife team, then the recommendation is for the wife to lead the Ranger Kids group and for the husband to lead the Discovery Rangers and above. The wife or first leader may use the RK administration technique mentioned in the previous question. The husband or second leader would focus on the merits needed by the





other boys to reach the Gold Medal of Achievement. This leader would primarily teach red, green, and gold merits. The red and green merits will allow a Discovery Ranger to advance through his trail requirements. The red (4 required), green, and gold merits will allow the Adventure and Expedition Rangers to obtain their GMA. Seven reds are also required to enter FCF. There is a lot of opportunity for overlap. In a small group environment, the older boys should be encouraged to act as mentors to teach the various skills being taught to the younger boys.

### A Church Of Any Size

**Question:** *I can't get everything done in the hour and a half scheduled in the Leaders' Guide. Why doesn't the curriculum work for me?*

**Answer:** Actually the curriculum is working for you. Good curriculum will always provide you with more things than you can complete in your allotted time. One thing to keep in mind is that the curriculum design had to work for churches whose Ranger meetings ranged from 45 minutes to 1 hour, 45 minutes in length. That is a one hour difference. This requires that the leader adjust the meeting elements so that they work to meet the needs of their outpost.

Curriculum is unable to evaluate, only the leader (teacher) can do this. We have talked about how time ranges can effect the amount accomplished during a meeting. The next two questions reveal how the leader-boy ratio will affect your ability to get things done.

### Small To Medium-Sized Church

- 2 TO 6 BOYS IN EACH GROUP FOR DISCOVERY AND ABOVE
- ONLY 1 TO 2 LEADERS FOR EACH AGE GROUP

**Question:** *The Discovery and Adventure Rangers Leaders' Guides state that only 2 skills merits can be taught each quarter. I can teach a merit in about four weeks. Is it OK to teach more than 2 skill merits per quarter?*

**Answer:** Some of you are thinking, "Wow! If life could be so grand!" Yes, it's OK to teach more skill merits, since your leader-boy ratio is terrific. Lots of one-on-one time allows for more learning to occur. Please keep in mind that the Leaders' Guides do not state that you can only teach two merits. They suggest that two merits be taught. You are also not required to teach the suggested merits as they are laid out in the materials. They may be taught in any order that is best suited for your outpost as long as you teach the required merits needed for the boys to earn their medal-level awards.

### Medium To Large Sized Church

- 7 TO 24 BOYS IN EACH GROUP OR GRADE FOR DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE RANGERS
- ONLY 1 TO 2 LEADERS FOR EACH AGE GROUP OR GRADE

**Question:** *I can't teach a merit in five weeks. It takes me six to eight weeks to teach the materials. What can I do? I'm concerned the boys won't be able to advance to a medal-level award each year.*

**Answer:** Some of you are thinking, "Dude! Now this is reality!" Yes, this reveals the variety of outpost dynamics that exist throughout the field. This scenario, however, is not a problem. The advancement systems for the Discovery(DR) and Adventure(AR) Rangers actually handle this really well, especially the DR system. The DR Leaders' Guide does suggest that two Bible merits and two skill merits be taught each quarter. However, if you carefully examine the steps described in the DR Advancement Trail charts on pages 14 and 15 of the DR Leaders' Guide, you will note that only a total of six skill merits are required to earn a medal-level award each year. The final Gold Eagle medal, for example, requires 24 Bible merits but only 18 skill merits. The end result of this advancement system is that an extra 10 weeks of teaching time is available every year along with the four make-up weeks plus four spare weeks already provided—for a total of 18 weeks of flexibility. That's an absolute necessity for those outposts with high boy-to-leader





ratios that need the extra one-on-one teaching time to assist boys with the demonstration of their practical skill requirements.

## MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

**Question:** *Why are the Bible Merits organized in alphabetical order?*

**Answer:** For consistency and ease of use for the boys. The skill merits as well as the Bible merits needed to be in alphabetical order so the boys could easily find them.

**Question:** *Where can I buy the video clips mentioned in the Adventure Rangers Bible study lessons?*

**Answer:** This is not possible. They do not exist. The video clips are part of the background story line for the time machine that the boys use to travel to each Bible

story or scenario. You can read about this on pages 735 and 736 of the AR Leaders' Guide.

**Question:** *What is the meaning of the reference number located under the title of the Bible study lesson on each page of the boys' workbook?*

**Answer:** The number Y2 Q3 L4, for example, means that you can find the answers to that specific Bible lesson in Year 2, Quarter 3, Lesson 4 of the DR or AR Leaders' Guide.

The most obvious thing revealed by the preceding questions is the variety of situations that exist in the local outpost. There is no cookie cutter approach to Royal Rangers. It is necessary to evaluate the characteristics of your outpost and then use the flexibility and adaptability of the new curriculum to fit the needs of your outpost. The end result will be a vibrant and successful outpost.

# Hurricane Charlie Visits National Academy

*by Mike Laliberty, deputy national commander and national training coordinator*



It was Friday afternoon and National Academy was already in full swing. With the predicted path of Hurricane Charlie a safe distance away, the Academy candidates had arrived on Thursday morning looking at only the possibility of heavy rain. But Charlie had other plans and unexpectedly veered inland.

The utility company turned the power grid off early. With the use of generators and work lights, the afternoon session was completed. The Weather Service was now predicting that Charlie's path would go over or near Camp Wilderness. The candidates were informed of the situation, and a couple of the trainees who lived in the path of the storm were allowed to return home to be with their families.

Those who remained gathered to watch as the wind and rain began. The wind and rain steadily built up to hurricane force. In an adjacent field, a very large oak tree was blown over. It was an amazing display of the awesome power of this storm.

The attendees and staff gathered together in prayer to

ask for the protection of those leaders who had left, for the families in the path of the storm, and for the safety of the camp and those remaining at Camp Wilderness. At the conclusion of the prayer time, everyone gathered in the rocking chairs in the main hall of the lodge and began to sing praise choruses to the Lord. What an awesome feeling of God's presence and peace. At no time during this storm was there a sense of fear or panic.

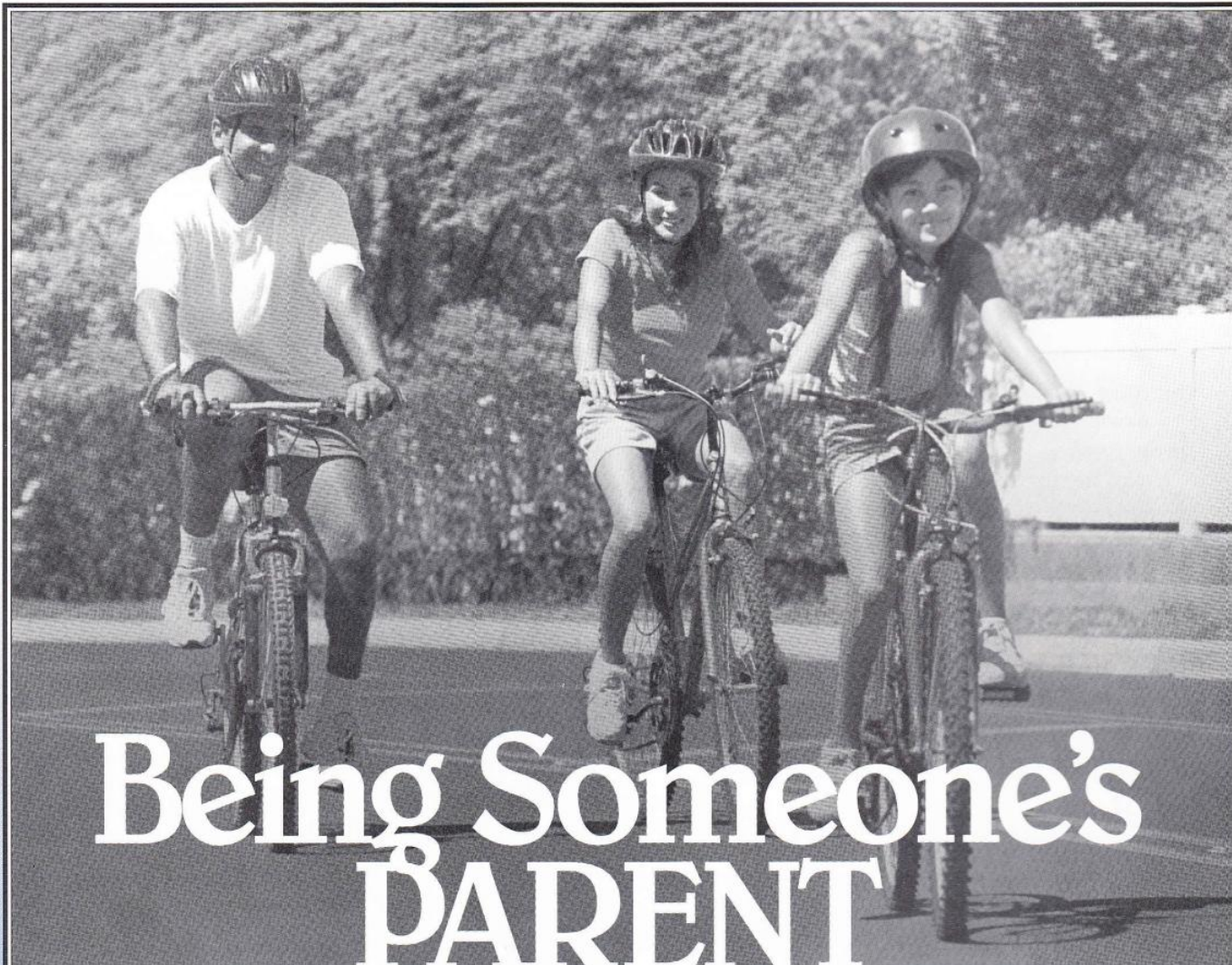
When the storm had passed we went back to the front porch to view the major tree damage. Praise the Lord! There was no damage to the lodge or the camp's pole barns and other structures.

The next morning, those who had left returned with reports of major destruction to the area. They had experienced only minor damage, and everything was fine with them and their families.

In typical Royal Rangers form, the Academy continued in spite of the loss of power. The candidates, taking the experience in stride, quickly adapted their patrol songs and flags to include references to Hurricane Charlie.

This was not only a great time of training, but it was a time we witnessed and experienced the faithfulness and peace of God.





# Being Someone's PARENT

*by Glenn Stanton*

**A**s a husband and the father of a brood of young children, I'll be honest with you: in the midst of my parental day, I sometimes dream of a number of things I would rather be doing right now than living a domestic life. Between doling out innumerable sippy cups freshly stocked with "shoosh" (or "juice," as adults call it), picking up the ubiquitous crayons that litter our kitchen and family room floor, or cleaning bathrooms and changing poopers, I often entertain fantasies of what it'd be like to scream down a winding trail on my mountain bike, read Flannery O'Connor in a quiet and dimly lit café somewhere, or just have long periods free of

"Daddy will you...?" for concentration on writing. (And while we're dreaming, why not a week alone with my wife, Jackie, touring the museums of Amsterdam?) I'm sure you harbor similar dreams.

But lately, I've been powerfully struck by the truth that there is no more substantive, revolutionary task than parenting a child. We tend to think it's politicians, actors, musicians, and writers who hold most of the power. But their influence is minimal compared to a parent's.

Those who are begetting, raising, and molding members of the next generation engage in nothing less than forever changing the balance of the universe and history. The world will be a very different place—for good or bad—because a parent is or is not parenting a child.



## PARENTING CHILDREN IS A MIRROR OF . . .

Of all people, Christians should have a view of parenting based on the understanding that the sum of parenting is much bigger than the myriad tasks involved. Christians understand that parenting is a mirror of three things: the father heart of God, God as Creator, and the mystery of the Trinity.

### *The Father Heart of God*

God reveals Himself to us as Father, and Jesus taught us that the Father is an intimate, loving daddy. Some say the experiences we have with our own fathers affect the way we see God. If our father was harsh and conditional with us, we'll tend to see God that way. If he was weak and convictionless, we'll understand God as such. If he was gracious but firm, loving, and just, that's the way we'll perceive God.

In a real way, parents stand in the place of God for their children when the kids are young. As they get older, they learn about God for themselves, but that picture remains greatly shaped by their experience with their parents. We have the responsibility to take great care to ensure that the picture we live out before our children demonstrates who God is, rather than hindering their image of Him. Our example should bring them closer to knowing and loving Him.

### *God as Creator*

Nothing comes into being without God the Creator. Yet man and woman uniquely become participants with God when they bring forth new life in creating new persons. This participation with God in creation reminds me of some old poetry from George MacDonald:

Creation thou dost work by faint degrees,  
By shade and shadow  
from unseen beginning; Far, far apart,  
in unthought mysteries Of  
thy own dark, unfathomable seas,  
Thou wilt thy will; and thence,  
upon the earth — Slow traveling,  
his way through centuries winning—  
A child at length arrives  
at never ending birth.

Animals and plants bring forth new life, but only people bring forth new humans who bear the image of God. Parents participate with God in this

wonderful creative process, not only as they unite physically, but also as they develop a full-orbed relationship—emotionally, domestically, and willfully—bringing new life out of that fullness. This act happens in an instant yet continues throughout the rest of life.

People can create new life with only the physical part of the relationship (and with the “blessing” of technology, even the physical is no longer necessary). But if that new life is born into a relationship between a man and woman that is only physical, it has difficulty coming to full human maturity. This new life will thrive most richly when its parents reflect the relational qualities of the Trinity: intimacy, love, service, commitment, exclusivity, cooperative interaction, and faithfulness.

### *The Mystery of the Trinity*

We must understand that the trinity of father, mother, and child is the closest picture in creation to the ultimate reality of the Trinity of God. Just as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons, but all have one essence, so are father, mother, and child. Again, this earthly trinity isn't a perfect picture of the heavenly

Trinity. But this family triad is the best picture of God's sacred community because He created family to reflect this.

## WHAT MAKES PARENTING SPIRITUAL?

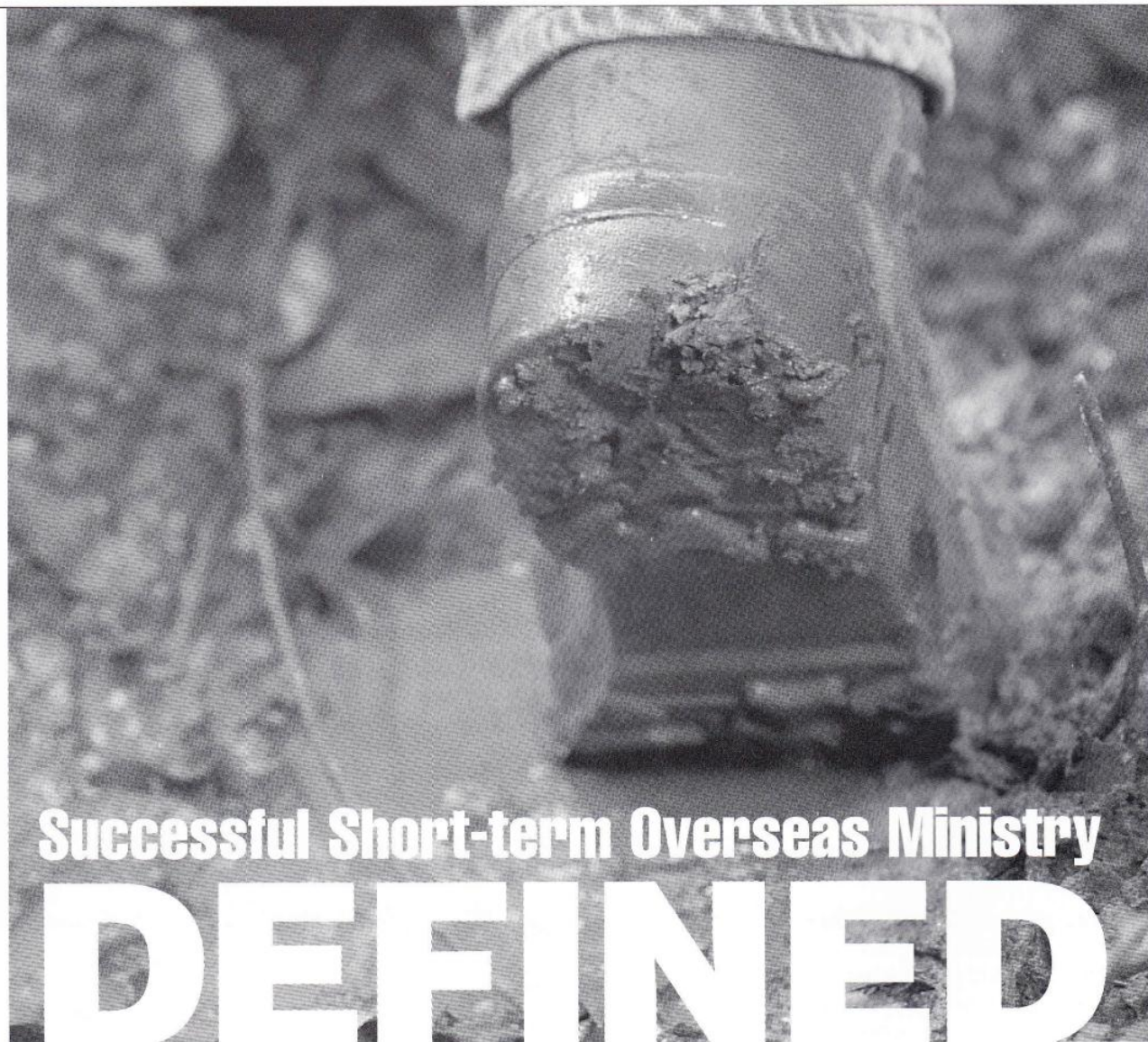
As a Christian, I'm interested in pleasing God. As a Christian parent, I'm interested in discovering what part of my job as a parent is of special interest to God. I must ask, “What does God want from me as a parent?”

Part of the answer to this question is addressed in the points just discussed. We reflect the parental heart of God that is centered in intimacy. The heart that expects holy obedience and faithfulness while tirelessly extending grace when that standard is broken. We're also participants with God in the creative process, not just in bringing new life into the world, but also as God's primary agents in bringing that new life into God's intended fullness. As procreative Christ-ones, our job is to help our children become Christ-ones in the fullest possible way.

*Glenn Stanton is the Director of Social Research and Cultural Affairs at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the author of the book, My Crazy Imperfect Christian Family, (Navpress, 2004).*

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# Successful Short-term Overseas Ministry DEFINED

by Douglas MARSH — Director, Royal Rangers International

**E**arly pioneer missionaries have good reason to be jealous of today's missionaries so well supported by volunteer ministry and construction teams. This assistance is accelerating the spread of the gospel around the world.

Royal Rangers leaders and boys represent a significant number of these end-time volunteers. Opportunities for men and older boys to involve themselves in overseas ministry and construction abound—training events, prayer catalyst teams, and PathFinder Missions trips, just to name a few.

Leaders often ask, "How do we connect with these opportunities?" and "What constitutes a successful overseas ministry endeavor?"

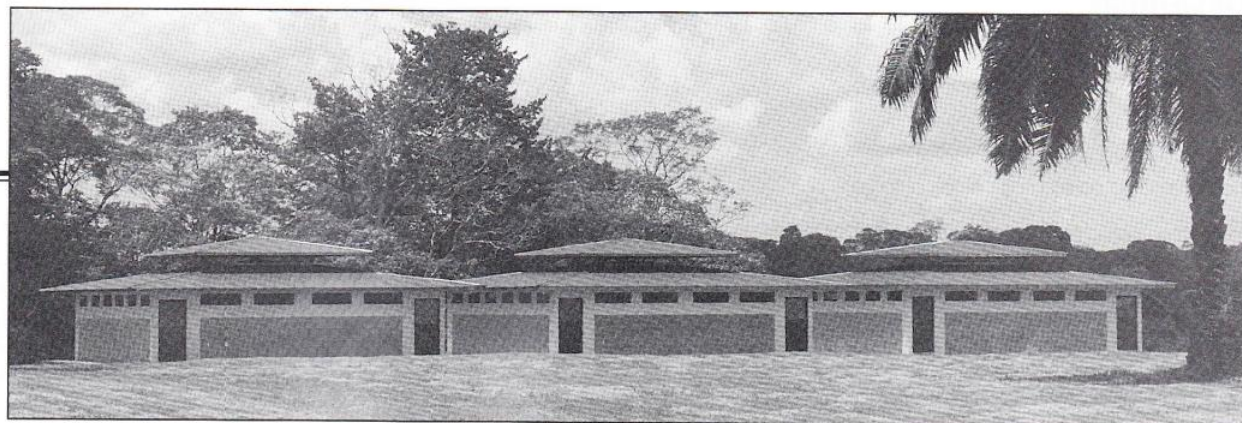
There is no "1-2-3-formula" for answering these questions, but there are a few guiding ideals. Successful short-term overseas ministry is: 1) field-driven, 2) accountable, and 3) practical.

## FIELD-DRIVEN

Field-driven needs are determined and directed by those with boots on the ground overseas. We set ourselves up for success when we listen for and respond to needs that arise from the grass roots. Field-driven needs are timely and passionate.

Successful short-term work must be perpetuated, or built upon, by local and national leaders after we return home. We are wise to prepare for and respond to field-ini-





tiated invitations. Such invitations indicate that national leaders want to learn from our experience and are willing to pay the price to continue what we help start.

Such invitations create a win-win for us and for the national church. When we meet a true need, we have earned the satisfaction of contributing to a timely and important cause. The national church has been blessed, and they will give continuity to what we helped start. In this manner, our short-term ministry investment blesses missionaries and nationals for the long-term.

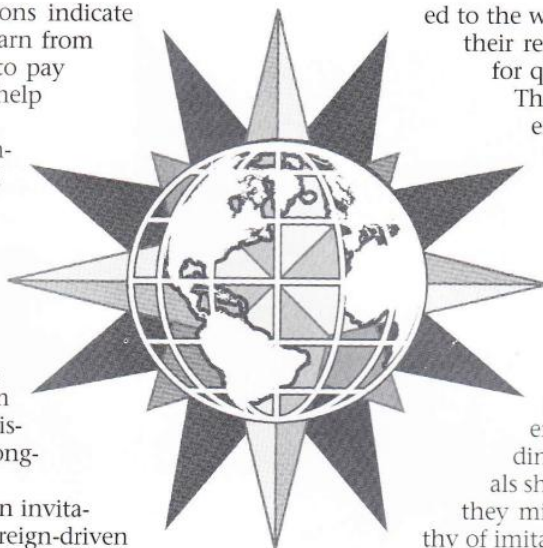
The opposite of a field-driven invitation born from a real need is a foreign-driven invitation (from the U.S., for instance) born from a perceived need, or, worse, a personal (or ego) need. Typically when missionaries and leaders overseas yield to such invitations, they are bending over backwards to accommodate you kindly and graciously. But when you leave, there is little chance they will follow through and build on what you tried to start. In fact, they may resent you for pulling them from other priorities.

The good news is that field-driven needs and ministry invitations to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world are common. You will enjoy win-win overseas ministry success when you respond to missionaries and national leaders who have identified urgent needs where they live and work. Royal Rangers International (RRI) regularly learns of these needs, as well as the skills and timing expected for meeting them.

## ACCOUNTABLE

A relentless desire to be Kingdom-effective as we strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world has led to the birth of RRI. Overseas regional coordinators are promoting Royal Rangers among executive national leadership, and, in general, cultivating an environment in which the ministry can thrive.

One of the responsibilities of these men is to assist the director of RRI in appropriately matching short-term volunteers with field-identified needs. They are dedicat-



*A relentless desire to be Kingdom-effective as we strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world has led to the birth of RRI.*

ed to the welfare of the Rangers ministry in their region. For that reason, they look for qualified persons to provide help. These words will energize men of excellence because they are strengthened by accountability.

Accountability undergirds those who serve in short-term missions, protects the overseas ministry, and ensures continuity. An author writes, "We do not reproduce the kind of people we *want*, but the kind of people we *are*." Short-term ministers who are humble and cooperative with the RRI regional coordinators, missionaries, and nationals show good form to those to whom they minister and set an example worthy of imitation.

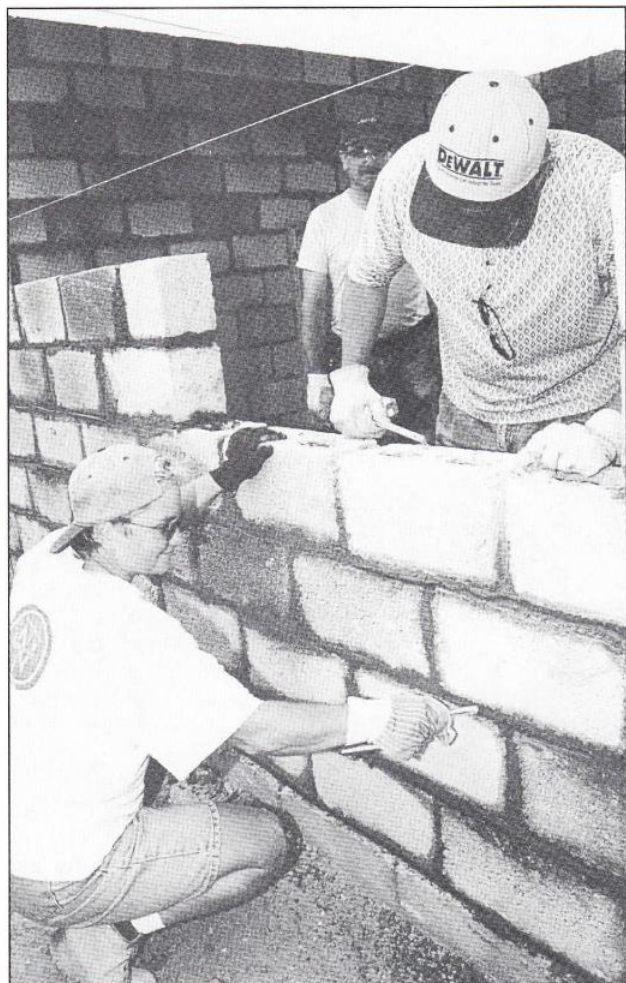
Men of excellence value local knowledge and uphold (or adapt to) the standards of the region or nation where they minister. Training procedures are modeled after the U.S. Royal Rangers ministry but are contextualized, or adapted, overseas. Blindly duplicating "what we do at home," or doing "what

*I think we should be doing at home,*" or worse, "This doesn't work at home, but we *will* make it work here," would be a recipe for mediocrity. When you carry out training according to overseas regional standards, your ministry empowers them to take their Rangers ministry to the next level.

Men of excellence recognize that they protect themselves, their family, their church, and the Royal Rangers ministry at home and abroad when they "run the bases" for overseas ministry approval. The process is simple but thorough. A) Field needs are weighed and identified; B) Short-term volunteers are selected based on their aptitude and attitude; C) The administrative paperwork is completed, mandatory travel insurance is purchased, waiver forms are signed, and RRI/AGWM clearance is secured; D) The team leader communicates with his hosts where the team will minister and prepares for travel; E) Win-win ministry is conducted; F) An evaluation report is provided for the director of RRI upon returning home (from the team leader *and* the overseas host).

RRI is eager to mobilize men of excellence to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world.





## PRACTICAL

When packing for an overseas ministry endeavor, today's Royal Rangers leaders will take their backpacks loaded with camping gear, laptops, and projectors. In America, Europe, parts of Asia, and in other places, anything less would be considered mediocre.

Ministry must be presented in a manner that will challenge leaders to improve their methods while meeting them where they are. In some places, cutting-edge teaching props will be flannel graph, quality flip charts, or overhead projectors. In other places, leaders will declare, "Eureka!" when their tents are made of affordable tarps. Generous leaders from America may be shocked when a missionary asks for a donation of used pants to make backpacks rather than cash to buy new ones. Whether we are talking about teaching methods, camping gear, or financial or material donations, we must be practical. *In the context of missionary work, being practical is what can be perpetuated.*

New tents are impressive. But once they are worn out, the leaders in this particular nation become discouraged because they have to go back to using homemade tents. New ones are scarce and too expensive for them. In some places, being practical means teaching how to make tents, while in other places being practical is teaching how to buy affordable, quality tents. A prudent short-term minister will ask what can be perpetuated once he returns home.

Royal Rangers is blessed to have many leaders and older boys eager to obey the Great Commission. As we cooperate to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers around the world, we must focus on effectiveness. Short-term overseas ministry must be field-driven, accountable, and practical. Millions of unsaved boys are counting on your success!



## Q & A

**Q:** *How do I connect with an approved PathFinder Missions construction project?*

**A:** Contact Mike King, national coordinator. He maintains a list of approved USAGM bronze projects and AGWM silver and gold projects. He can also provide necessary forms, waivers, insurance information, and, most importantly, guidance as you plan a successful construction trip. Remember, field-approved projects are assigned numbers overseas and names in the U.S.

**Q:** *I feel the Lord has directed my attention to building up Royal Rangers in a particular nation. How does that square with the ideal of acting on field-identified needs?*

**A:** We are a movement of the Spirit; explore such direction. Discuss your feelings with the Director of RRI. Your ideas will be considered and weighed by RRI and AGWM leadership and national church executives before a determination is made.

**Q:** *I received an invitation directly from the overseas field. Am I still subject to RRI oversight?*

**A:** Yes. The truth is, not all field-initiated invitations are "pure as the wind-driven snow." RRI seeks to protect volunteers by insuring they are participating in worthy ventures. All overseas Royal Rangers ministry is coordinated with RRI.



## REAL LIFE SCENARIOS:

God has blessed our past efforts to expand Royal Rangers overseas. But we have learned the importance of coordinating our endeavors. These scenarios illustrate the value of the ideals discussed in this article.

### **LESSON:** Approved projects are worthy projects.

A group learned of a construction opportunity to build a church in Mexico. They chose to ignore the fact that the building was not an approved project. (All overseas projects are assigned a number by AGWM and all U.S. projects are assigned a name by USAGM.) Approximately one year after the project, they learned that the land they built the church on was in the name of an elderly woman in the congregation in Mexico. The property was not in the name of the national church as required for approved projects. When she died, her unsaved children claimed the land and kicked the church out. The group's sacrifice was for naught, and the congregation was scattered. There are many worthy, pre-approved construction projects overseas and at home. Focus your attention on those, and your investment will be a blessing for generations.

### **LESSON:** Coordinating expansion with RRI enhances effectiveness.

A leader received an invitation to introduce Royal Rangers in a Caribbean nation. He was unaware of two things: 1) The sensitive nature of establishing such ministries in this particular nation, and 2) The general superintendent had already given RRI clearance to introduce Royal Rangers. When the national leadership learned of the unauthorized nature of this individual's work, the general superintendent was so disappointed in the way "Royal Rangers conduct themselves" that he rescinded his approval. Those doors still remain closed. Coordinating all overseas Royal Rangers ministry through RRI is vitally important.

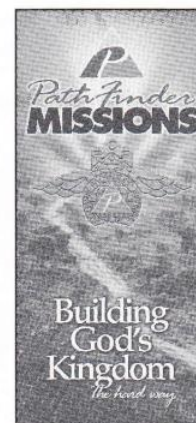
### **LESSON:** All nations are called to obey the Great Commission—we must coordinate our efforts:

The Royal Rangers leaders were excited to be the first to present the ministry in one African nation. What they learned after arriving was that



four different nations had already introduced Royal Rangers, each with its own curriculum and expectations. It became very clear that Royal Rangers in this nation was divided, with each faction remaining loyal to the way they were taught by the foreigners who brought them the ministry. Each group considers their way the right way. The ministry in this particular nation remains fractured, and, sadly, the ministry is often referred to as a burden. As we move forward, RRI has been charged with the responsibility to strengthen and expand Royal Rangers as the central nervous system, coordinating the missionary efforts of participating nations, including the U.S., so that our combined resources and efforts are maximized, and duplication is avoided.

If you have any further questions regarding PathFinder Missions trips, call (417) 862-2781, ext. 4195, visit the RRI link on the Rangers website ([www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org)), or e-mail [PathFinderMissions@ag.org](mailto:PathFinderMissions@ag.org).







# CAMPS BY TYPE

## FOR YEAR 2005



### NTC

*National Training Camp* is designed to give leaders professional training in camping and leadership, plus the opportunity of outstanding fellowship and adventure in the outdoors.

**JAN. 27 - 30**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

**MAY 12 - 15**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI

**MAY 19 - 22**

Heartland Conference Ctr. — Marengo, OH

**MAY 26 - 29**

St. Francis Lodge — Atchison, KS

**JUNE 9 - 12**

Donner Mine Camp — Emigrant Gap, CA

**JUNE 23 - 26**

Camp Ivy Dale — Idaho City, ID

**AUGUST 25 - 28**

Paradise Boy's Camp — Ft. Apache, AZ

**AUGUST 25 - 28**

Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch — Elbert, CO

**SEPTEMBER 8 - 11**

Pinecrest Christian Conference Center  
Twin Peaks, CA

**SEPTEMBER 8 - 11**

Camp Roosevelt — Woodstown, NJ

**SEPTEMBER 8 - 11**

Camp Euchee — Defuniak Springs, FL

**SEPTEMBER 22 - 25**

Camp Collier — Gardner, MA

**OCTOBER 13 - 16**

Rangerland — Chandler, OK

**JANUARY 26 - 29, 2006**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

**FEBRUARY 16 - 19, 2006**

Camp Woodworth — Woodworth, LA

### NCE

*National Canoe Expedition* is designed to give leaders specialized training on how to conduct canoe trips and to provide outstanding adventures in some of the most beautiful canoe country in America.

**AUGUST 4 - 7**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

### ANTC

*Advanced National Training Camp* is designed to provide Royal Rangers leaders with additional training beyond that offered at the National Training Camp and will help inspire leaders to greater involvement in the Royal Rangers ministry. A leader must have attended National Training Camp before enrolling.

**FEBRUARY 3 - 6**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

**FEBRUARY 17 - 20**

Ranger Trails Camp — Terry, MS

**JUNE 9 - 12**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI

**SEPTEMBER 8 - 11**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO

**SEPTEMBER 15 - 18**

Camp Mahanaim — Swan Lake, NY

**SEPTEMBER 22 - 25**

Silver Lake Camp — Medical Lake, WA

### WNTC

*Winter National Training Camp* follows the format of the Advanced National Training Camp with specialized training in snow camping and activities.

**FEBRUARY 3 - 6**

Morrow Bible Conf. Ctr. — Wamie, OR

**FEBRUARY 24 - 27**

Camp Mechuwana — Winthrop, ME

### NTT

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

**AUGUST 4 - 7**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI

**SEPTEMBER 22 - 25**

Lake Winfield — Gainesville, GA

**NOVEMBER 3 - 6**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

### RKTC

*Ranger Kids Training Conference* is designed to give leaders training in various techniques and methods of leadership. Leaders will also receive training in various aspects of the Kids ministries.

**FEBRUARY 25 - 27**

Camp Crestwood — Crestwood, KY

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1**

Camp Wilderness  
Fort Meade, FL

**MAY 6 - 8**

West Florida A/G Campgrounds  
Marianna, FL

**MAY 20 - 22**

Camp Ambassador — Goodlettsville, TN

**SEPTEMBER 16 - 18**

D-A Scout Camp — Metamora, MI

**NOVEMBER 4 - 6**

Timber Lake — Forsyth, GA

**FEBRUARY 3 - 5, 2006**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

### NA

*National Academy* is a national training seminar designed to train recommended leaders to become staff members for national training camps.

**MAY 12 - 15**

Potomac Park Camp  
Falling Waters, WV

**MAY 26 - 29**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO

**SEPTEMBER 22 - 25**

Silver Lake Camp — Medical Lake, WA

### NAA

*National Advanced Academy* is a national training seminar designed to train recommended leaders for the specialized leadership roles of the Camp Commander and Senior Guide for national training camps.

**MAY 25 - 29**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO





# CAMPS BY REGION

FOR YEAR 2005



## SOUTHWEST

**NTC — JUNE 9 - 12**

Donner Mine Camp — Emigrant Gap, CA



**NTC — AUGUST 25 - 28**

Paradise Boy's Camp — Ft. Apache, AZ



**NTC — AUGUST 25 - 28**

Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch — Elbert, CO



**NTC — SEPT. 8 - 11**

Pinecrest Christian Conference Center  
Twin Peaks, CA

## NORTHEAST

**NRRA — MAY 10 - 15**

Potomac Park Camp — Falling Waters, WV



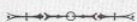
**NTC — SEPT. 8 - 11**

Camp Roosevelt — Woodstown, NJ



**ANTC — SEPT. 15 - 18**

Camp Mahanaim — Swan Lake, NY



**NTC — SEPT. 22 - 25**

Camp Collier — Gardner, MA



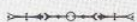
**WNTC — FEB. 24 - 27**

Camp Mechuwana — Winthrop, ME

## NORTHWEST

**WNTC — FEB. 3 - 6**

Morrow Bible Conf. Ctr. — Wamic, OR



**NTC — JUNE 23 - 26**

Camp Ivy Dale — Idaho City, ID



**ANTC — SEPT. 22 - 25**

Silver Lake Camp — Medical Lake, WA



**NRRA — SEPT. 22 - 25**

Silver Lake Camp — Medical Lake, WA

## GREAT LAKES

**RKTC — FEB. 25 - 27**

Camp Crestwood — Crestwood, KY



**NTC — MAY 19 - 22**

Heartland Conf. Ctr. — Marengo, OH



**RKTC — SEPT. 16 - 18**

D-A Scout Camp — Metamora, MI

## GULF

**ANTC — FEB. 17 - 20**

Ranger Trails Camp — Terry, MS



**RKTC — MAY 20 - 22**

Camp Ambassador — Goodlettsville, TN



**NRRA — MAY 26 - 29**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO



**NRRAA — MAY 25 - 29**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO



**ANTC — SEPT. 8 - 11**

Camp Eagle Rock — Eagle Rock, MO



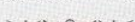
**NTC — FEB. 16 - 19, 2006**

Camp Woodworth — Woodworth, LA

## NORTH CENTRAL

**NTC — MAY 12 - 15**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI



**ANTC — JUNE 9 - 12**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI



**NTT — AUGUST 4 - 7**

Camp Wilderness — Waupaca, WI

## SOUTHEAST

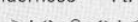
**NTC — JAN. 27 - 30**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



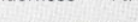
**ANTC — FEB. 3 - 6**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



**RKTC — APRIL 29 - MAY 1**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



**RKTC — MAY 6 - 8**

West Florida A/G Campgrounds  
Marianna, FL



**NCE — AUGUST 4 - 7**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



**NTC — SEPT. 8 - 11**

Camp Euchee — Defuniak Springs, FL



**NTT — SEPT. 22 - 25**

Lake Winfield — Gainesville, GA



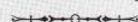
**NTT — NOV. 3 - 6**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



**RKTC — NOV. 4 - 6**

Timber Lake — Forsyth, GA



**NTC — JAN. 26 - 29, 2006**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL



**RKTC — FEB. 3 - 5, 2006**

Camp Wilderness — Ft. Meade, FL

## SOUTH CENTRAL

**NTC — MAY 26 - 29**

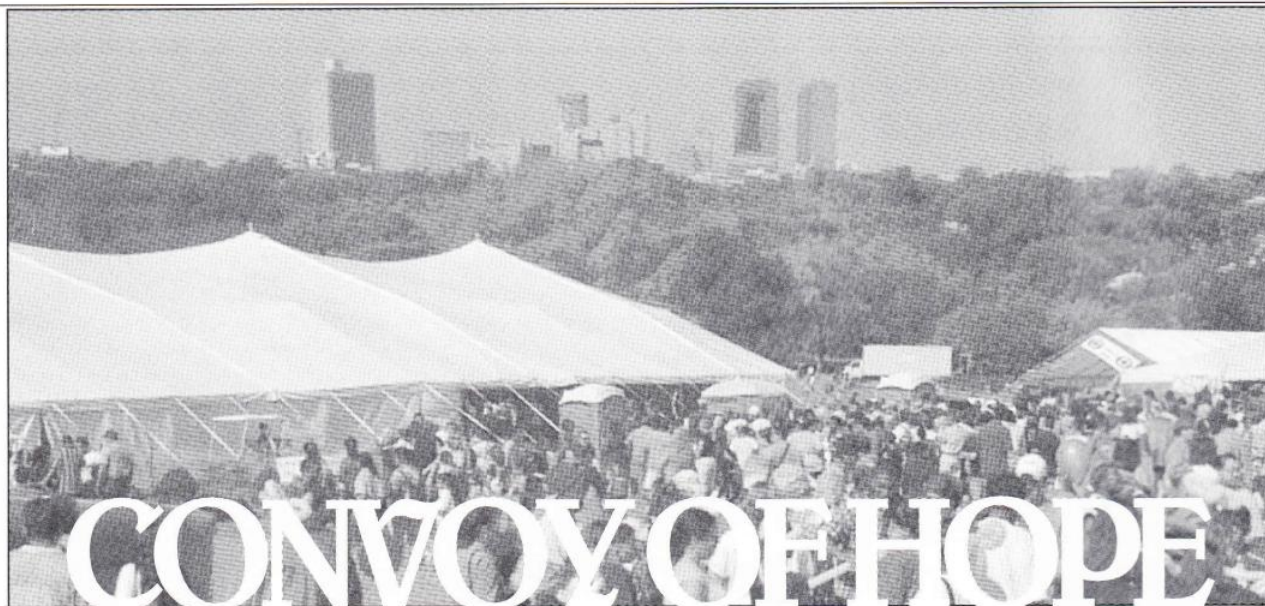
St. Francis Lodge — Atchison, KS



**NTC — OCT. 13 - 16**

Rangerland — Chandler, OK





# CONVOY OF HOPE

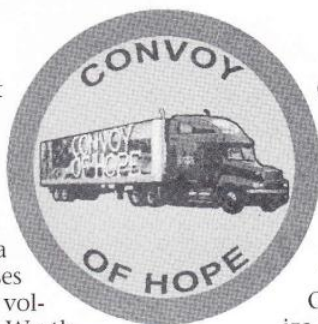
## Held in Fort Worth

by Mark Oliver

**T**he morning started off early. It was October 25 and it was still dark as the volunteers arrived at Christ Church Assembly of God. Most of them were walking as if they were still asleep. It had probably been years since most of them had been up so early on a Saturday morning. By 6:15 a.m., the buses were already lined up and ready to take the volunteers to Hillside Park in southeast Fort Worth, Texas. Hillside Park, an area plagued with drugs, prostitution, gang activities, and the homeless, had been selected as the site for the Convoy of Hope in Fort Worth.

God had already started answering prayers and the day had barely started. Instead of the cool, rainy day that was expected, God had other plans. It was a clear, sunny, cool, beautiful day.

The volunteers started off by being dropped off two blocks from Hillside Park. This gave each person the opportunity to pray as they walked toward the park. Even at 7 a.m. as the volunteers walked to the park, many other volunteers had already started working. There were many areas that had to be finalized before activities could begin at 9 a.m. Even at 7 a.m., you could see the line that had started growing before 6 a.m. The neighborhood was excited, and everyone was coming to participate. By the opening of the front gates at 9 a.m., the line of visitors was so long that the end could not be seen. It was going to be a very successful day.



The day was filled with many activities for everyone who attended. There were doctors, dentists, chiropractors, family services, prayer teams, food services, kid activities, entertainments, and wonderful preaching services.

One of the biggest tasks was sacking all of the groceries that would be needed. This was the first chance the boys from Outpost 55 in South Fort Worth had to realize how important their jobs were going to be.

As the boys and commanders made their constant rounds getting their bags of groceries filled, they began to realize other ways to get done quicker. Instead of carrying one bag, they started carrying two, then three, until they each had four. As they would pass each station, the food items were placed in their bags. By the end, there were many piles of groceries, each more than 6 feet high. Thousands of bags were piled, and everyone from the neighborhood would receive free groceries as they left.

There were more volunteers working in the food service tent. They started cooking early preparing a lot of food for the people who would be attending. Each person attending could receive a hot dog, chips, and drinks. And yes, these were available as early as 9 a.m. By the end of the day, they had given away nearly 9,000 hot dogs.

The biggest attraction for the kids was Kids Zone. They would start off hearing the word of God from Pastor Buddy Calzada from Fort Worth Metro Ministries.





# Devotionals for Boys

by David BOYD

## OBJECT LESSON ONE

### Sin Ruins

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

One marker, a chocolate cake, and one bottle of each of the following: tarter sauce, salad dressing, and sour cream

Write, "unkindness" on the bottle of tarter sauce. Write, "swearing" on the salad dressing. Write, "disobedience" on the bottle of mayonnaise. Cut three pieces of cake and hide the rest of the cake.

Set the three pieces of cake in front of the boys. Talk about how perfectly they were made. Each one is done just right—chocolate and gooey. Compare the pieces of cake to the boys. "Each piece of cake was made by someone who knew just what they were making or it wouldn't have come out right. Each boy has been made by the hand of God. When God washes our sins away, God makes us into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are made perfect. God looks at us and He is pleased. We are pleasing in His sight. Like these pieces of cake are pleasing in our sight."

Ask who is hungry. Take the first piece of cake. Put tarter sauce, salad dressing, and sour cream on it until it's covered. See who wants it now. Explain that even though the piece of cake was made perfect, it can be ruined by placing the wrong things on it. Compare this to the boys. We are pleasing in God's eyes. But he isn't pleased when we allow sin into our lives. Turn the containers around. Talk about the sins of unkindness, swearing, and disobedience. (Note: you can talk about different sins if you wish.) Talk about how sin is like an ugly stain in our lives. It ruins what God is doing in us.

Repeat this object lesson with the second piece of cake and then the third. Each time using less of the stuff. Teach the children that even a little bit of sin spoils what God has made out of our lives.

## OBJECT LESSON TWO

### Remove Your Distractions

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A bunch of medium-sized rubber bands, six to eight small diameter dowel rods, a box

Set a box at the end of an 8-foot table. Allow each boy to practice shooting a rubber band off his finger into the box at the end of the table. Make sure it's a medium sized target so it's not too easy and not too hard. After they've played this game for awhile, write the word "Heaven" on the box. Explain that when you shoot your rubber band into the box, that represents someone making it to heaven. Before you let someone try this, line up 3 to 4 kids on each side of the table. Have them hold up dowel rods and move them around trying to block the rubber band from going into the box. The boy at one end tries to shoot the rubber band into the box at the other end of the table while boys with dowel rods are creating interference, trying to block the shot. Give all the boys a try.

Is it easy? No. Why? Because of the interference caused by the boys holding the dowel rods in the way. Compare these boys to non-Christian influences like non-Christian friends, bad music, bad videos, going to bad events, etc. Explain that the more of these you allow in your life, the easier it will be to miss heaven.

Remove half the blockers and try again.

Remove all the blockers and try again.

Encourage them to get rid of the wrong influences in their lives. These wrong influences can turn them away from Jesus and keep them out of heaven.



## OBJECT LESSON THREE

### It's The Heart

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Seven different cans of various foods like peas, baked beans, fruit cocktail, refried beans, pudding, frosting, carrots, etc., one can opener, and several spoons

Take the labels off of all the cans.

Have the class divide into seven groups. (More or less for different sized groups.) Choose a group to start. Have the first group choose a can to eat as a snack. Have them open it and see what they get. Have the second group open a can. Talk about the fact that it's what's on the inside that is important. Compare this to what's on the inside of people. Have you ever met someone who looked like he/she would be a nice person, but when you got to know them you found out they weren't? Have a third group open a can. Talk about people. It's what's on the inside that counts. Tell the story of Samuel choosing David in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Read 1 Samuel 16:7, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

As you open the rest of the cans, talk about the importance of being good on the inside. When people see our inside will they like what they see?

Continue playing this until each group gets a can of something that is good enough to eat as a snack.

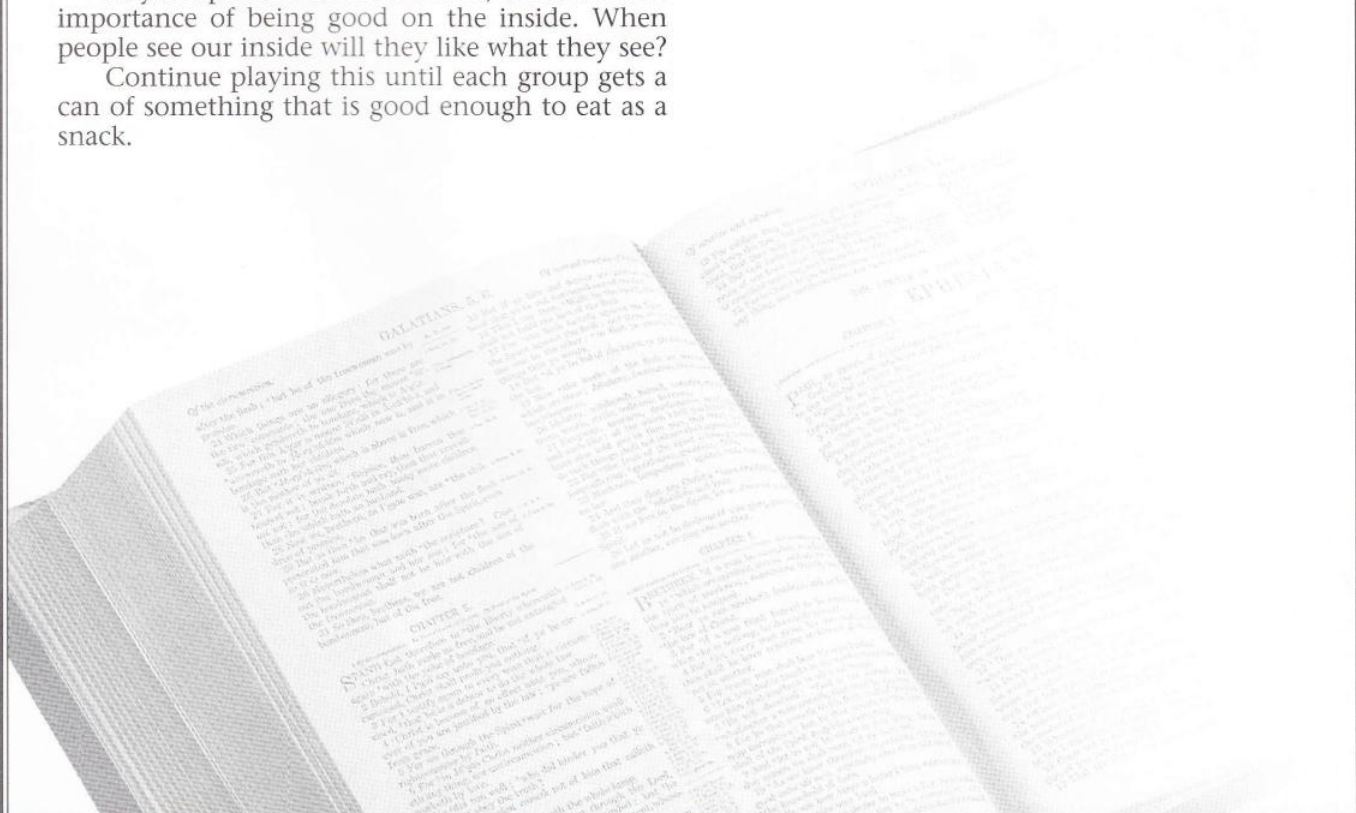
## OBJECT LESSON FOUR

### We Are All Different

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Bring as many different kinds of shoes to class as you can find. These might include tennis shoes, golf shoes, policeman shoes, army boots, cowboy boots, flip flops, etc.

Show your first pair of shoes. Talk about the kind of person who would wear those shoes. Talk about how the person in that position can be a positive influence on the world for Christ. Bring out the second pair of shoes, and the third, etc. This leads you into great discussion concerning God's plan for our lives. Each of these shoes is a shoe or a boot or something, but each is different. Each has a different purpose. God made us to all look different too. We all have different talents. But each of us has a purpose in His kingdom. Each of us will have the ability to do great things for Him—even now. Talk about ways boys can be involved in ministry such as helping the elderly with household chores, helping out around the church with projects that need to be done, tutoring younger boys in their Rangers work, etc.





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# — ATTENTION! —

## National Academy and Staff School Graduates

Beginning May 1, 2005, all NTCs will be operated under the updated NTC format. Certification for the updated NTC format will be held during the last day of National Council on March 12, 2005. Royal Rangers National Ministries encourages all graduates of National Academy and past Staff School to be certified under the updated NTC format.

Royal Rangers leaders who are not National Council members may register for this NTC format certification using a reduced registration fee option provided in the National Council registration packet. Non-council members should contact their district commanders by December 1, 2004, to request a registration brochure. The reduced registration fee for non-Council members covers attendance at the Friday afternoon LTA module training and the NTC format certification on Saturday.



## Get inside his head

The **Royal Rangers Leaders Manual** is jam-packed with the stuff to help you become the incredibly effective leader God intended you to be.

- How today's boys think
- How to lead boys to Christ
- Learning styles
- Abuse prevention
- Outpost specifics
- Medals and awards
- National policies
- Trip planning

(Plus, a lot more that we just don't have room to list.)

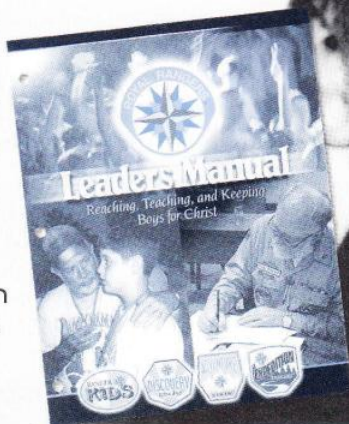
Get it now, and you'll have the answers before you come across the questions.

Leaders Manual with Binder	02AW2100	\$24.99
Leaders Manual without Binder	02AW2101	\$19.99
Leaders Manual Binder Only	08AW7078	\$6.99

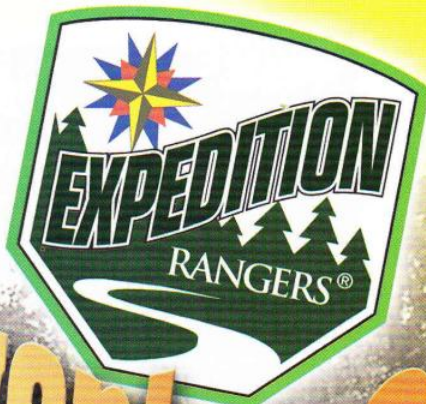
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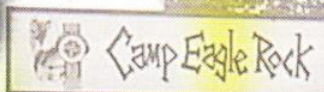
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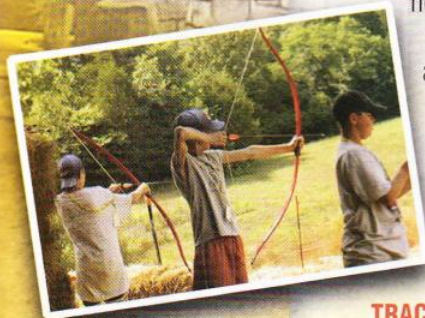


# Looking for Adventure?



## Adventure and Expedition Rangers, how would you like to attend a national camp specially designed for you?

Would you be interested in horseback riding, rock climbing, rappelling, archery, swimming, paintball, mountain biking, or shooting BB guns, air rifles, .22 caliber rifles or black powder rifles? These are some of the exciting activities you can participate in at the **EAGLE ROCK ADVENTURE CAMPS** scheduled for **June 26-July 1** or **July 24-29, 2005**. You will receive top-notch instruction as you work on the merits for the above activities.



Imagine yourself staying at the new Deaverton Old West town at Camp Eagle Rock. **All meals will be provided** by the camp staff at the Johnnie Barnes dining hall, allowing you more time to participate in the great activities. The camp will **start Sunday afternoon with a pool and pizza party** as you get to know other Rangers from around the country. The first evening will kick off with a **special Council Fire service** followed by great devotions each morning and evening.

Do any of these **ACTIVITY TRACKS** sound interesting to you?

**TRACK A:** Rappelling, High Ropes, Low Ropes, Rock Climbing

**TRACK B:** Mountain Biking, Paintball

**TRACK C:** Shooting Safety, BB Gun, Air Rifle, Archery

**TRACK D:** Smallbore Rifle, Blackpowder Rifle, Safety & Shooting

**TRACK E:** Horsemanship, Archery, Paintball

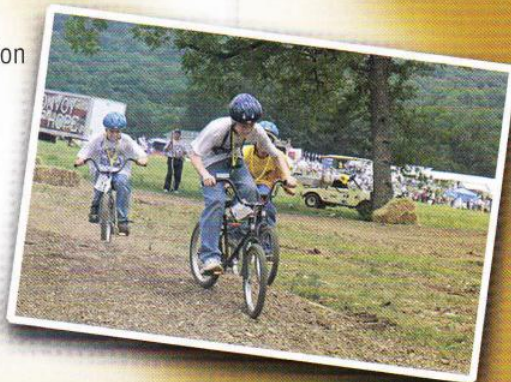
Each of the five tracks will be **limited to 20 campers**. This will allow for individual instruction and a great learning experience. Campers must be current Adventure or Expedition Rangers to attend, due to the high action level of the camp. **The camp fee of \$200 covers five nights of camping, 14 meals, all equipment necessary for each track, and a top-notch staff to give you the best camping experience of your life.** Track C and D (shooting disciplines) will allow each camper to compete in the national championships.

So if you think you would like to earn some high action merits at Camp Eagle Rock, Missouri, this summer, visit our national website at <http://www.royalrangers.ag.org> to get further information. Download the application and send it in soon so you can reserve the camp and track of your choice.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



CAMP EAGLE ROCK  
Eagle Rock, Missouri





# ROYAL RANGERS ADVENTURES











# Monte's Quest

- An electric car

**HEY KIDS, EVER SEEN AN ELECTRIC CAR?  
EVER WONDERED HOW IT COULD RUN WITHOUT GAS?  
HOW ABOUT HAVING TO REMEMBER TO PLUG YOUR  
CAR IN EACH NIGHT IN ORDER TO DRIVE IT?  
WELL, THIS IS LIFE FOR MR. MONTE GISBORNE.**

by Jacqueline B. **LaHay**



Monte became interested in cars at age 4. He loved helping his dad with antique cars. At 16, he did a project on a coupe (a type of car).

Monte has been part of many car clubs. He was even president of the Durham Electric Vehicle Association. During this time, he organized Canada's first electric vehicle rally, "The Canadian Clean Air Cruise." That's what electric cars are all about—keeping our environment clean and protecting the air we breathe.

When Monte became a dad, he was inspired to start buying and building electric cars. He wants to make the world a better place for his daughter. Pretty thoughtful!

Monte owns five cars. Three are gas-powered and two are electric (The Electrify and the Dynasty IT-Innovative Transportation). He even owns an electric boat, electric snowmobile, and a battery-powered lawnmower! His goal is to use as little gasoline as possible. Good stuff!

You're probably wondering how much an electric car costs, right? Well, each electric car is different. Basically, the heavier the car, the more battery power it will use. The Electrify uses \$15 per month in electricity. If it were a gas-powered car, it would cost more than \$150 per month. You do the math!

Monte built his 1991 Pontiac Firefly (originally gas-powered).

How'd he do that, you ask? Simple. He replaced the engine with an electric motor! In it, he can drive nearly 160 kilometers per hour (99 mph). The power of the engine is 75 horsepower (the original gas engine was 55 horsepower!) His Dynasty IT can take him nearly 50 km (31 miles) on one charge.

Monte owns both gas-powered and electric cars because he needs a gas car to go far distances (like to his cottage) and on the highways.

So what do the gauges look like in an electric car? Monte says there's a simple gauge that tells him if the battery power is low. It ranges from 0 to 10. The lower the number, the less battery charge you have. So be prepared to plug it in soon!

Are electric cars expensive? Monte says his Dynasty IT cost him \$19,000 Canadian (about \$14,700 US). Not bad, considering there's no gas bill! Luckily, Monte also repairs cars, so no mechanic is required. However, if you can't, any mechanic who knows about simple electronics can help you out.

Monte's electric car even starred in a movie. His car was used as the getaway vehicle. A transportation manager contacted him during his hunt for an electric car. Monte earned \$700 a day for loaning out his car, and he also got a free paint job!

**When Monte became a dad, he was inspired to start buying and building electric cars.**

**He wants to make the world a better place for his daughter.**

## PROS:

- Environmental
- Fun to drive ■ Attention-getter
- Carries twice as much as a regular sized car
- Comfortable
- No oil changes, tune-ups, exhaust, leaky gas tanks

## CONS:

- Can't drive far on one charge (50 km/30 miles)
- Low speed (legally 40km)
- Sometimes too much attention
- No highway use (because there's no safety equipment\*)
- \*Safety equipment can be installed, but it's too expensive.

Provincial parks are great for electric cars because you cannot drive fast (the speed limit is 40km/hr). Military bases are also good, and zoos like them because they're quiet, emit no smell, and don't disturb the animals when you drive by.

## HOW DOES IT KEEP GOING, AND GOING, AND GOING, AND GOING...?

So what kind of batteries does an electric car use? According to Monte, there are several types for electric cars.

Trojan—12 Volts each, deep cycle (more lead). Electric cars can use between 7-50 batteries.

Nickel-Cadmium—Twice as good as Trojan.

Nickel-Metal-Hydride—Twice as good as Nickel-Cadmium but very expensive.

Lithium-Polymer—Twice as good as Nickel-Hydride.

The battery in a gas-powered car is an S.L.I. (Starting, Lights and Ignition) battery.

Some tanks used in the Iraq war are "hybrid" which means they operate on electric power and gas. Gas is used by day and electricity by night. This is a great way to avoid being detected by infrared systems used to track the enemy's approach. The infrared system picks up the heat given off by gas-powered vehicles.

## ELECTRIC CAR FACTS

At the turn of the Century (1899-1900), there were more electric cars than gas-powered cars. Between 1908 and 1927, the Model T (a famous gas-powered car) was mass-produced and was cheaper. The first electric vehicle was made in 1837 and the first gas vehicle in 1885.

The electric car (aka Neighborhood Vehicle) is between a golf cart and a car. It has no airbag because you can only drive it at 40 km (25 mph) legally.

## NOTES FROM MONTE'S ABBREVIATED BIOGRAPHY:

Monte Gisborne is a, "Techno-Environmentalist" who loves technology, especially when it replaces environmentally unfriendly sources such as the gas-powered automobile.

Monte has served as an executive of Canada's largest electric vehicle association, the Electric Vehicle Society, since 1994.

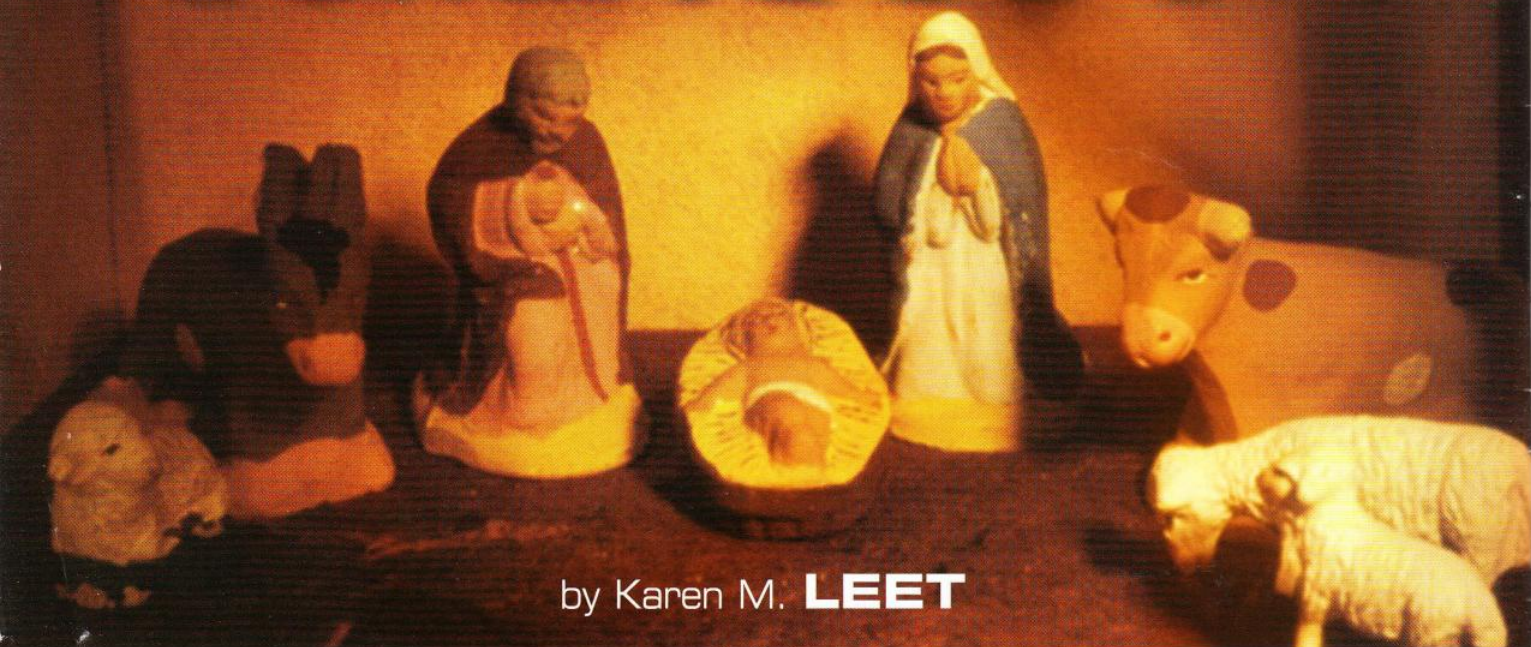
In 1996, he completed Canada's only electric vehicle technical course at Durham College in Whitby, Ontario, in high standing.

He has competed in the "American Tour de Sol" electric vehicle rally, the world's largest and most popular environmental event, and placed tenth out of 50 entries in his first competition with his converted Cavalier, "Electrify." In later attempts, he placed fifth, seventh, thirteenth, and finally first.

He is creating his own model electric car and has been working on it for 10 years.



# COMING SOON



by Karen M. **LEET**

**T**iny letters printed exactly in the center of a blank page met Dan's gaze. Coming soon. He studied the page. No pictures. No article. No information. Nothing else at all, just those two words. He turned the newspaper page, but couldn't find any explanation.

"What's coming soon?" he wondered aloud. Then he shrugged. Probably another store or mini-mall or dentist's office, something like that. There'd be ads on TV and billboards. It was just some sort of publicity trick.

But he couldn't shake off the words. They stayed with him. He couldn't stop wondering what would be coming soon. He started watching around town. Were any new buildings going up? Had ground been broken for any new malls? Was some used car lot hanging those red plastic flags they put up for big sales? But no, nothing showed up anywhere that he could see.

Besides, this must be pretty special. Somebody had paid for a whole page newspaper ad. His dad whistled when he saw the blank page.

"Boy," Dad told them, shaking the page in their faces. "Somebody has more money than sense. This must cost a bundle to run blank this way. What a waste of space."

Dan tried to stop thinking about the two words on their blank page. But it was like trying not to think about a red-faced monkey. The more you tried, the more it stuck with you. Then the billboards popped up out on the highway.

Three huge signs right in a row.

Coming soon, read the first one.

Keep watching, the second added.

Get ready, finished the third.

Dan puzzled over them. Keep watching for what? Get ready for what? And most baffling of all, what was coming soon? He searched the town, combed through the paper looking for hints, asked everyone he knew. But nothing helped.

The TV ads started next. A blank screen faced him, then small letters crawled across the bottom—coming soon...coming soon...coming soon. Dan almost yelled at the TV.

"What's coming soon?" he demanded. But of course, no one answered him. He even called the TV station to ask.

"Sorry, kid, we're as puzzled as anybody else. Maybe it's some crackpot yanking us all around."

The mystery drove Dan wild. He wrote letters to the newspaper asking about the ads, but whoever answered had no idea. More and more ads appeared everywhere. Posters showed up in store windows, black with tiny white letters in the center—coming soon.

Then it hit him, like fireworks exploding in his brain. What season was it? Christmas. Maybe that explained all the ads. Maybe this was some sort of Christmas message. That made sense to Dan. Christmas was about Jesus, not about toys and light displays and parades. Christmas was his favorite time of year, not just for the cookies Mom made and the great gifts tucked under the tree. There was a warmth about Christmas. People tried harder to get along.

**Dan tried to  
stop thinking  
about the two  
words on their  
blank page.  
But it was like  
trying not to  
think about  
a redfaced  
monkey.**



Music filled the stores and malls. People who never went to church any other time started going.

He always felt something special about Christmas, almost an excitement as if the Baby Jesus hadn't been born yet, and he was waiting for that one, incredible moment in history. Baby Jesus' birth changed everything from then on. And sometimes Dan felt as if the entire world held its breath, waiting for that one tiny baby to come in among them.

Dan didn't like to tell anyone how he felt inside. But he'd always felt a greater excitement than just giving and getting presents. He'd felt the deep expectation of that one amazing gift God had given everyone so long ago. That's what made Christmas the best.

Now, with the signs and ads everywhere, the excitement inside him revved up even higher—and it overflowed. For the first time, he started letting that Christmas excitement spill out onto others. He looked for ways to spread the joy and hope of Jesus' soon coming. He found small kindnesses to do quietly. He helped around the house more. And it showed.

At a time when everyone had way too much to do, Dan's small kindnesses made a difference. His parents smiled more. His brothers argued less. His home felt warmer, more peaceful, more full of a deep-down joyful excitement. Coming soon. The words ran across Dan's heart the way they ran across the TV screen.

Then one day, only a very short time before Christmas, disappointment struck. The billboards changed. Now there was one more added.

Coming soon.

Keep watching.

Get ready.

The biggest sale in history.

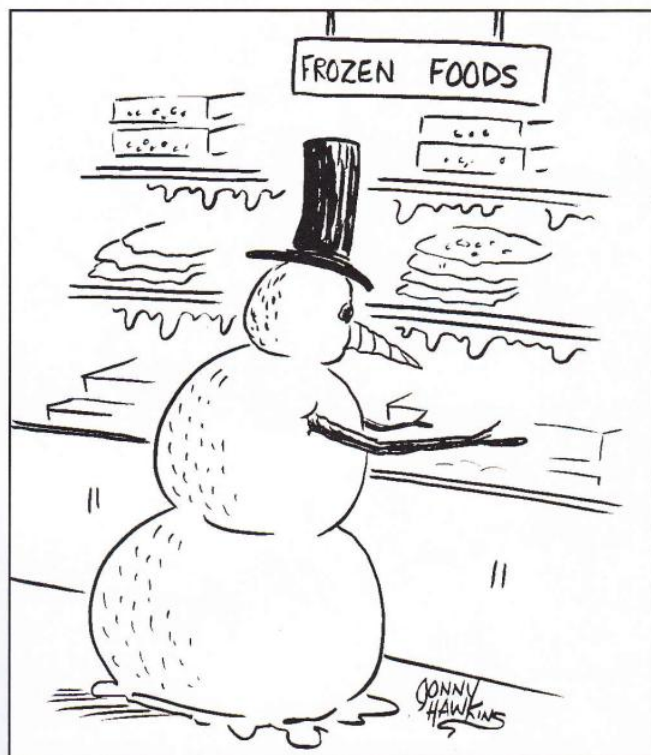
Dan studied the new billboard unhappily. Just another sales pitch. Just another commercial. Just another store. Didn't anybody care about Jesus? Didn't anybody realize the true meaning of Christmas? Didn't anybody feel the excitement and joy His birth could bring?

Suddenly it hit him. Even if nobody else felt it, he did. Even if nobody else watched and waited for Jesus with excitement, he did. Even if nobody else got ready for Christmas with a joyful heart, he did. And that was a start. He could help make a difference this Christmas and all the ones to follow.

Christmas started with one small baby born in a plain old stable. But that one birth made all the difference in the world and in hearts. That was bigger than all the billboards, all the TV ads, all the stores in the entire world, and that was good enough for Dan.

If your Mother had a baby but it's not your brother and it's not your sister, who is it? **It's YOU!** What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with a dog? **A nervous mailman!**

# COMEDY CORNER

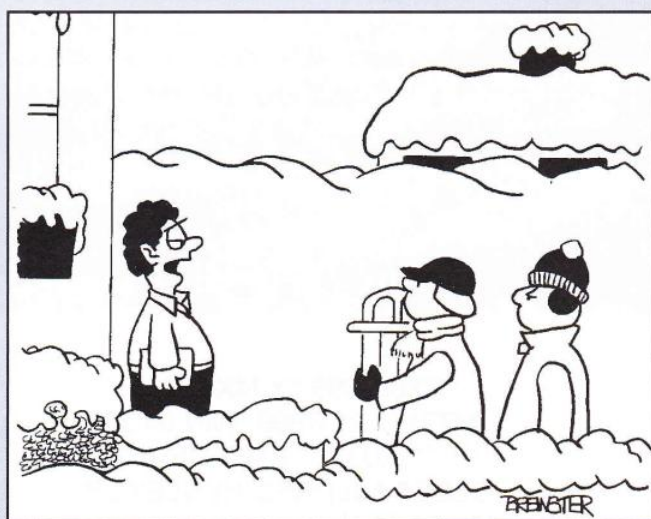


What starts with a p, ends with an e,  
and has one thousand letters?

*Post Office!*

Why did the skeleton not go to the party?

*Because he had nobody (no body) to go with!*



**"The bad thing about home schooling is  
we don't get any days off!"**



# Stewardship for You— Impacting Boys for Eternity

*"Those who have invested in Royal Rangers in the past are now reaping great dividends. It is incumbent upon us to continue to invest in the next generation of Royal Rangers."*

**Rev. Thomas Trask,**  
General Superintendent

**Christopher Dalla Rosa,**  
Adventure Rangers Program

**Matthew Klika,**  
Ranger Kids Program

**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 the amount you transfer to ministry.
- A portion of each annuity payment may be tax-free.
- If funded with appreciated assets, a portion of your payment may enjoy favorable capital gains tax treatment.
- At your death, the ministry of your choice, such as the Royal Rangers will be blessed.
- Depending upon the laws of the state in which you live, your Assemblies of God gift annuity will be issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God or Assemblies of God Foundation and will be a general obligation of the issuing organization.

## Gift Annuity Sample Rates

YOUR AGE	ANNUAL RATE
70	6.5%
80	8.0%
90	11.3%

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

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

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