

ISSUE 02

SUMMER 2006

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LEADER'S EDITION

High Adventure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS

Experience
the **ADVENTURE** of
CANOE CAMPING



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*The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom,
and humility comes before honor. — PROVERBS 15:33*

inside

High Adventure Needs Your Help!

We would like to give you
the best *High Adventure*
publication possible, and
we are asking for your
assistance. Send your name,
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*Hope to hear from
you soon!*

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GOLD MEDAL of Achievement

The Value of Royal Rangers

by David **CWIAKALA** — OUTPOST 24
Kettering Assemblies of God, Xenia, Ohio

Royal Rangers has always been my favorite experience at church. When I was involved with my first Royal Rangers outpost, I decided to stay in after I moved into the Trailblazers class. I had to get special permission from the pastor, because all of the other boys had moved to the youth group and there was no leader for my age group. Because I enjoyed Rangers so much, I chose to remain as a helper to a series of commanders who came into the outpost throughout the next four years. I also had the chance to lead my first class during this time. The experience taught me some good leadership skills. These skills will be used and further developed during my career in the United States Air Force. I have already received some benefit from the experience. In the process of applying for the AFROTC scholarship, my leadership experience was a strong point on my resume.

Upon moving to Outpost 24, I began to learn a new level of diligence in my work, specifically in earning Rangers merits. They placed a higher emphasis on the Advancement Trail, rather than just having Rangers as a place for parents to leave their kids for the evening. This emphasis taught me to work hard. I also learned the perseverance necessary to stay focused on a task put before me. Even when I did not want to do it, I stayed focused on my goal. When the work became hard or boring, I stayed with it to completion. The number one lesson I learned from Royal Rangers and striving for the GMA was a new level of diligence.

I was able to attend several campouts during my time in Rangers. These campouts were a time of enjoyment, friends, and learning. I hope to use my camping knowledge as a way to spend time with and draw closer to my future family. I learned several things about setting up a campsite and what to do on a campout. Aside from the cool stuff and being away from home, I always enjoyed time spent with friends.

The opportunity to spend time with friends has been invaluable. I hope these friendships will last a long time and will develop into very close relationships. Having close friends is important, and, if nothing else, Rangers has equipped me to go out and develop these kinds of relationships.

The Rangers ministry has helped me immensely with my spiritual growth. Rangers has been a place and time where I have learned the things of God or found a mentor when I needed one. I have learned how to have good character and a desire for it. This desire is one thing that a Christian needs most. It is the driving force behind the search for God.

I consider Rangers a profitable experience. The value of Rangers is more than just the "stuff" I learned. Though the "stuff" is valuable in its own respect and will have application in many areas of my life, it is not the true value of the ministry. The character I have developed while in Rangers, the friendships I have formed, and the life lessons I have learned are all more important than the work that I did.

by Justin **FELTKAMP** — OUTPOST 149
Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle, Hicksville, New York

Royal Rangers has played a key role in my development as a boy. It has been a long and fun-filled adventure that I will never forget. Rangers has taught me many valuable skills necessary for life. It has also been a spiritual journey for me where I have gotten closer to God and all that He has for me.

In Royal Rangers I have learned how to survive in many ways. I have learned how to use a compass and build a fire. I have also learned how to stay strong in the Lord Jesus Christ by constantly staying in the Word and praying. I have learned how to survive in school by applying God's Word to my daily life and problems. This is immeasurably valuable to me.

Rangers has also provided me a time to be with other believers so we could grow together in the Lord. I thank God for my commanders who have encouraged and pushed me, even when I did not want to listen. I will never forget the friends I have made in Rangers and all the fun we had camping in the woods together. I do not know what I would do without them. Building a drying rack for pots and pans with my friends was the greatest experience I had on a campout.

In Rangers I learned how to set goals and work hard. I always set goals for myself for merits and medals, and that helped me a lot. I know nothing can replace hard work, because I had to work very long and hard to complete my project. It also taught me to be proud of my accomplishments and to always give God the glory.

I also learned about leadership. Leadership comes at a price and takes work, but someone has to step up to the plate and help the boys in the outpost do things correctly and efficiently. Being in a leadership position also affords me a chance to be a role model, encouraging the younger boys to treat earning achievements like running a marathon. Nothing replaces helping a boy to earn a merit or to learn something new. Rangers helps me learn to help others, and that is better than anything.

Rangers has also taught me practical things to use in my daily life. I first learned to cook on a campout to earn my first merit, the Cooking Merit. I have also learned how to clean a home and how to iron clothes. I learned how to wash my clothes and how important family is. Due to Rangers, I have learned about my family and its rich history. I have a better understanding of how to respect my parents and about why I should obey them. I learned how valuable scripture is and how important it is to memorize it.

Royal Rangers are special boys. My commanders and the Rangers ministry helped me to go beyond just being a Christian by encouraging me to apply what I learned in Rangers to real life. I thank God for the ministry, because it has changed my life immensely. Royal Rangers is so valuable to my life and all that God is still going to do with it.

by **Thomas Johnson** — OUTPOST 318
First Assembly of God, Copperas Cove, Texas

Royal Rangers is a great program. No matter what age you are, this awesome curriculum can apply to you. Royal Rangers has helped me a lot. It has made me the man I am. It showed me the importance of memorizing Scripture and obeying the Golden Rule. Rangers has helped me to be courteous, courageous, and an all-around better person.

With my parents as the commanders of my Straight Arrows and Buckaroo years, I was taught to be polite and to respect my elders and those in authority over me.

By applying what I learned in Royal Rangers, I made a lot of friends and started enjoying going to church because of the fellowship. When I was 7, we changed churches. We started going to a bigger church, but the Royal Rangers program wasn't as good there. During that time, I fell away from Christ.

When I was 11, I went to AMC and realized that God should be my focus, so I rededicated my life to Him. After living without God for so long, it was hard to get back into the schedule of praying and reading my Bible, but with God's help I am managing to read my Bible and pray on a daily basis.

That same year I got a new commander, and he inspired me to work on the merits for my Gold Medal of Achievement. After he left, we got a new commander, but I continued to work on earning my badges at home. As time went on, I continued to grow spiritually. Realizing that Royal Rangers isn't about the medals (even though medals are nice to get), but about God's Word and the Holy Spirit, I knew where my focus should be. I think Royal Rangers is a great way to get kids to learn God's Word, not to mention all the exciting activities we do in Rangers.

Going to powwow was very enjoyable. I was able to meet people from other churches and spend time with my friends. At the council fire we worshipped God and prayed for each

other. These were memorable experiences for me.

Sarge Sellars Camp was another activity that helped me to grow spiritually. Not only did I earn merits, but I also had fun and made a lot of friends. It was here that I realized God should be my focus. I rededicated my life to Him and now try to live for Him every day.

Royal Rangers has helped me to grow in my walk with Christ Jesus. Now I encourage my friends to come to Royal Rangers so that they can grow in the Lord as I have. Royal Rangers can be a fun and worthwhile ministry.

Royal Rangers has meant a lot to me through these trying years and experiences. I look forward to being able to participate in more exciting activities with Rangers and would like to thank all my commanders for helping me.

by **Michael MUFORD** — OUTPOST 17
Colonial Heights A/G, Petersburg, Virginia

Royal Rangers has been a place where I have seen myself learn and grow. For several years Rangers was more about the "fun" than the actual taking of God's Word to heart. Four years ago that changed. A new commander came in, and I learned a lot more than I ever expected. I was a shy, quiet boy with a lot of anger inside. I wanted to play around but learned that was not what God wanted.

God's timing is not always our timing—that's a phrase everyone has a hard time with. Royal Rangers has taught me to be patient and to wait upon the Lord. Though I am still quiet, I have dealt with the anger and have found that I can open up about my faith a lot more easily. I don't hesitate to ask my friends to come to Rangers with me. I want them to experience what I have.

Through Royal Rangers, I learned a Code: to be alert, clean, honest, loyal, courageous, spiritual, courteous, and obedient. Keeping this Code close to my heart is helping me to stay on track. When in doubt, I can repeat it to myself and feel the confidence that comes with it.

I've learned about leadership and the responsibility that goes along with it. Going through GTC and AGTC helped me learn to be a leader among my peers. Whether in the meeting room or camping, there's a responsibility to the commanders and other boys to show respect, but also to be a leader for them. I know the boys look at me to see how they act, and knowing that helps me to be the best that I can be. I can be authoritative when needed and still let the boys know they can turn to me if they need me. I don't just follow along with the crowd, especially if I feel the crowd is doing wrong.

Camping is another fun part of Royal Rangers and something that I really enjoy. You put into action what you've learned, and seeing your accomplishments is awesome! FCF was the next step in camping. Dressing up and doing things the old-fashioned way is really cool. The knowledge I've received in FCF makes me feel good. But mostly it's about having fun!

Learning the Code and the merits for FCF has helped me to build my self-esteem. In building that self-esteem, God was preparing me for the future. I have been on two mission trips so far, and I feel that Royal Rangers helped to make me ready for them. My first-aid knowledge came in handy on the first trip, and our patience was put to the test on the second trip.

I truly believe that Royal Rangers has made me ready to face my future and whatever God has in store for me. My faith has grown and my confidence in my abilities and myself has grown. I feel God has called me into the ministry, and I'm looking forward to everything else I can get from Royal Rangers before that happens.



Experience the ADVENTURE of CANOE CAMPING

by John HICKS

Enjoying the great outdoors through camping has long been a core component of the Royal Rangers ministry. There's something about the vastness and wonder of the great outdoors that seems to call the spirit of a boy (of any age) to adventure. During summer months, adding some "creek time" to a hot and humid day in camp is always a welcome addition. One great way to enjoy the full experience of both camping and water sports is through a well-planned canoe-camping trip.

As with camping, canoeing has been a longstanding favorite with Royal Rangers. Planning your trip to cover multiple days on the water is one of the best ways to experience the fun of canoeing and camping together. If you're planning to set out on a weekend adventure, advance preparation and planning are essential. Although there are many similarities between a regular campout and a campout on the river, some notable differences exist. Consider the following when making plans for a floating campout adventure.

MAKING THE PLAN

Defining what kind of event you plan to have is the first step for any Royal Rangers adventure planning.

- Who will be eligible to participate?
- Where will we be going?
- What kinds of activities will we have?

- When will we leave and when will we return?
- Most importantly, what will we be trying to accomplish during this event (i.e. what is our purpose?).

Defining the details and leaving a float plan with others is a vital part of planning any canoe trip. By leaving a float plan, someone will know how to contact you or to initiate search procedures if you do not return as scheduled.

DEFINING THE SCHEDULE

Before leaving home it's important to determine what you'll be doing, when you'll be doing it, and who will be responsible for each activity. This insures that everyone involved is aware of individual responsibilities and is adequately prepared to fulfill their assigned duties. Keep in mind that schedules need to be flexible due to a float trip's inherent uncertainties. It is often difficult to accurately predict river variables, such as water speed and depth, natural obstacles, or traffic with other canoeists. Generally, canoe trips should be seen as leisurely activities instead of rushed or scheduled events. So be sure to leave room for flexibility when planning your time on the water and come prepared to enjoy the trip.

COOKIN' UP THE GRUB

After a long day on the water you and your crew will most likely be ready for some serious vittles (i.e. food). Paddling burns up calories, so you'll want to plan meals that are tasty, easy to prepare, and yet still provide enough

“Canoe camping offers a great experience to any Royal Rangers group looking for a way to enjoy the wonders of our nation’s many waterways.”

energy for tomorrow’s activities. Ice coolers can be bulky and cumbersome in a canoe, and most states require that they have locking lids or are otherwise tied down so they can’t spill their contents into the river on an upset. For this reason, many canoeists choose to leave the coolers at home and rely solely on non-perishables. In this respect, canoe-camping meals closely resemble foods you might prepare on a backpacking trip. Plan to cook over portable backpacking stoves rather than open fires whenever possible. Also consider freeze-dried or dehydrated meals to conserve space and weight, although many food items now commonly available from your local grocer are just as easy to prepare for much less cost. Whatever menu items you select, plan to make meal time an enjoyable part of the trip.

GATHERING THE GEAR

Once you’ve determined where you’re going, how you’re going, and what you’ll be doing once you get there, the next important step is to determine the necessary gear. Again, this is where canoe camping closely resembles a backpacking trip. Much of the “heavy-weight” gear you may be accustomed to taking on outpost campouts will have to be left behind. In its purest form, canoe camping requires carrying everything you need with you in your canoe. This means cook boxes, dining canopies, and Dutch ovens are not an option. Pack light, taking only those items you truly need. Take care to keep everything as dry as possible, especially the vitals like sleeping bags and extra clothes. No matter how hard you try, it’s almost inevitable that some water will find its way into your canoe. If you’re not properly prepared, a little water can put a real “dampener” on your fun. Dry bags, rubberized packs specifically designed for float trips or other outdoor adventures, are available at most sporting goods stores and can be a great way to keep your gear dry.

It’s also important to take note of any safety equipment and other items required by your state. Many states require that anyone under a specific age, such as 12, be wearing a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) at all times on the water. All others must have a PFD in their boat but may not be required to wear it. Many states also have regulations to prevent the spread of trash on the river, such as the rule concerning ice coolers. Some require that all gear be securely tied in and any beverage cans or plastic bottles be held in a floatable carrier. Trash bags may also be required. Check out local regulations with the appropriate agencies before setting out on any float trips. If you’re renting canoes, your outfitter should be able to provide you with the information you need.

READY FOR ANYTHING (WE HOPE)

Sometimes one of the most challenging aspects of any

Rangers adventure is planning for the unexpected. The ability to accurately foresee potential problems is, to a large degree, a learned skill—the product of experience and wisdom gained from past failures (your own and others’).

Most problems can be prevented through the practice of informed insight—and a little common sense. Be sure that at least one person in your group is currently certified in first aid and CPR. Clearly, multiple people with such training would be preferable. Plan for ways to communicate with the “outside world” on a regular basis. With the growing availability of cell phone coverage and the power of two-way radios, solving communication challenges continues getting easier. Also, take along a good weather radio to stay informed of any developing hazards. Have a plan for evacuating injured individuals, or the entire group, should circumstances make it necessary.



Finally, make sure everyone is fully informed of the plan well in advance of the trip. Be sure they know what to expect, what to bring, and what they are responsible for. Stay in contact with everyone during the days leading up to the event in case plans have to change. Float trips largely depend on

the condition of the river at the time of the float. Heavy rains (or lack thereof) can greatly affect the floatability of the section of river you plan to float. Check river conditions immediately before you leave home and again before you put in, and be prepared change your plans (or cancel them altogether) if necessary.

Canoe camping offers a great experience to any Royal Rangers group looking for a way to enjoy the wonders of our nation’s many waterways. A little planning and preparation can ensure that your group’s next outing is a great experience for all. So make your plan, call your buddies, grab your gear, and get out in it—it’s the Rangers way!

For a complete list of recommended canoe-camping equipment, see the Canoeing Merit information in the Leaders Green Merit Reference, available from Gospel Publishing House, Item 02MX2135.

For additional information about planning activities for your Royal Rangers group, refer to the activities modules of the Royal Rangers Leaders Training Academy, taught by your district leadership.

Feature Creature

by Candyce A. PETERSEN



A Strange PREDATOR

What animal

- Has no eyes, but has sensors, which can tell light from dark?
- Has no ears, but has touch receptors around its mouth and elsewhere?
- Has no nose or tongue, yet can smell or taste with special cells scattered over its body?

Don't know yet? How about these clues. This animal

- Has no lungs or gills, but breathes by absorbing oxygen through its body;
- Has no heart, no brain, and no blood, yet is a terrific predator;
- And can move up and down by forcing water in and out of its bell-shaped body, but relies on ocean currents to move horizontally.

If you guessed a jellyfish, you are right!

Jellyfish, or jellies, are found in every ocean of the world. Made of a mucus-like material the consistency of gelatin, they come in a variety of colors and sizes. Some jellies are transparent; others come in colors. Some jellies are bioluminescent, which means they make their own light. As for size, some are less than a half-inch in length, while others can reach a length of up to 100 feet!

So what is it that makes a jellyfish such an incredible predator? Their tentacles. Whether short and stubby or long and thin like human hair, tentacles surround the lower edge of the bell-shaped body. On the end of each tentacle are cells, nematocysts, which contain coiled up "harpoons." When a jelly senses the presence of food, it releases its harpoons. Some harpoons inject poison into the prey. Some sting or paralyze the prey. Others may wrap around and trap the prey; and finally, others may simply stick to it. The tentacles then bring the prey up to the mouth, which is located beneath and at the center of the bell.

As for its prey, jellyfish eat shrimp, crab, other jellyfish, and plankton (tiny plants and animals). They may sting people, but they don't eat them. Interestingly enough,

though, people do eat jellies—but only one species. The mushroom jellyfish is eaten fresh or pickled, by people in China and Japan.

Other creatures eat jellyfish too. Spadefish, sunfish, sea turtles, dolphins, seabirds, whale sharks, and other jellyfish will all eat live jellies. Anemones and starfish eat dead ones.

So the next time you are at the beach and see a jellyfish, remember not to touch it—especially its tentacles, whether they are attached or not. For it is these tentacles that are the unique, effective weapons that make the jellyfish the successful predator it is today!

WHAT SHOULD ONE DO IF STUNG BY A JELLYFISH?

- Remain calm. Only about 70 of the 2,000 species of jellyfish are poisonous.
- Using a heavy towel or glove, carefully remove the tentacles from the affected area.
- Apply vinegar or baking soda and water paste to the sting. Do not rinse with water, as water can release more poison.
- Consult a doctor, if needed.

WHAT IS JELLYFISH BLOOM?

Jellyfish bloom is a sudden, large increase in the number of jellyfish. When manufacturers dump fertilizers or raw sewage into the ocean, plankton increase in number. Fish eat the plankton and die, while jellyfish eat the plankton and increase in number. Jellyfish bloom upsets the food chain and can ruin swimming beaches.

WHAT ARE THOSE LONG RUFFLED "RIBBONS" HANGING DOWN FROM THE CENTER OF MANY KINDS OF JELLYFISH?

Those "ribbons" are called oral or mouth arms because they attach to the jelly's mouth. Most jellies have four to eight of these arms. Like tentacles, they, too, have nematocysts.

HOW DO JELLYFISH REPRODUCE?

Adult jellyfish are called medusas. When the male medusa releases his sperm and female medusa releases her eggs into the ocean, the eggs are fertilized. The fertilized eggs, now called larva, sink and attach themselves to a rock or the ocean floor. From here, the larvae grow into polyps. Months, or even years, later, the polyps, which look like small trees with many waving branches, develop ridges in their trunks and divide themselves into discs. The discs split off, forming small medusas, which now grow into adult-sized jellyfish.

Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior?

In the book of Genesis the Bible tells us God created all things, including all the unique creatures of the world. But His most prized creation is you! 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 the National Prayer Center at 1-800-4PRAYER.

ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

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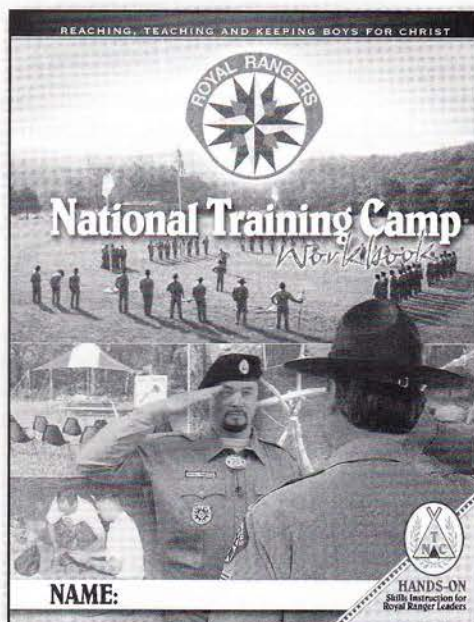
NUMBER 2

Royal Rangers Builds Disciples

As I travel around the United States, new leaders ask, "Commander, are national training camps really necessary?" Most who have attended a national training camp already know the answer, but being able to convey the benefits to new leaders and pastors is sometimes the challenge. Today, the new materials have made planning for outpost meetings easier. Reports coming from the field indicate our new commanders are doing great. While the weekly meeting was planned and accomplished with the new program, let's consider the following bonuses for attending a national training camp.

Attending national training camps, specifically NTC and RKTC (National Training Camp and Ranger Kids Training Conference), have shown the following results:

- **Being in a Small Group:** Working in a small group setting (patrols), commanders learn more about fellow patrol members. They become friends and learn how to help each other as they work together to accomplish the tasks before them.
- **Building Friendships:** Working in this setting with your patrol, commanders make lifelong friends. Most continue to write and communicate after the camp is over because of the strong friendships made.
- **Learning Outdoor Techniques:** Learning about the great outdoors, developing the skills for rope craft, outdoor cooking, and compass, and setting up tents



NTC is designed to accomplish various results in the lives of commanders.

will give commanders an appreciation for how boys feel when they are asked to learn these skills. They will also learn to prepare for outdoor activities.

- **The Evening Council Fire Services:** Each of three council fire services at NTC is designed to accomplish various results in the lives of commanders. The first service is designed for boys with singing, skit performances, and role-playing in a western setting. During the second service, commanders are challenged to evaluate their calling to ministry. The final service is for the commanders to focus on prayer for their small groups (patrol members), the boys in their outposts, their pastors and churches, and their families.

- **Developing a Sense of Accomplishment:** By the end of the NTC or RKTC, commanders have a sense of accomplishment that would be difficult to duplicate in an ordinary LTA classroom setting. Graduates of NTC or RKTC want to develop the same sense of accomplishment in their boys and patrols.

Yes, Royal Rangers builds disciples; NTC and RKTC graduates learn additional methods to accomplish the goals of reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ.

Richard Mariott



New Awards Now Available

Three new awards have recently been developed. Patches for these awards are available through Gospel Publishing House.



Highlands Merit (green border)

Visit the Highlands website at www.highlands.ag.org to help you fulfill the requirements for this merit award.

- Answer the following questions about Highlands. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper and insert it into your workbook.
 - What is Highlands?
 - Where is Highlands located?
 - What is the "Path of Life" at Highlands?
- There are 3 main groups of people who are helped by the ministry of Highlands. List them and tell how they are blessed through the Highlands ministry.
- Find and list three people in the Bible who were adopted. Choose one of the three people to use as a short devotion. Write out the devotion and have it reviewed by a commander or pastor. Schedule a time with your commander to present this devotion to your group.
- Guided by your commander or pastor, plan a fundraising event for Highlands. Promote the event throughout the entire church. Refer to the Highlands Web site for fundraising ideas. Contact Highlands for pro-life materials to distribute at your event. The fundraiser will fulfill this element for each member of your group. Send your offering to the national Benevolences Department with a paragraph describing what you did.
- Find out what your church gave to the national Benevolences Department last year, and how much was sent to Highlands. List 2 ways you can help the people in your church become more aware of the needs and testimonies of Highlands. Provide this information to your commander and pastor.



Baby Bootie Achievement Award (Gold Border)

- Physical:** Participate in a church fundraiser for Highlands/Baby Bootie Club.
- Spiritual:** Memorize Psalm 139. Read about the Baby Bootie Club in their website at www.benevolences.ag.org
- Mental:** With parent's help, set a goal of how much money to collect for the Baby Bootie Club.
- Social:** Collect money to fulfill goal. Place it into a Baby Bootie bank. Turn it in at the end of the quarter. Tell the group what the Baby Bootie Club is.



Book of Hope Achievement Award (Gold Border)

- Physical:** Make Hope bracelets with your group.
- Spiritual:** Memorize Romans 10:13-14.
- Mental:** With help from a commander, learn how to send the bracelets and money to Book of Hope International.
- Social:** Explain to your group how money was raised to send a Book of Hope with each bracelet.

Note: Order your Hope Bracelet Kits by calling 1.800.GIV.BIBL.



EVANGELISM in the CLASSROOM

by Dennis OTTALAGANO

Four Reasons to Win Children to Christ

- 1 Salvation is a priority with Jesus. He died so we (including children) might be saved.
- 2 Preteen children are often more open and receptive to salvation than older students.
- 3 When children receive salvation and are given proper instruction, they can give many productive years to serving Christ.
- 4 A child who grows up in God's control can become a great influence for good.

Teachers of preteen students should be sensitive to their spiritual needs. They are open to receiving salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Be sure your students are aware of the need for, and biblical plan for, these spiritual experiences in their lives.

Awareness of Preteens

Fifth graders like heroes. They try to pattern their lives after their heroes. Sixth graders look more for personal relationships with others. Be a personal friend

to those in your group. Let them see Christ's love in your life. Encourage each student to choose Jesus as his personal friend. Make this a regular topic of conversation in your class. If they don't hear it, they may never make the decision to accept salvation.



Preteens are interested in the Bible's answers to their questions. Help the students know what the Bible has to say about current issues. When you show them that the Bible applies to everyday situations, they will want to learn more. The best way to evangelize your group is

to see that they know and believe God's Word.

Keys to Evangelism

- 1 Bring truth to their level.
- 2 Depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance. Let the students ask questions.
- 3 Be an example of Christ's love to them.
- 4 Be familiar with applicable Bible verses and make them clear to the students.

Be straightforward with your answers. If you don't know the answer, say so and offer to research the matter. The students will respect your honesty and willingness to help them.

Create Opportunities

Preteens are open to salvation and to being baptized in the Holy Spirit. As it is appropriate in a lesson, make the students aware of the need for salvation and for baptism in the Holy Spirit. Watch for opportunities to pray with them in the classroom and during corporate prayer.

Ask God to use you to win children to Him. Be prepared. God will help you experience the thrill of leading children to Christ.



Evangelizing Children —

Breaking the Bubble Gum B A R R I E R

by Dick GRUBER

Television has become the electronic babysitter. One report stated that 850,000 American children twelve and under will be watching television at 1:00 each morning. The average child watches five hours of television each day. Multiply this by 365 days a year, and in twelve years that child has accumulated over 21,900 hours or over 912 days of TV watching. With the kind of moral input that TV gives our children it is hardly strange to witness the deteriorating spiritual condition of today's child.

If the same TV-watching child attends an Assembly of God Sunday School every week for the first twelve years of life, he has been in Sunday School 26 days. Add to that an hour each week for Royal Rangers or Missionettes and two hours for children's church. He has been in church 104 days in twelve years. One hundred and four church days balanced against 912 watching TV. This doesn't seem hardly enough.

The Call

Are children being won to the Lord in spite of social and media influence? The answer is YES! The harvest field of children is ripe.

Jesus said, "Let the little chil-

dren come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:14. The order has not been rescinded. We are still in the business of letting little children come to Jesus. When walking this earth, our Lord demonstrated a heart for children. That heart has not



changed in these last two thousand years. God still cares for boys and girls. He still says to you and me, "...do you truly love me more than these...Feed my lambs." John 21:15 (NIV)

The Barrier

A "bubble gum barrier" has been raised. Sin has raised a

wall between boys and girls and the Lord Jesus. Like sin, bubble gum is sweet, for a while. The bubble looks great when filled with air but has no substance. When under pressure, it bursts. The pleasure of sin is like the flavor in bubble gum. It lasts for a short time. Children are being held behind the bubble gum barrier of sin and destruction. We can make a difference. We can rescue the child from certain spiritual demise.

Breaking the Barrier

How can we break this bubble gum barrier? Start with prayer. This kind only comes by prayer and fasting. Pray for children, families, schools, the media, the country, the world. Pray that God will give you a new anointing of His Spirit for this important work.

Next, keep working the things that work, like Sunday School, children's church, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, Vacation Bible Schools, kids crusades, and camps. These are still valid ministries that can do much to draw in the nets, winning boys and girls to Jesus.

Explore new possibilities in outreach. Churches are starting Sidewalk Sunday Schools and Branch Sunday Schools. Latch-key ministries and TV and radio evangelism are opening new

doors of ministry. Support groups for abused children, children of divorce, and children with mental or physical handicaps can be initiated.

Call, visit, and write letters to the boys and girls. In a world where they feel lost, afraid, and hurt, you can be a friend. Your church can be a beacon of outreach, care, and security in this darkening world.

I spoke in a children's service in Orlando one night. At the conclusion of the service an altar call was given. One sweet

twelve-year-old girl buried her face in her hands crying uncontrollably. In talking with her I discovered that this was the first time she had ever been to a church. To her, Jesus was just a story people sang about at Christmas time. A friend invited her that night and the bubble gum barrier was broken. That girl found the joy of sin forgiven. How many more American children have never been invited or have never been to a church?

It takes the tip of a finger to burst the bubble. It takes the

power of God evidenced in the work of your faithful hands to break the bubble gum barrier of sin. Do not be weary in well doing. Continue to reach out to the lost children of our land. Statistics look scary, and children in this society stand on a shaken foundation, but God is bigger than societal trends and sandy soil. Jesus still loves the little children of this world. With God's help, more and more children will be won to Jesus. With God's help we will break the bubble gum barrier.

Questions For Further Study—

1. What is the "bubble gum barrier"?
2. What is being done to win children at your church?
3. What improvements could be made?



ThinkOne: CALL



ROYAL RANGERS
—INTERNATIONAL—

Royal Rangers: 71 nations, Six regions, One Call

by Douglas MARSH, Director, Royal Rangers International



God is calling Ranger leaders the world over to ThinkOne. If we “reach, teach, and keep” in agreement of purpose we become the answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:23: That Royal Rangers everywhere “may be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me....” Being one will empower Royal Rangers to let the *whole* world know about Jesus. That should excite you!

In our two previous ThinkOne articles we discussed that our ministry *purpose* is evangelism, and that our ministry *distinctive* is that we are Pentecostal-Charismatic. On this occasion we look at the driving *ideal* of our leadership—our ministry leaders are God-called and use God-methods!

In an assessment meeting held some years ago, numerous pastors were convened to help reflect on the strengths and limitations of the Royal Rangers ministry. One pastor suggested the training process was too challenging. He

exaggerated to make a point, “It is easier to become a pastor than to become a Royal Ranger leader.” One of the other members humorously quipped, “Perhaps, but being a Royal Ranger leader is a higher calling!” Everyone laughed.

No disrespect was intended toward pastors by this leader’s comments and everyone knew it. But the underlying message conveyed was serious—being a Royal Rangers leader is a high calling; it really is! We are called to minister in God’s church, and as such we should express that call in New Testament fashion.

Royal Rangers Leaders are GOD-CALLED

A call is the committed-knowledge that a particular ministry and way of life is a personal God-ordained duty and honor.

Some mischievous teenagers broke into a department store one night and changed all the price tags. The following morning customers found washing machines priced at the cost of a candy bar, and candy bars priced as computers. Pants and dresses were marked very low while toothpicks were tagged as fine furniture. The shoppers were completely confused because the values were all mixed up.

Satan has entered the world and changed all the price tags. That which is of great value has been devalued, and that with little or no value is made to look expensive. Unfortunately, the enemy has depreciated in the minds of some leaders the significance of their Royal Rangers calling to “reach, teach, and keep” students and their families for Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, in the opening of each of his letters talks about his own commissioning. Reflecting on his words¹ will help Ranger leaders understand the value of their God-call.

- I am a Royal Rangers leader “to proclaim God’s words and acts” (Romans).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader commissioned and “sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God’s plan, along with my” fellow Ranger leaders (1 Corinthians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “sent on a special mission by the Messiah, Jesus, planned by God himself” (2 Corinthians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader under contract—it “does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. I am God-commissioned! Jesus Christ rescued us from this evil world we’re in by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. God’s plan is that we all experience that rescue!” (Galatians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader “under God’s plan; I am a special agent of Christ Jesus” (Ephesians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader because I am a “committed servant of Christ Jesus” (Philippians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader “sent on a special assignment by Christ as part of God’s master plan” (Colossians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader “together with” my fellow Ranger leaders; I am not alone in this cause (1 and 2 Thessalonians).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader “under God our Savior’s command” (1 Timothy).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader “carrying out God’s plan laid out in the Message of Life by Jesus” (2 Timothy).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader because I “am God’s slave and Christ’s agent for ... getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago—and he doesn’t break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I’ve been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself” (Titus).

► I am a Royal Rangers leader in spite of hardships; I am committed! (Philemon).

Why am I a Royal Rangers leader? Because I have been called by God himself! What an honor to be called to this cause and this lifestyle; what a responsibility.

But it’s not sufficient to be called. God’s call must be expressed in God’s fashion.

Royal Ranger Leaders Use GOD-METHODS

We are not commissioned to accomplish *our* purposes or to fulfill them in our own manner! We are called to do God’s work God’s way. He calls us to be shepherds after his own heart (Jeremiah 13:5).

Fortunately, the Bible is very clear about how to live out our call. As leaders we are expected to produce *spiritual* and *numeric* growth in Royal Rangers (Acts 16:5); to be spiritual leaders who influence students to

become lifelong lovers of Jesus by following us as we follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Here are the New Testament methods that work 100% of the time used:

► Grow Royal Rangers by evangelism & discipleship (Acts 2:42-43, 47): God expects Rangers to reach the spiritually lost. Then, through our activities, advancements, and other systems, we are to diligently and intentionally teach practices that promote the lifelong lifestyle of becoming more like Jesus.

► Grow Royal Rangers by worship & prayer (Acts 2:42-43): We are to encourage and promote worship and prayer in our meetings and around campfires. God richly blesses those who call on him (Romans 10:12).

► Grow Royal Rangers by multiplication (Acts 11:19-26): We are to follow the early church model—multiplication by duplication. Every outpost should pioneer other outposts, plural. This supports world evangelism by teaching students to reproduce themselves spiritually.

► Grow Royal Rangers by compassionate service (Acts 2:44-45): Students should be mobilized to serve and to sacrifice to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people as Jesus did—with compassion.

► Grow Royal Rangers by friendship (Acts 2:46): Nurturing

strong friendships is biblical—God mandates it, students thrive on it. (More on this in our next edition of *RRI 360*.)

Royal Rangers leaders are called. The call is not intended to make us feel good or look good. No! It is all about God. For that reason, wise leaders fulfill their calling God’s way. As we serve with diligence, spiritual and numeric growth follows; guaranteed!

I think of what God is doing in Stuttgart, Germany. Martin Seiler and his leaders caught a vision of what God could do through them if they simply expressed their God-call with God-methods. Martin recently said, “We realized that if we isolated our outpost from the world, the world would infiltrate the outpost. So we determined to go to the world and change it!” Changing their world, they are! The outpost now numbers over 1,200, and they are helping establish groups around Germany and in other nations.

All the world-changing outposts I’ve had the privilege of visiting in the last years have been led by leaders convinced of their God-call, and committed to using God-methods to grow their outpost.

Let’s ThinkOne: CALL. God has established Royal Rangers in 71 nations, six regions, and gives Rangers one leadership ideal, we are God-called to reach the entire world with God-methods (2 Chronicles 30:12).

¹ Quotations taken from *The Message* by Eugene Petersen.

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Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse

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The risk of child sexual molestation in church youth programs, including Royal Rangers, remains high. Consider the following two points:

First, I recently concluded my research on church litigation that occurred 2005. The number one reason that churches were in court involved sexual molestation of a minor. This is not an issue that is going away. Sadly, my research demonstrates that no more than a third of the churches in this country are doing any screening of volunteer youth workers. Churches that continue to ignore this problem are exposing themselves, and the most vulnerable members of their congregation, to an unacceptable level of risk.

Second, the FBI profile of pedophiles contains the following statement:

Unfortunately, certain youth organizations inadvertently provide the child molester with almost everything necessary to operate a child sex ring. A scouting organization, for example, fulfills the offender's needs for access to children of a specific age or gender, a bonding mechanism to ensure the cooperation and secrecy of victims, and opportunities to spend the night with a victim or have a victim change clothing. The bonding mechanism of the scouts is especially useful to the offender. Loyalty to the leader and group, competition among boys, a system of rewards and recognition, and indoctrination through oaths and rituals can all be used to control, manipulate, and motivate victims. Leaders in such organizations, especially those who are not the parents of children involved, should be carefully screened and closely monitored."

What steps can Royal Ranger leaders take to reduce this risk? The good news is that you can significantly reduce the risk of children being sexually molested by taking the following steps:

1. Application. Churches can reduce their risk of molestation by having every applicant for youth ministry complete a "screening application." At a minimum, the application should ask for the applicant's name and address, the names of other youth-serving organizations in which the applicant has worked as an employee or volunteer, a full explanation of any prior criminal convictions, and the names of two or more references.

2. Contact references. Contact each person and organization listed as a reference in the application and request a written reference. If you do not receive back the written reference forms, then contact the references by telephone and prepare a written memorandum noting the questions asked and the reference's responses. The best references will be from other churches or charities in which the applicant has worked with minors. Examples include other churches, scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters or other mentoring organizations, YMCA, public or private schools, or youth sports. Seek a reference from any such organization in which the applicant has served. If a person has never worked with minors in any other church or charity, you must obtain personal references. However, for persons with no prior work involving minors, any personal references should come from members of your church.

3. Interview. Candidates for any youth ministry volunteer position should be interviewed. This will provide the church with an opportunity to inquire into each applicant's background and make a determination as to each person's suitability for the position under consideration.

4. Six month rule. Churches can reduce the risk of incidents of sexual molestation by adopting a policy restricting eligibility for any volunteer

At a minimum, churches should check the sex offender registry maintained by the United States Department of Justice on its website, www.nsopr.gov.

position involving the custody or supervision of minors to those persons who have been members in good standing of the church for a minimum period of time, such as six months. Such a policy gives the church an additional opportunity to evaluate applicants, and will help to repel persons seeking immediate access to potential victims.

5. Criminal records check. By performing criminal records checks, a church not only will be reducing its risk of liability in the event a child is molested on its premises or during an off-site program or activity, but more importantly, it will be protecting vulnerable children from a lifetime of suffering.

At a minimum, churches should check the sex offender registry maintained by the United States Department of Justice on its website, www.nsopr.gov. You can instantly check the sex offender registries of nearly every state simultaneously by simply inserting a person's name. No social security numbers are required. These checks are somewhat limited, since they only reveal convictions for certain sex crimes after a specified date in states that make their records available. But, it is a simple, fast and no-cost option that should be performed by any church. Be sure to make and date a copy of each search that you perform so that you can later prove that you conducted this check.

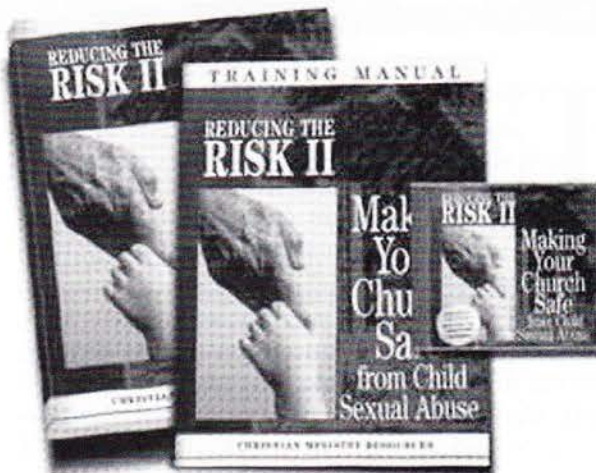
Many churches will want to do more thorough criminal records searches, and there are many options to choose from. One option is "VolunteerSelectPlus" (www.volunteerselectplus.com). All churches are eligible to use this service. In most states a national criminal records check will cost \$5, and a social security number trace will be \$2.10. Keep in mind that these rates, and the VolunteerSelectPlus program, only apply to unpaid volunteers who work with a charitable organization. The fees for employees are higher. It is true that several companies provide more thorough criminal records checks, but at a much higher cost. In the final analysis, cost is a barrier to many churches. As the price for a background check increases, the number of churches willing to use that service drops significantly. So, the issue is not which company offers the ultimate and most exhaustive criminal records check, but rather which companies offer reasonable services at a reasonable

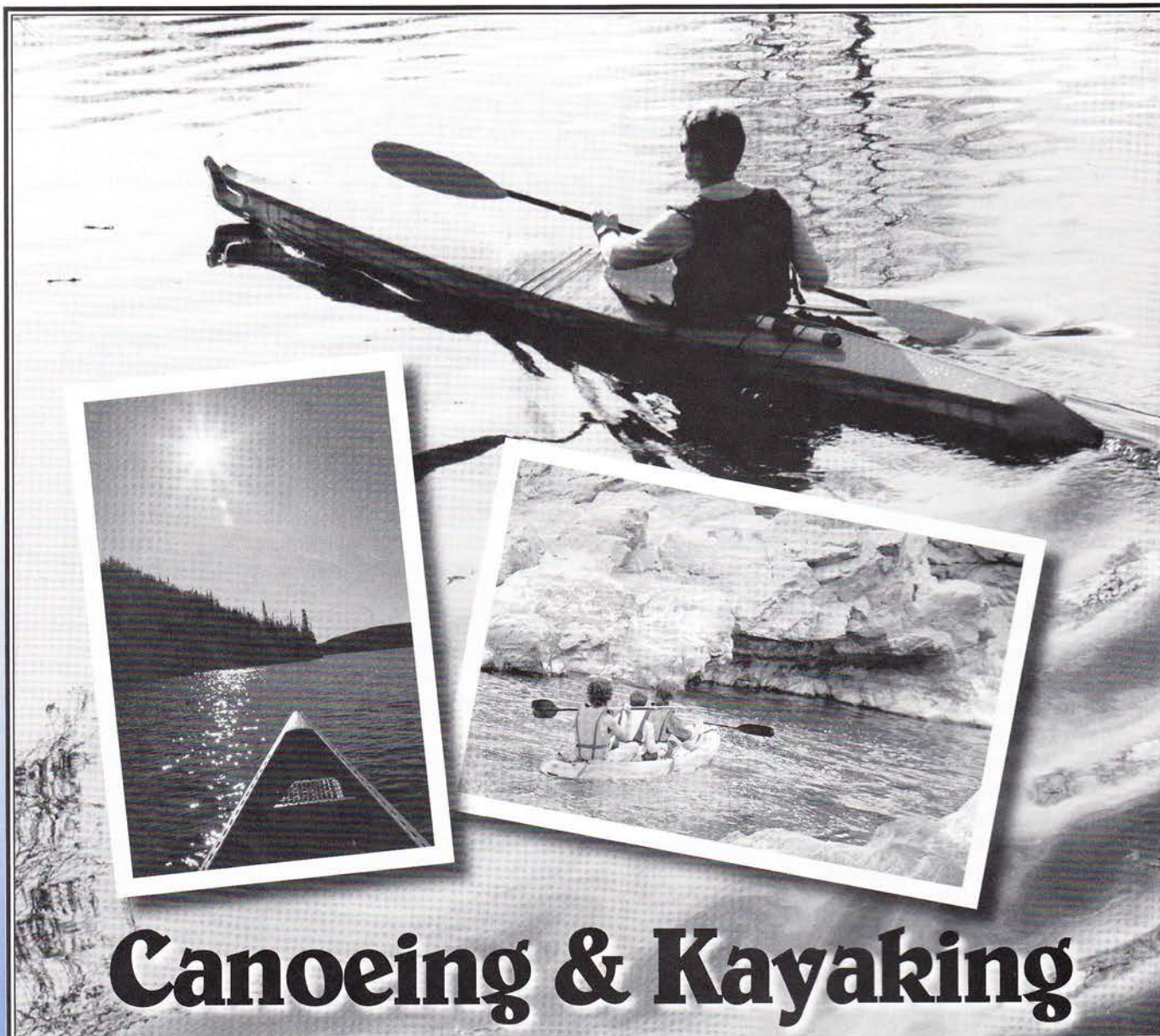
price? Further, note that several national youth serving charities have selected VolunteerSelectPlus to conduct background checks. This undermines any claim that a church would be "negligent" in using VolunteerSelectPlus.

Criminal records checks must not be viewed as the only screening procedure that a church should implement. Such checks should be viewed as simply one component of an overall risk management policy that should include the other recommendations made in this article.

6. Other precautions. There are several other precautions that churches can take to reduce the risk of child molestation. These include adequate supervision, social security number checks, limiting or prohibiting "second chances," staff training, and being alert to current legal developments.

My website, www.reducingtherisk.com, contains a wealth of information and resources that I have prepared to assist churches in reducing the risk of child molestation on church premises and during church activities. This includes an indispensable resource kit consisting of a two-hour dvd (containing six separate presentations on key topics related to screening) and an accompanying book, along with application forms and reference check forms you can use. The website also contains online training for church workers that includes tests to assess their knowledge of key issues.





Canoeing & Kayaking

Few water sports match the variety of experience found in canoeing and kayaking. From the serenity in gliding over the mirrored surface of a wilderness lake to the thrill of running white-water rapids, canoeing and kayaking offer fulfillment and challenge all their own.

Modern canoes are constructed of aluminum, plastic, and fiberglass. Aluminum canoes are light, strong, and easy to maintain. Plastic canoes are light, durable, and more flexible. Fiberglass canoes are light and strong, but subject to breakage. A

length of 16 to 18 feet is good for general purpose canoeing. A small keel will help keep your canoe on a straight course, good for canoeing on a lake, but not on a river. Although rounded bottoms are less stable, they are faster.

All kayaks are decked, or closed, boats. Typical kayak materials are plastic and fiberglass. Fiberglass is lighter and faster, but, as with canoes, subject to breakage. Plastic kayaks are tougher. Two types of kayaks are available, slalom and touring. Touring kayaks are intended primarily for flat water, bodies of water with little or no current.

In addition to your canoe or kayak, there are other pieces of equipment required to allow you to use your craft safely and effectively.

Paddles

Canoe paddles are made of wood, metal, fiberglass, plastic, or a combination of these. Wood has a nice feel, but is less durable and requires more maintenance.

Canoe paddles come in various lengths and widths, with a number of blade shapes and grip designs. A good blade width is 6 to 8 inches. The length of your paddle should reach from the ground to your nose.

Kayak paddles are double-bladed with the two blades offset 90 degrees. They are available in flat- or spoon-bladed versions, with flat blades being preferred for beginners. Kayak paddles vary in length from 6 to 7 feet.

Personal Flotation Devices

Every occupant of a canoe or kayak should wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD). Select only Coast Guard-approved type II or III PFDs. Because they are less restrictive of movement, type III PFDs are preferred for river canoeing and are a must for all kayaking.

Knee Pads

Kneeling is the safest and most effective way to paddle a canoe; knee pads will make this a much more enjoyable experience. Make your own, or purchase them from gardening or sports stores. They can rest in the bottom of the canoe or be attached to your knees.

End Lines

Attach 12- to 15-foot lengths of 1/4- to 3/8-inch nylon rope to the bow and stern of your canoe. These lines are used for towing and tying. They should be coiled and secured to the canoe when not in use.

Rescue Lines

Every craft should be equipped with a 50-foot throw rope. Polypropylene, 3/8- to 1/2-inch in diameter, is recommended because it is lightweight, inelastic, and will float.

Bailers

If your canoe takes on water, you need a means of removing it. Cap a 1-gallon plastic jug

and cut the bottom off or use a large sponge. Tie bailers to the craft so they will not be lost if you capsize.

Clothing

Dress according to the weather and anticipated hazards. Wool will keep you warm—wet or dry. A number of modern materials are available that will do the same, but with less bulk. Avoid clothing that restricts movement.

Shoes are needed for portaging, launching, landing, and walking in rocky rivers. Low-top tennis shoes or water sandals are preferred for canoeing. Wet suit booties are preferred for kayaking.

Helmet

A helmet is a must for kayaking to protect your head from obstacles on the river bottom when you capsize. Specially-designed white-water helmets are preferred.

First Aid Kit

Every canoe or kayak should be equipped with a small, waterproof first aid kit. Be sure to include sunscreen.

Waterproof Containers

Inexpensive ways to keep your equipment dry are plastic freezer bags, pails with snap-on lids, and large heavy-duty plastic bags. Seal the plastic bags by twisting the opening closed, doubling it back on itself, and securing it with a rubber band.

Safety should always be a primary concern when participating in canoeing and kayaking activities. Concentrate on prevention. Be sure you are physically fit and a good swimmer. Obtain canoeing and kayaking training and instruction in lifesaving, first aid, and CPR. Remember to wear your PFD whenever you are on the water. Always have qualified supervision and use the buddy system. Don't overload your craft. Wear proper clothing to protect you from the environment and to keep you warm when wet. Know the weather forecast and understand weather patterns so you can anticipate storms. Go to shore at the first sign of a storm or high winds.

The sport of canoeing and kayaking can be a great way to provide your outpost with exciting activities that will continue to challenge your boys to learn and grow as they continue to develop their outdoor skills.

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SITE OF FATAL
BUS CRASH
MAY 14, 1988

Royal Rangers Leaders You Are Appreciated

by Joseph S. GIRDLER, Kentucky District Superintendent

There is no way to express in words our heartfelt gratitude for all that you do. The Royal Rangers ministry is a mission, and to be understood as a missions ministry, it must be prioritized. Royal Rangers leaders build today's youth into men of God who will soon carry the torch of changing their world for Christ.

It is laborious, often burdensome, and can be quite stressful. There is too little reward seen tangibly for the countless hours, week after week, class after class, Wednesday night after Wednesday night (or whatever night you have your Royal Rangers ministry). But, it matters when you see young hearts

receive Christ and receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. When you witness hardened hearts melted and softened by the genuine fatherly love and guidance given to a child looking for an adult to give them just a little attention. When you see the smiles on their faces, hear the laughter, and see the look in their eyes at an event or when, even in the smallest of ways, they have achieved something. Somehow, we realize it matters.

About 45 years of ministry have seen tens of thousands of boys make decisions for Christ. When I was small, I didn't have the privilege of a Royal Rangers outpost, a Royal Rangers commander



speaking into my life, or the opportunities afforded a young life involved with such luxuries. When I became a pastor, I quickly learned to appreciate the dedication and commitment of our Royal Rangers leaders. Yes, all men—with the exception of one lady, a mom—wholly committed to love and reach our boys for Christ. The memories are etched in my mind and will never fade. Memories of my son's laughter, his energy to go to Royal Rangers, and his excitement while telling me what he had done that evening or on that weekend outing!

We've heard it said, "Life's most valuable lessons are seldom learned in formal training." As a dad, I make it a priority to take time to do fun things with my children, now 14 and 10 years old. They clearly are the apples of my eye! I experienced the honor of having Royal Rangers leaders who truly gave themselves to the joy and training of the Rangers in our ministry. I'll always appreciate the friendship, mentorship, and relationship they gave my son when he was in the local church Rangers ministries.

I read the story of a young successful attorney who said, "The greatest gift I ever received was a gift I got one Christmas when my dad gave me a small box. Inside was a note saying, 'Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, an hour every day after dinner. It's yours. We'll talk about what you want to talk about, we'll go where you want to go, play what you want to play. It will be your hour!'" He went on to say, "I am the result of his time." Week after week, night after night, you invest, you give, and you spend your "time." It matters.

Now, as a district superintendent, I appreciate our Kentucky district commander, Gilbert Kirby, and our commanders throughout the Bluegrass. I preach each week in a different pulpit to a different group of people and in a different city. On my travels, I get to enjoy the beauty of the Kentucky horse farms, cities, and/or countryside.

Just yesterday morning, a beautiful sunny Sunday, traveling north on I-71 between Louisville and Cincinnati, I passed a sign by the side of the road that reminded me again of how incredibly important it is to make every day count with the

ones we love—the children in our lives, our homes, our churches. The sign said, "Site of Fatal Bus Crash, May 14, 1988." I remember well when the Assemblies of God bus crash took the lives of 27 people, some of them Royal Rangers, because of a drunk driver. It was the nation's worst bus tragedy to date. May we never forget! I personalized that sign, knowing well the friends who lived that tragedy.

I thought to myself, "Thank You, God, for my children and my family. I love them so much! Thank You for the chance I have to make memories and make a difference in their lives. And, thank You for all the others who invest in them. Thank You, Lord."



It matters what you do for the children! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Ezekiel 22:30 says, "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land...but I found none." Today, Royal Rangers leaders are ministering in more than 70 nations, with more than 100,000 young people being ministered to on a weekly basis around the world (excluding U.S. statistics, according to writings read by Don Marsh, RR International). What a "land"—as the sands of the sea, a generation of young men who will lead the way as we enter the midnight hour awaiting the return of Christ for his glorious and spotless bride! What you do matters. Thank you for "being found," and for being found "faithful."

On behalf of district superintendents, local church leaders, pastors, and parents, I want you to know that I appreciate what you do. Please let your local church commanders know of our support and appreciation. We need Royal Rangers growing in vision and strength as each of us carry our part of the team mantle to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ!

Thank you again, and may the Lord always bless you for all you do!



Devotionals for Boys

by Kimberly ELLIOTT

Drive-through Service

"Christ has also introduced us to God's undeserved kindness on which we take our stand. So we are happy, as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God. But that's not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure."

— ROMANS 5:2-3 CEV

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 2 Adult leaders to act out the short skit below; one can be behind the scenes.

One leader will act like he's working the drive-up window at a local fast food restaurant. This could be behind the scenes using a microphone, or it could be face to face with the other leader. The other leader will act like he's driving through and placing his order.

Drive-up guy: Welcome to Hamburger Heaven, how may I help you?

Customer: Hi, I'd like to order your deluxe cheeseburger.

Drive-up guy: OK, one deluxe cheeseburger coming up!

Customer: Wait! I'd like that without cheese, hold the mayo, extra pickles, no lettuce or onions or tomatoes and can you switch the meat to chicken?

Drive-up guy: I thought you wanted a deluxe cheeseburger. You'd rather have a chicken sandwich?

Customer: No, I don't want a chicken sandwich! I want the deluxe cheeseburger, just hold the cheese, hold the mayo, hold the lettuce & onions, add some extra pickles and switch the meat to chicken. Oh, and can I have that on wheat bread instead of a bun?

Drive-up guy: That's definitely not a deluxe cheeseburger, but we'll serve you what you want. One "deluxe cheeseburger" with no cheese, no mayo, no lettuce, no onions, extra pickles, chicken substituted for the beef, and wheat bread instead of a bun, coming up!

Customer: By the way, your sign says the deluxe cheeseburger is on sale for 99 cents. Make sure that you don't overcharge me!

After the skit, ask the students if they thought the customer was being silly. After some response time, share with the students that many times Christians act a lot like the customer did. Many people want to be Christians but don't want everything that comes along with being a Christian. Some people see a relationship with Jesus as a way to get blessings, but they certainly don't want to go through difficult times.

Many people would place their order for Christianity in a way that is similar to what our customer did. "Jesus, I'd like to be a Christian, but could you hold the suffering, switch the part where I have to act like a Christian at all times, hold the bible reading and prayer and give me plenty of extra blessings?" That's not the way that Jesus intended for us to live our lives as Christians.

Read Romans 5:2-3 "Christ has also introduced us to God's undeserved kindness on which we take our stand. So we are happy, as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God. But that's not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure."

Remind the students that being a Christian isn't like going through the drive-through. Explain that God is with them through the good times and the not-so-good times. Remind the students that when they live their lives surrendered to God, everything that happens will help them to become more like Him.

The Right Tools

*"Everything is permissible"
— but not everything is beneficial.*

*"Everything is permissible"
— but not everything is constructive."*

—1 Corinthians 10:23

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 2 pieces of wood, each with a nail pounded in partially
- a real hammer
- another object that would not be successful in pounding in a nail (foam hammer, slipper, water balloon, etc.). Be creative!

Ask for two student volunteers and bring them to the front of the group.

Set one board with the nail pounded in partially in front of each volunteer. Explain that you are going to have a contest to see who can pound in their nail the fastest.

Hand one volunteer a hammer and the other volunteer the object that would not be successful in pounding in the nail. Ask them if they are ready to start. When the volunteer with the object that would not be successful in pounding in the nail protests (either by looking at you strangely or verbally), ask what is wrong.

The volunteer will probably tell you that it's not fair or that there's no way he can pound his nail in as fast with the tool you've given him. (You may need to ask questions to get him to this conclusion).

Tell the volunteers that you've decided that the contest is not fair and that you'll just cancel it. Tell them they can return to their seats. (If you are giving out a prize, give them both a prize for being a good help.)

Share with the students that there are certain tools that are meant to do certain things. A hammer pounds in a nail, a match starts a fire, a knife cuts your food. There is generally a right tool for each job. There's no law that prevents you from using a water balloon to pound in a nail, but it's probably not going to benefit you to do that.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive."

Explain that God has given us the proper tools to live as Christians. Our body is a tool that we use for Jesus. There are many things that we could do to our body that are permissible, but not beneficial. There's no law that prevents us from eating only candy, but it won't benefit us to do that, we'd probably get sick and get lots of cavities. There's also no law that prevents grown-ups from smoking cigarettes, but it won't benefit them, they'll have lots of side-effects.

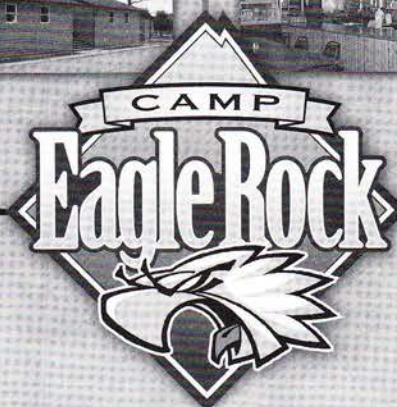
There are lots of things like that in the world. As followers of Jesus, we need to make choices that will be the most beneficial for ourselves and for our relationship with Jesus.

You can close this lesson by asking the students to think of some choices that they are making that are "permissible" but not beneficial. Pray with the students about those choices and ask Jesus to help them make decisions that will please Him.

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Frontier HOPE

by Mel THARP

We owe a great debt to the man who left us the legacy of lush, magnificent orchards that color our landscape, providing sustenance for both body and soul—John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed.

Born in Leominster, Massachusetts, in 1774, his legend continues to live, although most people think of him as a folk hero rather than a man of character and purpose who carried seeds and seedlings into the wilderness.

For example, Kentuckians still tell tales of Johnny Appleseed giving a bag of seeds and a brightly polished apple to a gangling youngster named Abe Lincoln, who was on his way home from borrowing a book from a neighbor.

Struggling with stubborn soil and faced with endless, lonely, lamp-lit hours, the pioneer settlers welcomed this benevolent wanderer, who planted not only apple seeds, but also spiritual seeds.

Deeply religious, Johnny became interested in the books of 18th-century scientist, inventor, philosopher, and theologian Samuel Swedenborg. He obtained these books from a Philadelphia importer, Mr. William Schlatter. Johnny acted as a traveling library to the settlers, leaving chapters from Swedenborg's *Heaven and Hell* on one trip and exchanging them for others on his return trip. He called these pages "good news fresh from heaven."

Johnny never neglected a needy family nor shunned the faithless. He possessed an unusual eloquence and could hold a group spellbound with the merits, beauty, importance, and delights of an apple. He used these occasions to speak in parables. It is easy to hear Johnny comparing a tree to love, for "roots, seeds, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit all work together for the good of the whole—cooperating, creating something proud and strong: a good deed from love and faith."

His profound love of nature won the respect of the Native Americans, and in the course of this relationship, he frequently acted as an intermediary between them and the settlers. This trusted friendship resulted in Johnny sharing many of the Native American medicinal remedies and herbal knowledge



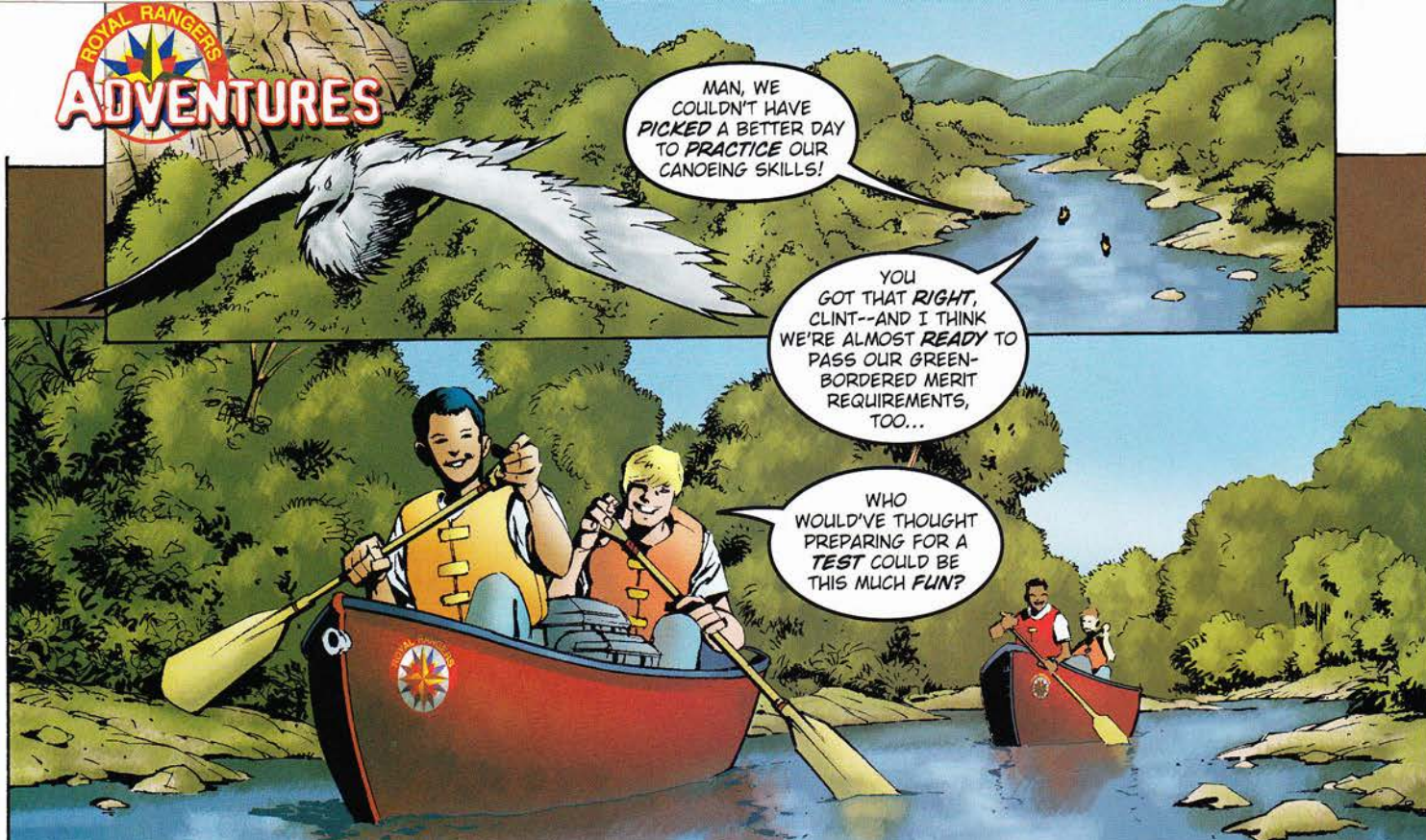
with the early pioneers. The Native Americans thought Johnny was touched by the Great Spirit. They invited him to witness their religious ceremonies, and he found their convictions and insights in harmony with his own.

By horse, canoe, and on foot, Johnny visited many states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois, and once walked from Iowa to Philadelphia to attend a Swedenborgian church convention.

In the process of roaming through the wilderness, Johnny Appleseed became a legend in his own time. In 1817, *Harper's New Monthly* published an illustrated biography entitled, "Johnny Appleseed, A National Hero," which brought him national attention. As *Harper's* put it, he was a frontier hope of "endurance that was voluntary, and of action that was creative and not sanguinary."

During the years, many honors have been bestowed upon one of the country's true heroes. Plays, books, songs, and poems have been written about him. Two famous apple recipes, the "Jonathan" and the "Chapman," were named for him.

Of all the tributes written about him, perhaps the most succinct description was by author Ophia D. Smith. "In field and meadow and forest he walked, concerned with the spacious thoughts of God. In his earthly life he was a one-man humane society, a one-man critic, a one-man missionary band, a one-man emigrant-aid society. Johnny Appleseed did not need to die to find Heaven, for Heaven was in his heart."



MAN, WE COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER DAY TO PRACTICE OUR CANOEING SKILLS!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, CLINT--AND I THINK WE'RE ALMOST READY TO PASS OUR GREEN-BORDERED MERIT REQUIREMENTS, TOO...

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT PREPARING FOR A TEST COULD BE THIS MUCH FUN?

WRITTEN, COLORED AND LETTERED BY CRAIG SCHUTT • PENCILED AND INKED BY JAVIER SALTARES



HEY, GUYS, REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT "HOLE ETIQUETTE?"

YEAH--MAKE SURE WE GIVE THOSE FISHERMEN *PLENTY* OF ROOM. WE WOULDN'T WANT TO *SPOIL* THEIR DAY, EH?



KINDA LIKE "DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU," RIGHT?

MOST DEFINITELY, NICK.



MAKE WAY! COMIN' THROUGH!

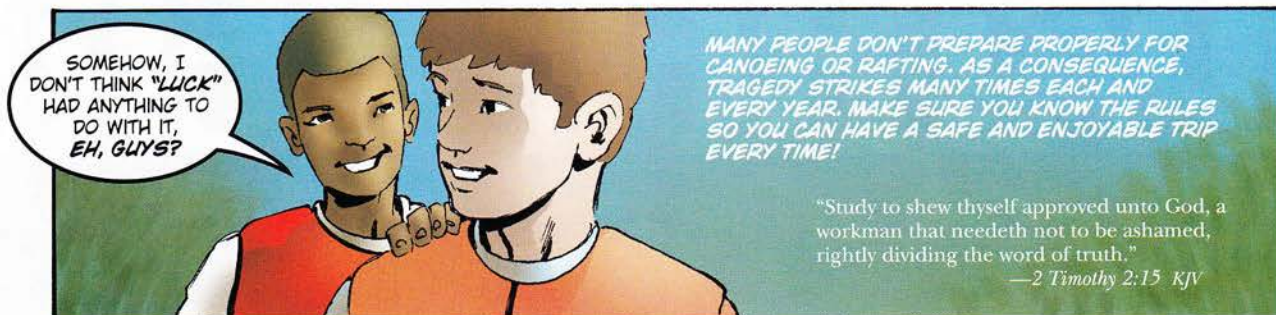
WHA?!



DID YOU *SEE* THAT? THEY'RE NOT EVEN WEARING LIFE JACKETS...

AND THAT KID'S *STANDING UP*--WITH A GUN!

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?



by Mike KING



PATHFINDERS

IN BOLIVIA



April of this past year found two teams from Tennessee in the country of Bolivia. I was honored to be a part of both Pathfinder teams building two churches for the Guarani Indians. Bolivia is located in South America below the equator. It is made up of many different terrains. The northern part has very high mountains reaching 16 to 17 thousand feet above sea level, and in the southern part it is only a few hundred feet above sea level and almost a desert. We worked in the southern part.

The Guarani Indians are the third largest people group in Bolivia. They live like they have for hundreds of years. The only jobs they can get are on the sugar cane farms many miles from their homes. When they do get work, they earn less than one dollar a day. Their villages are made up of only a few hundred members. Their houses are adobe mud huts that get remodeled after the rainy season. They are a very quiet and shy people who were so grateful that someone would come and help them build a beautiful church where they could worship.

Our workday started around 5:30 a.m. with a hot bowl of oatmeal and a cup of coffee from Mike's Restaurant. After breakfast we would sing and share the Word of God then begin our work by sun-up. The first church was made up of 17,000 bricks and the second, 20,000 bricks. We also set the window and door frames and leveled the floors that were to be poured with concrete after we left. I know when you think of concrete you think of a big truck backing up and dumping it where it is needed. This concrete was mixed on the ground and looked like a little volcano that evolved into a small lake of cement. It had to be constantly turned with shovels and mixed with the exact amount of water and then wheel-barreled to brick masons around the wall. Did I mention the water? It had to be pumped from a well a couple of miles down the road and carried on the heads of the women or in the back of a truck.

The village women's work was never-ending. They could balance five gallons of water on their heads and walk great distances. I couldn't even get the jar on my head!

After working about 10 hours a day, the locals wanted to have church. We would eat our supper, shower out of a bucket, and get ready to worship. The second team

didn't worry about showers too much because the temperature dropped to 60 degrees. The services would go for hours, and you would see our guys quietly slipping to their tents. We had several ministers on the team, so they got to share the Word each night. The altar response was good and many came for prayer.

There were several hundred children in the village, and they looked to be 5 to 10 years old. I guess the older ones were out working in the fields. The boys were excellent marksmen with their slingshots. They would shoot birds with hard mud balls, and if the birds were the right kind, the boys would tie a string around the legs and wait to sell them until someone was going to the city. The girls loved making puzzles out of a piece of string with their fingers.

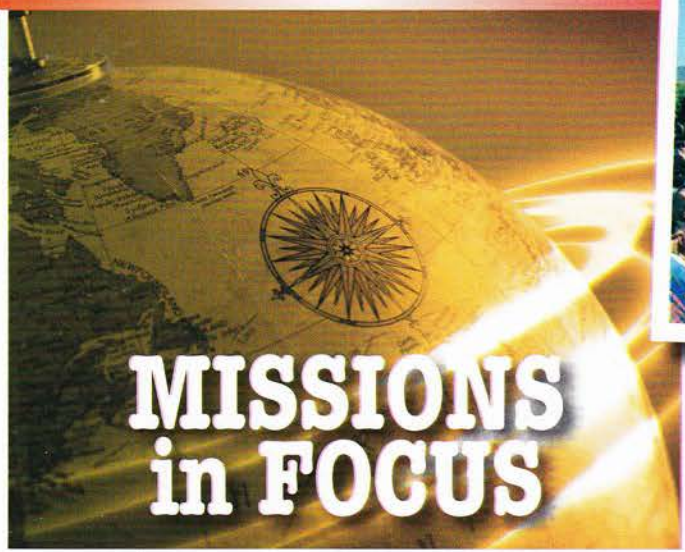
While we were there it was like a circus. The children loved the trucks. Each time one would start there would be 50 kids piled on for a ride.

After about five days of working on each of the buildings, our tasks were completed, and we headed back to Santa Cruz to be tourists and get ready for home.

I can't leave this story without telling you about the roads. On a good day, it would take seven hours to get to the village and five hours of this would be four wheeling. Of course the second team didn't experience a good day. The total distance to the village from the city was only 300 miles. My son, Matthew, was in hog heaven four wheeling through the ditches. Each of the *Speed The Light* vehicles were equipped with an electric wench and enough cable to get it dragged out when all four wheels got buried.

These projects were truly gold Pathfinder projects, and we are so glad God allowed us to be a part of reaching the Guarani people by using our skills in Bolivia. Don't miss out on the next Pathfinder adventure! Contact Mike King (mikeking5@bellsouth.net) if you need ideas for projects.

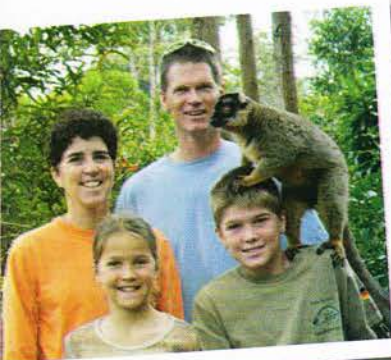




Ready...Ready for Anything!

by Nate LASHWAY

Royal Rangers played an important part in the missionary calling of our family. While attending a district Royal Rangers campout with my son, Caleb, in Montana in 2000, I had an opportunity to speak at length with Ed Corbin, a missionary to the children of South Africa who happened to be the speaker that year. Caleb and I had both been active in Royal Rangers for several years, and we knew in our hearts that God was preparing us for the next step in ministry. It was really a God-appointed time for Ed to speak into my life and reconfirm the call God was putting into my heart: to step away from 14 years of my current work as a children's pastor and Royal Rangers leader to enter into this new adventure of missionary service to children overseas.



Today, as I look back on the role Royal Rangers played in preparing us for missionary work, Caleb and I both agree that the word that sticks out most in our minds is, "Ready...Ready for Anything!" When we first accepted the call to missionary service in Madagascar, an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa, we had no idea if we'd truly be ready for anything as missionaries. But day by day, God has always been faithful to provide and enable us to perform the work He has called us to do. When our family travels into the bush of Madagascar, we have to be ready for anything.

- *Ready for any sort of food:* There is always rice, maybe skinny chicken, occasional tortoise, or warm cow's milk, once even bat (though the wings are a bit slimy).

- *Ready for any circumstance:* Whether it's speaking in French or Malagasy, enduring blazing hot sunshine during kid's crusades, overcoming cramps in your hands

during puppet songs, or dealing with mosquitoes, pouring down rain, frequent power outages, or being poked by curious Malagasy children—need I say more.

- *Ready for any sort of transport:* Taxi, four-by-four, rickshaw, ox cart, airplane, helicopter, and outrigger canoe—we've done it all.

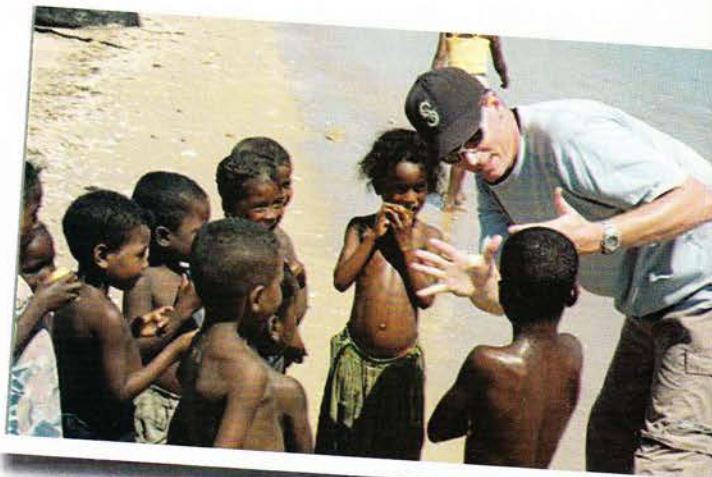
Being a missionary is an ever-changing experience. No two weeks are ever the same. But God has helped to prepare our hearts to be ready, no matter what. Ready for anything, because the children of Madagascar matter to the Lord, and He has a plan to use our family to train more Malagasies to reach the children of their nation. I can truly say that becoming missionaries is one of the best decisions we could have made. It is a real privilege to work here in this incredible island nation.

If you feel God is calling you to missionary service, it is important that you be ready. Attending church and being involved in church activities is a good start. Caleb was very involved in Royal Rangers, Sunday school, kid's church, and Junior Bible Quiz, all of which helped him spiritually to prepare for this new adventure. Talk with your pastor and your parents about the things God is placing in your heart. Dedicate your life to making a difference in the lives of others. Jesus told us to go into all the world. That begins in our own backyard, but it may end on the other side of the world, like us here in Madagascar. Whatever God is doing in your life, our challenge to you is to be, "Ready...Ready for anything!"

*Your fellow Rangers and missionaries to Madagascar,
Nate, Tammy, Caleb & Rebecca Lashway*

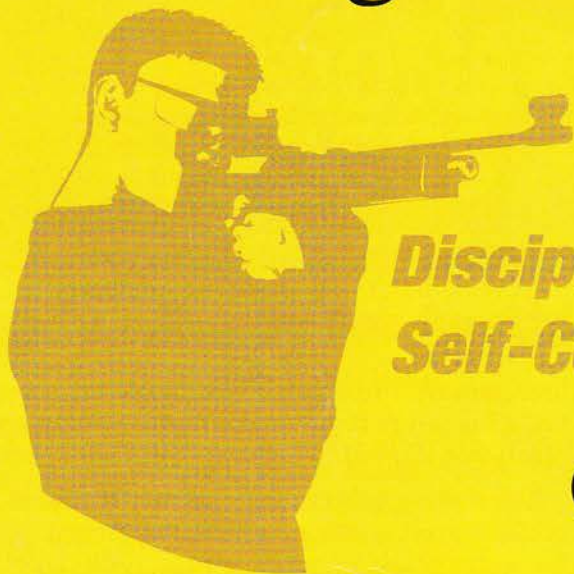
Missionaries to Madagascar's Children
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