



High Adventure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS

*Without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to him
must believe that he exists
and that he rewards those who
earnestly seek him.*

— HEBREWS 11:6 NIV

Mountain Mahem!
PUZZLE
— See PAGE 9 —

PICTURE THIS!

— See PAGE 12 —



WHERE'S MY HAT?

SEEDS of FREEDOM



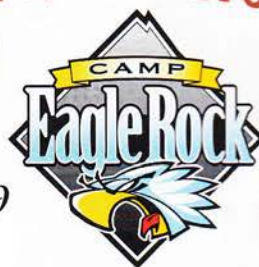
JULY 14-18, 2008



Hey Pilgrim, Come Join Us At Rendezvous!

Sojourners in a Foreign Land

— HEBREWS 11:13 —



CAMP EAGLE ROCK Eagle Rock, Missouri

GIT YER VITTLES AT THE RENDEZVOUS CAFÉ!

The Rendezvous Café was so successful at our last rendezvous that we are bringing it back for 2008. Ian Robinson, a professional executive chef, has agreed to oversee the preparation of the Café meals with a frontier flavor. Rendezvous Café meals are optional (not included with registration but available for separate, reasonable cost). So if you don't feel like fixing meals at your campsite, you can enjoy your meals at the Café and use the spare time for fun and fellowship. Sign up in advance and get a discount on all your meals. Go online at nationalrendezvous.org for more information.

COME EXPECTIN' TO HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Great Events! Lots of Color! Great Worship! Great Music! Great Prizes! Great Craftsmen and Vendors! Craig Steketee of Stek Knives, one of the nation's top Damascus knife makers, will be on site demonstrating his skills along with many other talented professional craftsmen.

The 2008 National FCF Rendezvous will be the best National Rendezvous ever. Dr. Wayne Clark, pastor of First Assembly of God, San Antonio, Texas will be our featured speaker. Dr. Clark is a gifted speaker and a tremendous promoter of Royal Rangers. Fred Deaver, national FCF president emeritus, describes Pastor Clark as "a man's man and a friend of Royal Rangers."

You will also have the opportunity to meet our national commander, Doug Marsh, and hear from his heart concerning his vision for this important ministry.

Come meet the rest of the national staff, including Jim Rounsville, national FCF president; Paul Walters, national FCF vice president; and Richard Mariott, former national commander.

We'll Be Looking for YOU at Rendezvous!

For more information visit the National Rendezvous web site at nationalrendezvous.org.



NATIONAL ROYAL RANGER OFFICE, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802

Young Bucks
REGISTRATION
\$60
If Received Before 5/13/08

Old Timers
REGISTRATION
\$70
If Received Before 5/13/08





High Adventure

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Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.

— PSALM 37:7



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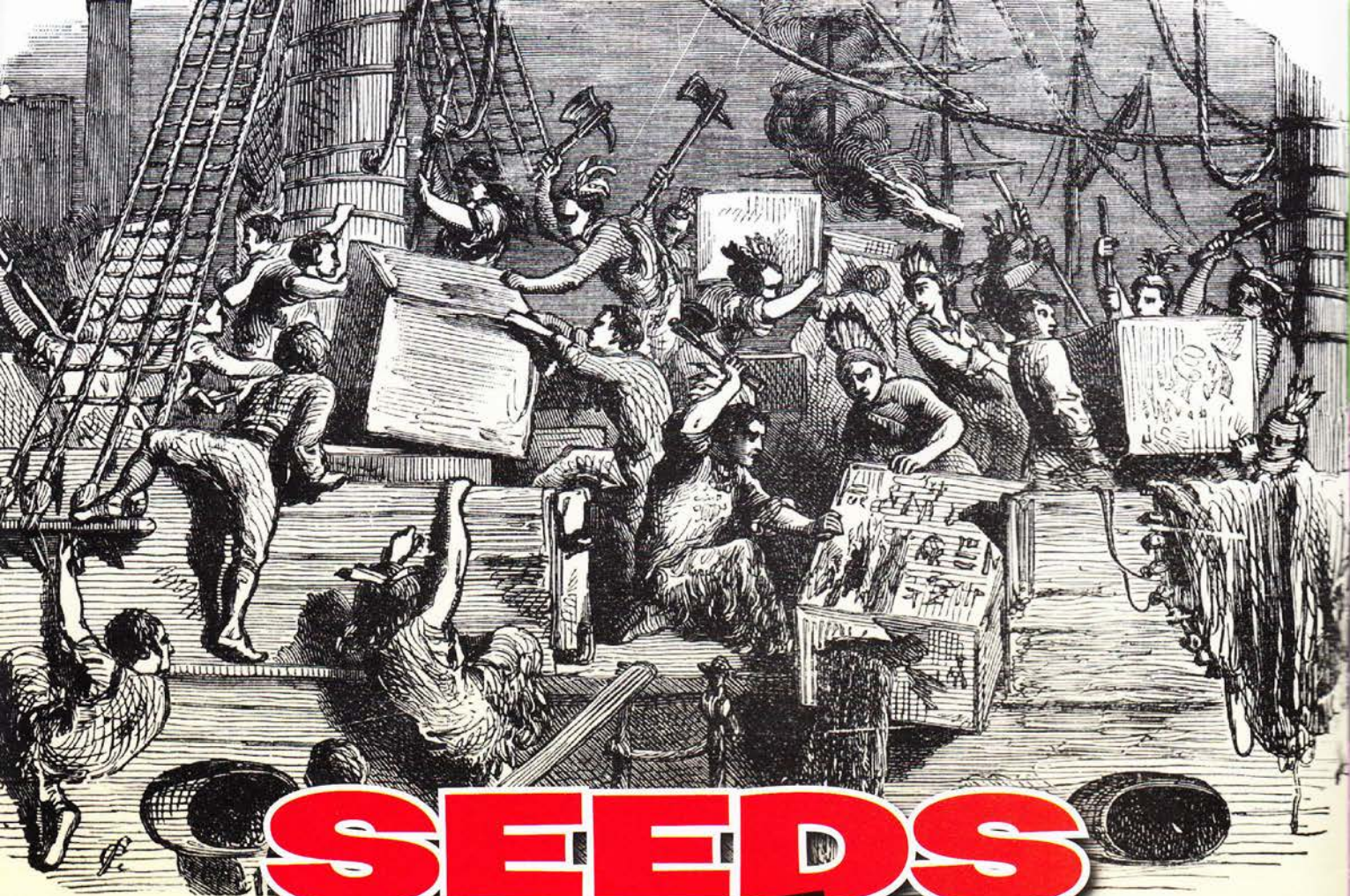
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SEEDS of FREEDOM

by June SENGPIEHL

Back in Colonial times, there were many incidents that led to the American Revolution. The seeds of individuality that were scattered all over the colonies grew into seedlings of freedom, and they bloomed into the American Revolution. We hear a lot about the patriots, and some of them were very famous. John Adams, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry—these names are familiar to us. A lot of credit for our freedom is due to these people. Many of the not-so-well-known people stood up for independence too, and this is what helped lead to our eventual freedom.

In the beginning of the difficulties between Great Britain and the colonies,

In the beginning of the difficulties between Great Britain and the colonies, one third of the people wanted independence, one third wanted to stay with Great Britain, and one third were undecided.

one third of the people wanted independence, one third wanted to stay with Great Britain, and one third were undecided. David McCullough quoted John Adams saying, "We were about one third Tories, and one third timid, and one third true blue." But in the ensuing days, certain events helped people to become decisive about the circumstances. Several very important things occurred that precipitated independence from Great Britain. Here are some of the highlights.

In 1765, Britain issued a Stamp Act that taxed newspapers, magazines, and other legal documents. This was met with a loud uproar in the colonies, and a statement of grievances was adopted and sent to Britain. Britain promptly repealed the Stamp Act.

Then came the Boston Tea Party. Britain tried to impose its will on the colonies by giving the East India Company exclusive rights to ship tea into the colonies. In December 1773, a group of Boston rebels disguised as Native Americans dumped the contents of 342 chests of tea—a cargo worth \$90,000—into the harbor waters. Among different retaliatory acts, Britain chose to close the port of Boston, sending British warships to Boston Harbor. Britain said they would only remove them when the colonists agreed to pay for the tea destroyed and to pay future duty fees as ordered by the Crown. The colonies responded by organizing delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

On April 18, 1775, in Lexington, Mass., British troops and Minutemen gathered, and several eyewitnesses swear that the British fired first. Both sides engaged in a brief battle lasting to the next day. This is often referred to as the “shot heard ‘round the world” at the Battle of Concord Bridge.

After a long struggle at the Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence was drafted and then signed on July 4, 1776. Then the war began in earnest.

While Paul Revere has been given the credit and was memorialized in a poem, many other people helped to warn the patriots about the British troops and to foil their plans. Even though they were not as pivotal in the war and the fight for independence, many of their actions were critical. If they had not contributed, we might not be a free nation today.

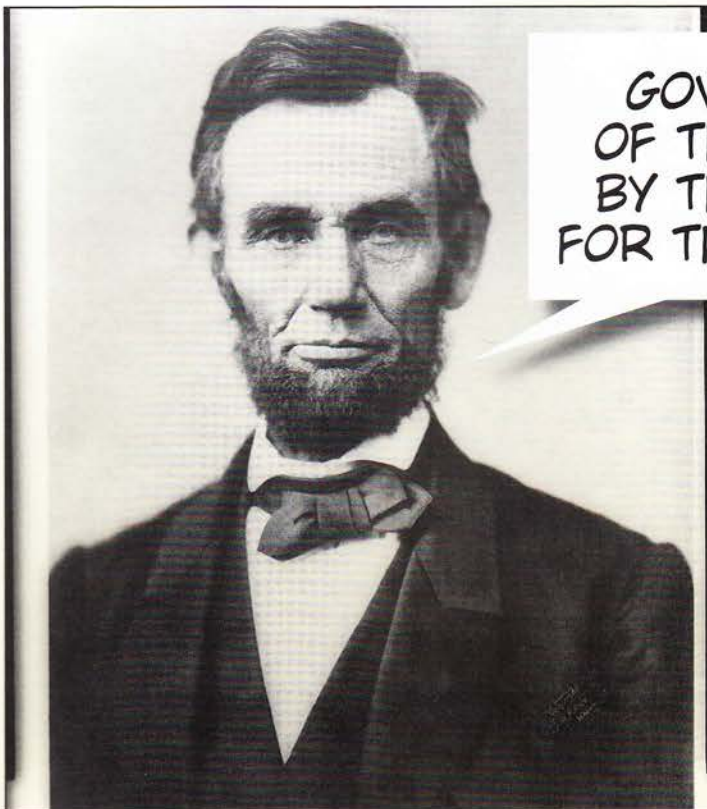
On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere, William Dawes, Jr., and Dr. Samuel Prescott rode from Boston to Lexington and Concord to warn the people that the British were coming. In Virginia, Jack Jouett rode for 40 miles at night to alert Governor Thomas Jefferson so he could escape from Banastre Tarleton’s dragons. In the future state of Delaware, Caesar Rodney, a delegate to the Continental Congress, learned that the delegates would be voting the next day in Philadelphia on the proposal for colonial independence. He rode all night through a bad thunderstorm until he reached the State House the next morning to vote with his fellow delegates.

Sybil Ludington, the teenage daughter of Militia Officer Henry Ludington, rode nearly 40 miles in Putnam County, N.Y., the night of April 26, 1777, to warn the Americans that the British were on their way to attack Danbury, Conn.

Lydia Barrington Darragh of Philadelphia listened to the British officers using a room in her house for their war councils. Then she sewed the information into covered buttons to pass on. On December 2, 1777, she heard that

the British were going to attack George Washington in two days at Whitemarsh. The next day, despite cold, snowy weather, she walked to a patriot outpost at the junction of York and Germantown roads and delivered her warning, foiling the attack.

In 1781, the British took over the Boiling’s house in City Point, Va., as Lord Cornwallis’s headquarters. Susanna Boiling, a teenager, overheard how the British planned



**GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE,
BY THE PEOPLE,
FOR THE PEOPLE...**

a surprise attack on the Marquis de Lafayette nearby. Through a tunnel built years before, Susanna slipped away that night, rowed across the Appomattox River, borrowed a farmer’s horse, and delivered the news to Lafayette’s headquarters.

How do these seeds of freedom filter down and translate into our lives today? First, as Abraham Lincoln said in

his Gettysburg Address in 1863, our “government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.” The United States of America is a republic governed by elected officials. We do not have a king.

Secondly, we celebrate Independence Day as a national holiday so we won’t forget what freedom really means and the sacrifices many Americans made for that freedom.

Finally, freedom and individuality are a way of life in our nation. The seeds of individuality that blossomed into freedom still flourish today in our country. This individuality demonstrates that we still love and practice freedom. *



WHAT IS PAINTBALL

by Bob PACE

I am often asked questions about paintball by boys. What is paintball? What are the rules? What kind of games can we play? What can I expect when I play paintball? Is it gonna hurt?

What is paintball? It is the number one adventure sport out there. When played correctly, it is a high energy, adrenaline-pumping workout, played on a relatively small field with natural obstacles, large irrigation tubes, or inflatable air bunkers. A normal team will consist of three to seven players with the general objective to eliminate their opponents. Strategy, communication, and teamwork are the skills needed to be successful at paintball. It is a way to exercise your competitive instincts and push your physical limits by allowing you to shoot these little round balls filled with oil towards the other team.

As in any sport, there are rules that keep the game safe for everyone. The foremost rule in paintball is never take your paintball mask or goggles off. The goggles are there to protect the eyes. (I just heard all the moms breathe a deep sigh of relief!) Some of the other basic rules are no blind firing, or sticking your paintball marker over a log or bunker and firing while your head is buried behind the bunker; never fire your marker above 280 FPS; and use a barrel plug when off the field. Most accidents can be avoided if participants use common sense when playing paintball. If you have to stop and think is this is a good idea or not, then it definitely is not a good idea!

So, what kind of games can you play? A basic game consists of two teams on opposite sides of the field. The objective here could be elimination of the opponent or capture the flag. Each team starts from the center of its base in the open, completely exposed to the other team. There will be obstacles for the teams to hide behind when the game starts. A player is eliminated when hit with a paintball, leaving a mark at least the size of a quarter. A player can also be eliminated if he runs out of paintballs or air in the marker. Time limits will definitely make this game more exciting.

Woodsball or scenario paintball is played in the woods. Using natural landmarks like tress

as boundaries will mark the territory of each team. Each team will need to establish a base in their territory. An area for all eliminated players will also need to be clearly marked. The objective is to eliminate the opposing team. With a larger area to cover, strategy and communication are very important for success. One advantage of this game is that more players involved at one time; one drawback is that sometimes these games can last too long. If you are eliminated early, you may be sitting out for a while.

Speedball is a variation of paintball that is played on a small field at a very

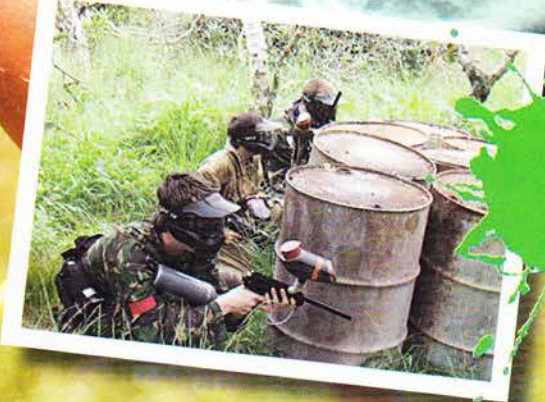
quick pace. Players are in close proximity to each other at the start of the game. The only barriers on the field are man-made bunkers. Stealth is not as important as teamwork; timing, accurate shooting, and strategy are important in this fast-paced game. The objective is to eliminate the other team or capture their flag and return it to your base. Speedball is intended for people who like to run, dive, slide, shoot fast, play hard, and get dirty. I know, that's you, right?

So what can you expect when you play paintball? You can expect to have a lot of fun, building a team that can work together. You can expect to get hit a couple of times and get messy. You can expect to remember your paintball experience for a long time. You will definitely want to invite as many friends as possible to the next paintball event.

Oh! That last question was about it hurting? Well my answer will always be, "No way!" But you'll have to find out for yourself. *



PAINTBALL?



FREE DANCE

Feature Creature

by Tom R. KOVACH



North America's Gentle Giants

BLACK BEARS

They might look cute and cuddly. The cubs could easily pass for stuffed toys. Black bears are wild animals, though, and they do pack a bite.

Found in North America in habitats ranging from swamps and forests to deserts, the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*), is a very interesting creature. Once common all over the United States, the black bear is starting to make a comeback in many parts of the country. They certainly are present in central and northern Minnesota.

In the past few years, I've run into bears here in north-central Minnesota on a number of occasions. Sometimes these run-ins were rather unexpected. You usually have very little to worry about, as long as you don't get between a mother bear and her cubs. In most cases, bears will run when you get close to them.

There are a number of subspecies of black bears. One thing they all have in common is that, although classified as a carnivore, the black bear is a true omnivore and feeds on a wide range of foods.

Vegetable matter almost always comprises the bulk of a black bear's diet. In particular, fresh leaves, grass, fruit, berries, nuts and tubers are favorite seasonal foods with insects and small mammals on the menu when the opportunity arises.

Some years ago, an albino black bear was causing quite a stir near Orr, Minnesota. Actually, it was more of a cream-colored bear. It became a pretty popular photography target.

When I lived on Crow-Wing Lake, bears were constantly raiding my hummingbird feeder. Also, not too long ago, a mama bear and her three cubs came into the yard, noshing on the fresh grass and playing on the picnic table.

It's easy to see where black bears have been. If conditions are right, they leave very distinctive tracks. They frequently break branches of nut- or fruit-bearing trees while feeding. They also tear up the ground in search of insects and roots. Bears will strip bark from trees while looking for insects or juicy pulp and will rub themselves on rough tree bark for a massage.

On a nearby farm, I watched a bear eat choke cherries. When he got as many as he could reach, he climbed, or tried to climb, the tree and came tumbling down as the small branches gave way under his weight.

According to Minnesota game officials, black bears in the Bigfork, Minn., area have a strange propensity for power poles. The bruins stand on their hind feet, and, at 6

feet above the ground, chew the poles right to the core. Their strange hankering for wooden power poles has caused up to \$60,000 worth of damage to North Itasca Electric Cooperative poles.

This odd behavior has been going on for years and has the Department of Natural Resources and power company officials baffled. One theory is that the preservatives in the wood are attracting the bears.

In northern climates, bears hibernate, a prolonged sleeplike state. In warmer climates, only the females enter this stage. During this time, they give birth to their young. However, it is only a semi-sleep stage. A man from Maine found this out when his pet beagle fell into a mama bear's den and was soon adopted by the bear, who thought the little dog was one of her cubs. The poor dog had to be rescued by some wildlife officials.

Normally bears give birth to two cubs, but lately I've noticed some with three. Like with other wild animals, if the habitat and food sources are good, the bears will have more offspring.

Don't feed bears or try to attract them in any way. Bears are smart, and they quickly learn how to get an easy meal. If they become dependent on human handouts, this could mean more frequent contact with people and a greater chance of danger for both humans and bears. Bring in dog dishes and birdfeeders at night if you can. Keep any garbage well-covered or concealed.

I like to hike, and on many of my walks I've encountered black bears, but I give them as much space as possible. A couple of years ago, one bear did chase me. While it set my heart a-beating, it was rather half-hearted on the bear's part, and she gave up after I ran a few yards.

Wildlife officials tell you not to run from bears, but believe me, it's hard not to when a big, burly creature comes running at you. They can climb trees too! Usually bears will make mock charges, woofing a little, and then they'll back off. Never get between a mama bear and her cubs or try to pet or threaten bears in any way.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has some advice if you encounter a bear in your yard or in the wild. Don't panic. Don't run, like I did. Do not try to shoot the bear, and do not approach it. Most bears fear humans and will leave as soon as they see you.

If the bear refuses to leave, make loud noises or wave something, like a shirt or hat, in the air to scare it off. Always allow a bear an escape route. If a bear woofs, snaps its jaws, slaps the ground, or makes bluff charges, you are too close. Leave tired bears alone. It makes a bear very nervous if you and your friends are standing under a tree looking up at it.

In many parts of the country, this beautiful creature is making a dramatic comeback. They are quite plentiful in central Minnesota, and it's kind of nice to have them around.

They're fun to observe from a safe distance. Not long ago, I watched for several minutes as a young bear scampered around in a field of flowers, chasing butterflies. One spring I had the good fortune to observe a mama bear and her three cubs as they played and ate in my yard for several days at a time. A big male black bear was also a regular visitor in the yard that spring.

It's certainly enjoyable to be able to share some outdoor living space with these big, wonderful animals. However, always remember to use common sense and show respect when dealing with black bears. That's a good rule to follow when dealing with any wild animal. *



HIGH ADVENTURE *Leader*

REACH • TEACH • KEEP BOYS FOR JESUS CHRIST



Our Pledge

With God's help, I will do my best to serve God.



OUR PLEDGE:
With God's Help,
"I Will Do My
Best to Serve."

Royal Rangers are missional leaders.
Missional leaders are servants!

— PART TWO IN A SERIES OF FOUR ARTICLES —

by Doug MARSH, National Commander

In the corporate world, men are appointed to lead; in the Kingdom, men are anointed to serve. Servant leaders make outstanding Royal Rangers leaders. Jesus, our leadership model, "made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:7).

A beggar regularly sat outside the gate of a rich man's home because he was especially kind and generous. One day the rich man wanted to send an urgent message across town, but his servants were occupied with other urgent matters. So the rich man asked the beggar if he would make the delivery.

Annoyed, the beggar lifted himself up off the ground and answered with pride, "I take handouts, Sir, but I do not take messages." How often do we treat our Master Ranger this way? He asks us to serve others as a means of taking the message around the world, and we have the daring to respond, "No, Lord. I accept your kindnesses, but I do not accept your charge to serve."

As Royal Rangers leaders, we are called to evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christ-like men and lifelong servant leaders.

But exceptional *servant leadership* is the last thing the enemy wants you and me to learn because it is *our chief means of influencing boys for eternity.*

A.W. Tozer wrote, "Being made in the image of God, our heart has the capacity to expand in almost any direction. But the world's greatest tragedy is that we allow our hearts to shrink until there is room in them

for little besides ourselves." If the enemy can keep you self-absorbed, he can keep your influence small; but if your soul is ignited by service, your influence will be great.

Jesus modeled servant leadership by focusing on the needs of others as His primary means of influence; His behaviors and attitudes were other-centered. We, too, must lift our eyes off ourselves and fix them on the men and boys in our care.

Each time we say, "With God's help, I will do my best to serve..." we are taking a solemn pledge to be exceptional at service to "God, our church, and our fellowman."

Dr. Kathleen Patterson of Regent University has identified seven biblical constructs of servant leadership that will enable us to live our service-pledge. So gear-up! We have a world to serve.

Gear-Up with Love

Servant leaders love people. Love is doing the right thing at the right time with the right motives.

Moses was a loving leader. But his actions, timing, and motives were not in alignment from day one. He learned servant leadership through hard knocks. At first he was wrapped up in himself; he thought he was really something and he committed murder. Not exactly a model of love, is it? When his actions did not garner the admiration of his people, he ran for dear life into the wilderness and watched sheep in seclusion for 40 long years. Through the whole time he thought he was nothing. But in the process he learned God is everything and he went on to lovingly deliver a nation from bondage.

The sooner we learn to genuinely love boys and give ourselves for them as Jesus gave himself for you and me, the sooner God can really use us to deliver boys from bondage.

Servant leaders love others as a means of influence. Don't slip into the faulty thinking that the Royal Rangers program, as good as it is, is what influences the lives of boys. It is you; your love radically impacts their lives!

Yes, we think the world of Royal Rangers; it is a very effective tool. When you study the Royal Rangers program or curriculum, use your head, but when you apply it to boys, use your heart. God does not use ace programs to transform people. God uses anointed, loving people to transform people. Use Royal Rangers as a tool to:

- Catch boys doing things right.
- Say, "I understand you; I love you."
- Give boys a place to belong.
- Show boys they are valued.
- Laugh and have fun.
- Evangelize the world.
- Equip the next generation of men.
- Model Christ-like manhood and servant leadership.

While fishing, a teen snagged his older brother's ear with a new and expensive lure. After a long hike and a bumpy ride back to civilization in an old Jeep, they found a clinic. During examination, the doctor muttered, "I'll have to cut the hook off first." Upset that he would lose his new lure the teenager showed his disgust, "You only do that when they swallow it!"

What a selfish answer! But this is exactly what we look like to others when we are program-focused rather than people-focused. Servant leaders are compelled to love; they are people-focused primarily as a means of influence.

A country preacher once said, "If you see a turtle on the fence post, you can bet one thing for sure; he did not get there by himself." Loving servant leaders lift boys to places no program can place them. When we love, we influence others; we serve with excellence.

Gear-Up with Humility

Dr. Kathleen Patterson suggests humility is "the non-overestimation of one's own merits." That is, you keep your own accomplishments in perspective; you accept yourself and remain others-centered in your behavior and attitude.

Herein we discover an important truth—humility is consistent with a healthy ego. A servant leader can be confident and unassuming, both. This attitude allows you to respect the worth of the young men and fellow leaders around you without projecting yourself as superior.

Joseph became a servant leader who saved millions from starvation. But remember what happened when he arrogantly announced to his brothers they would someday bow to him? That got him thrown into a pit and sold into slavery. For years men maligned, rejected, misunderstood, imprisoned, mocked, and ridiculed him. Yet, he emerged as an exceptional servant leader. Arrogance put him in a pit; humility made him prime minister.

Great leaders are marked by humility. It is what makes them willing to serve, to listen, to learn, to seek and accept advice, to receive criticism, to admit wrong, to change, and to be held accountable.

Another mark of humility is the willingness to serve without fanfare. The old adage is true: "There are no limits to the good a man can do, if he doesn't care who gets the credit." A friend of mine likes to say, "The man who wants to direct the choir and orchestra must turn his back on the audience."

Arrogance is a mark of smallness, a sin, and a repellent of people, especially boys and young men. Contrary to popular thought, humility, not pride, is a mark of greatness, a means of influence, and the path to greatness (Mt. 20:16).

In a day when image is valued more than character and personal charisma is soaked in arrogance, it is important to be reminded God cuts the prideful down but He exalts the humble (Luke 14:11). Confident, unassuming, and others-centeredness is God's criteria for exaltation. When we are humble, we influence others; we serve with excellence.



**LOVE
HUMILITY
ALTRUISM
VISION
TRUST
EMPOWERMENT
SERVICE**

Gear-Up with Altruism

Altruism is a big word but easy to understand. It is serving just for the sake of serving; it is doing the right thing just because it is the right thing to do. Servant leaders see a need, not a reward. They serve even at risk to themselves; they are motivated by unselfish concern for others. Altruistic leaders are driven to serve from a desire to cooperate with God's great plans, not from a desire to compete with others.

A sports commentator asked an Olympic winner in an interview, "Were you watching the competition?" He responded, "I never watch the competition. I watch the clock. I'm competing against myself, not them." Winners keep their focus. Competition fixes the leaders' eyes back on themselves in a manner that is inconsistent with their focus on servicing the needs of others as their primary means of influence.

When tempted to compete, remember you will be judged for completing His plans for your life, not by competing with the plans He designed for others (John 17:4). A servant leader serves just for the sake of serving, not for the sake of reward or status. It is just the right thing to do.

Two brothers, ages four and six were in a heated argument over who should go first. Realizing the debate was going nowhere, the older brother changed his tactic: "You know, Jesus did say that the first will be last and the last will be first, so it is better to be last." The younger brother thought about it for a moment and answered, "Well, then, I'll go last." "Great!" exclaimed the six-year-old, "I'll go first!"

This underscores an important quality of altruism. The servant leaders' motive is the well-being of others, not self; they are radically committed to leading for the good of others, not for their personal gain.

Manipulation and motivation are not synonymous!

- ▶ The manipulative leaders ask you and me to do something for their own personal good.
- ▶ The motivating leaders, the servant leaders, ask you and me to do something for our own personal good and/or the good of our mutual cause.

Servant leaders understand their personal success begins with giving, not getting; it starts with their ability to recognize and meet the needs of others. Altruism causes the leader to do the right thing just because it is the right thing to do, even when it involves personal risk. When we are altruistic, we influence others; we serve with excellence.

Gear-Up with Vision

The primary focus and vision of servant leaders is on the individual. They are forward-looking. They see today's boy as a custom project in the Master Ranger's hands, tomorrow's godly man in the making. Servant leaders see themselves as tools, helping boys attain a larger vision of purpose than they might otherwise be able to attain.

I remember attending Outpost 6 in Springfield, Missouri as a 12-year-old Trailblazer. My commander was David North. I confided that I had been called to become a Royal Rangers missionary. He caught a vision for me. It might have been easy for him to smile at me outwardly and inwardly think, "Well, here is another boy with a pipe dream. Ha, ha, ha! Good luck, kid." Not a chance! He listened, spoke words of encouragement, and dared to tell others I'd someday become a Royal Rangers missionary. The rest, as they say, is history. I'm glad David did not grow faint, second-guess the impact of his ministry in Rangers, and lose his vision for me (and many others).

Visionary Royal Rangers leaders have faith in God's ability to work in boys' lives. They can sense the unknowable, know



*The most valued characteristic of a person, in any venue of life, has been shown to be **trustworthiness.***

The old adage is true: "You cannot make a good deal with a bad person."

Without trust, there is no foundation for leadership or relationship.

*Servant leaders know that building trust builds influence and enables them to serve **with excellence.***

boys' potential, and help them see the possibilities. Since servant leaders can "see" where boys are headed, they serve them better with clear purpose, direction, and dignity. Their ability to see the unseen potential in boys leads them to speak blessings into boys' lives that emboldens them to accomplish goals as self-fulfilling prophecies.

Servant leaders have a vision for others as a means of influence. They ask, "How can I help this boy become the man God intends for him to be?" They aren't boys being run through an impersonal mechanical system, they are unique individual boys you have caught a vision for—a vision to evangelize, equip, and empower them to become the next generation of Christ-like men and lifelong servant leaders.

When we dream a God-vision for boys, we influence them; we serve them with excellence.

Gear-Up with Trust

The surest sign of a trustworthy leader is him keeping his word; that is, his words and actions are consistent. A leader's word is the measure of his character. People do not trust in someone who does not keep his word because to do so is to trust a lie.

While secular leaders are concerned first with how they lead, servant leaders are concerned first with how they live. Ranger leaders know boys are imitating them.

Not only is trust built with integrity but it is also fostered by showing personal concern and love for others. The adage is true: "Boys don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Leadership influence is determined by relationship. The reality is leaders only have the influence others permit them to have (unless, of course, they chose to lead by fear and intimidation, which is manipulative leadership!). Servant leaders are radically committed to leading with love, to leading relationally.

Build friendships! Tear down walls that hinder closeness from growing between you and those you are called to influence. Learn to relate! Go ahead ordering a Dulce de Leche Frappuccino® Blended Crème at your local Starbucks® is not really that hard. Get an Expedition Ranger to teach you, and he will love you for asking.

The most valued characteristic of a person, in any venue of life, has been shown to be trustworthiness. The old adage is true: "You cannot make a good deal with a bad person." Without trust, there is no foundation for leadership or relationship.

The outcome distrust is discord and disharmony. Trust is built on truth; people extend trust to you to the limit of truth and no more. Servant leaders know that building trust builds influence and enables them to serve with excellence.

The net result of trust is relationships are deepened, common goals are attained, and boys, like their leaders, embody dependability. What is more, your moral, ethical, and spiritual standards build security into the lives of those around you and enhance their well-being. When we are trustworthy, we influence others; we serve with excellence.

Gear-up with Empowerment

Empowerment is power sharing. Servant leaders share influence with others. They don't view leadership as acquiring and hoarding position or privilege but as fulfilling their responsibility to serve people.

Jesus empowered and released the people He led so they could



achieve greater accomplishments than the ones He himself performed (John 14:12). This means you are willing to create the conditions and supply the resources that others need to succeed without being threatened by their resulting growth and success in service.

Veteran missionary George Davis has been my personal friend and mentor for many years. He was an empowering leader for me and for others for decades. His life is characterized by having produced dozens of capable leaders who have gone on to accomplish great things in the Kingdom. He was fond of naming popular sports stars and asking if you knew who their personal trainer was; of course, hardly anyone knows that. He believed that was a primary role of every leader—to mentor next generation leaders without fanfare. George taught me that empowerment involves listening, making people feel significant, placing emphasis on teamwork, and valuing love and equality.



Empowerment is achieved by mentoring boys (which is training them to meet expectations), by developing their skills, and by building their God-confidence. Then you release them for ministry and service. This builds boys and young men, like you, into lifelong servant leaders. Suddenly, you are no longer leading a few boys you are leading a movement!

Empowerment allows you to influence an ever-greater number of people and serve them with excellence. In turn, they influence a greater number of people and serve them with excellence. Empowerment begets service, ultimately permeating the entire outpost and beyond.

Gear-Up with Service

Servitude and service are different. Servitude is involuntary. Service is voluntary.

Rangers are passionate about being servant leaders because sin results in servitude. But Jesus' sacrifice lifts us from servitude to sin to service to God and His purposes. We were not drafted; we enlisted to serve boys first as a way to influence them. Our service then opens the door allowing us to lead them, to influence them to be Christ-followers! We serve first, lead second (1 John 4:19).

I'm a father of two and love it. One of the memories every parent has is when his child brings him a picture he's drawn or a flower she's picked and says, "This is for you just because I love you." Wow! Life in that moment can't get better. One of the greatest gifts we give our heavenly Father is our service to people He loves and died for.

We serve by getting involved in boys' lives. We give time, energy, and finances. We are genuine and authentic; we create a place for boys to belong. We listen and lead with compassion.

Experienced leaders know that if they win someone to themselves they can win them to the Lord. Concisely, that is what Royal Rangers is about—giving mentors the tools to win boys to themselves by serving them so they can win them to the Lord. The net result is our combined service as Royal Rangers leaders introduces millions of boys to freedom from

servitude to sin to a life of service to the Master Ranger.

Is practicing servant leadership easy? Not at all! In fact, if you lead as a servant, people will at times treat you like one. Someone has said, "Being pressed into service often means being pressed out of shape." But the outcome of living our service pledge is well worth it:

► Boys will follow because they identify with and commit themselves to strong leaders who love them and have their best interests at heart.

- Boys will expend greater personal effort to grow in the Lord, in leadership, in advancements, and in service because of your example.
- Boys will be self-motivated, meaning leaders have to expend less energy "rallying the troops."
- Boys will join the leaders cause to evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christ-like men and lifelong servant leaders. This transforms leaders from leaders-of-followers to leaders-of-leaders; this is where growth turns from addition to multiplication.

Ancient Greek sculptors were in the habit of tearing the nails from their thumbs in order to detect with the quick of their flesh even a minute rough spot. If any flaw could be discovered even by this extreme measure, the marble was not smooth enough for them. They were dominated by a desire for excellence regardless of the sacrifice. As Royal Rangers leaders, let us pay the price to be true to our service pledge so that God can use us as tools to craft the next generation of men.

Royal Rangers, when you recite our pledge, "With God's help, **I will do my BEST to SERVE** God, my church, and my fellowman..." you are making a radical commitment to be an exceptional servant leader. Why? Because we are on a mission to reach, teach, and keep every Ranger-aged student in the world for Christ. To accomplish that, we must serve because service is our chief means of influencing boys for eternity. ✎



Royal Rangers
NATIONAL BOYS MINISTRIES

L. Alton Garrison
Division of Church Ministries, Chairman

Doug Marsh
National Commander

October 2007

Dear Royal Rangers Leaders:

The National Royal Rangers Ministries office is listening to you!

One of the concerns you addressed in the Royal Rangers-Question, Learn, and Change (RR-QLC) survey conducted on the national website is that many of the merits require entirely too much writing. And you were right! (Yes, the pun was intentional.)

As a result, we are announcing some tips to reduce the pencil time, making the merits more fun, hands-on, and experiential. I invite you to carefully read the article, "Making Merits Interactive," by John Hicks the national communications and administrative coordinator.

Thank you for speaking; we are listening. The entire National Royal Rangers Ministry team is dedicated to equipping you to influence more boys and young men for Christ than ever, more effectively than ever!

Honored to be serving with you,

Doug Marsh
National Commander

PS - If you have yet to complete the RR-QLC survey, there is still time.
Visit the national website at www.RoyalRangers.ag.org/qlc.

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Making Merits Interactive

by John HICKS, National Communications & Administrative Coordinator

Since its inception in 1962, Royal Rangers has been at its core an outdoor, action-oriented program. Our aim, as stated in the 1998 edition of the *Leaders Manual*, is "to instruct, challenge, and inspire our boys in the areas of Bible doctrine, Christian service, moral conduct, and basic beliefs of our church through interesting activities the boys enjoy." [Emphasis added.]

In keeping with this tradition, page 4 of the Leaders Guides for both the Discovery and Adventure Rangers programs begin by describing Royal Rangers as "an action-packed, life-changing ministry to boys of all ages." These resources go on to describe the program as having weekly meetings "filled with the activities, camaraderie, and spiritual challenge that boys need."

It has long been understood that boys need activity and learn best in an environment rich with hands-on activities and student participation. It is, therefore, essential that the weekly Royal Rangers meeting be a place where boys are given the opportunity to learn by interactive means and to be directly involved in a variety of physical activities. *Lecture sessions with PowerPoint presentations where the boys' primary means of participation is limited to listening and writing should be avoided.* In order to maximize our effectiveness, it is essential that we utilize methods of instruction that are most effective for teaching boys.

With these thoughts in mind, consider the following as tips and alternatives when teaching your next weekly meeting:

- Whenever possible, complete merit requirements orally as a group rather than in written format. Requirements beginning with words like *explain*, *list*, or *tell* do not need to be completed in written format but may be completed as a group discussion. Every boy present may then receive credit for having completed that requirement.
- Allow essay requirements to be satisfied orally by short individual presentations to the group. This will satisfy the purpose of the requirement (i.e., knowledge of the subject) while avoiding a written format that could

be a major obstacle to younger boys. For those who aren't comfortable with oral presentations or when the size of the group makes this option unsuitable, the boys may create illustrated reports by researching and assembling collages of photos or images with captions describing the subjects.

- Look for ways to get the boys physically involved in the learning process. Requirements that begin with *demonstrate* should always involve physical activity not merely explaining or writing a response. "Sit and listen" times should be limited to approximately 1 minute per age. For example, a 7-year-old Ranger Kid can "sit and listen" for approximately 7 minutes; a 12-year-old Adventure Ranger for about 12 minutes. Look for ways to utilize the "hear, see, do" principle of instruction. Let the boys *hear* you explain how to do something, see you demonstrate the skill, and then *do* or practice



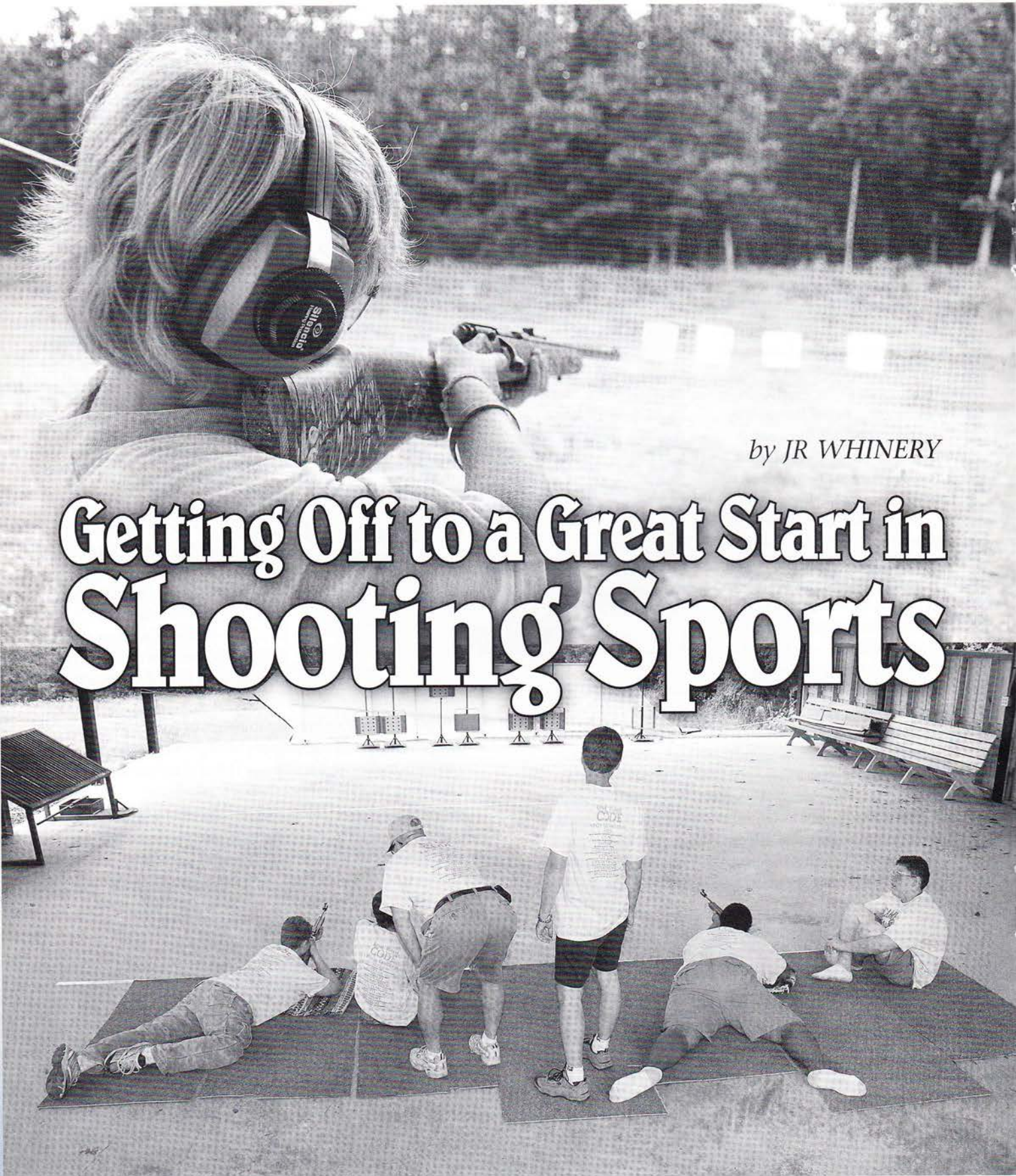
the skill themselves.

- Provide opportunities for the boys to complete requirements as a group or patrol. Interaction with friends makes any task more fun and enhances learning for everyone.

It should be noted that the requirements for the merits cannot be changed and should be completed as written. The handbooks and workbooks are still necessary resources to direct and track each boy's progress through the advancement system. However, the methods used to satisfy requirements should be flexible, allowing for differing abilities and maturity levels of boys.

As Royal Ranger leaders, we enjoy a tremendous privilege to serve our Master Ranger, Jesus Christ, through the ministry of Royal Rangers. Along with any privilege comes responsibility. It is our responsibility to provide our boys with an "action-packed, life-changing ministry" that will "instruct, challenge, and inspire" them in their personal growth and achievement as they daily grow into the image of Christ. ☞

NATIONAL ROYAL RANGERS MINISTRIES - October 2007



by JR WHINERY

Getting Off to a Great Start in Shooting Sports



Twenty-five teams converge on Eagle Rock, Missouri for the National BB Gun Championship. Competition was spirited and several NRA national shooting records were set. John Venskoske, assistant manager of NRA's Competitive Shooting Division, said, "I have never seen a group more enthusiastic about shooting sports programs than Royal Rangers. I'm sure the program will continue to grow."

Rifle, shotgun, pistol, hunting, trap, and skeet are all fun and can range from plinking (informal target shooting done at non-traditional targets, such as tin cans) to earning a gold medal in the Olympics. For the majority of people, shooting for fun and being with others that enjoy shooting are enough. Others prefer more advanced levels of shooting. Once you become acquainted with the sport of shooting, take the next step and get involved.

After earning your blue Firearm Safety merit, you can move on to BB Gun, Marksmanship, Air Rifle, Black Powder, Hunter Education, Shotgun, and Smallbore Rifle merits. It all comes together when you take the first step in starting your education in shooting sports. If hunting or marksmanship interests you, then there are marksmanship clubs, shooting camps, championship training clinics, and hunter challenges available to sharpen your knowledge and skills. Opportunities can be found locally, regionally, or even nationally.

At the beginning levels, Daisy (<http://www.daisy.com/education.html>), USA Shooting (<http://www.usashooting.org/youth.php>), and the National Rifle Association (<http://www.nrahq.org/youth/index.asp>) offer programs that will provide the initial training and guidance to begin the process. Contact your local State Shooting Association or a local firing range (<http://www.nra.org/programs.aspx>) for opportunities to enjoy the fun and camaraderie of shooting sports.

Any of the above shooting organizations stands ready to assist any outpost with the correct curriculum and services necessary to establish a shooting education program. In addition to knowledge and advice, Daisy has created a complete Shooting Education Kit, which includes air guns, ammunition, target backstops, shooting range plans, and training manuals. For more information, call Daisy Special Markets Programs at 800-643-3458, ask for all the details, and mention you are with Royal Rangers to receive a special discounted kit price. The NRA Foundation also offers grant money to qualifying projects

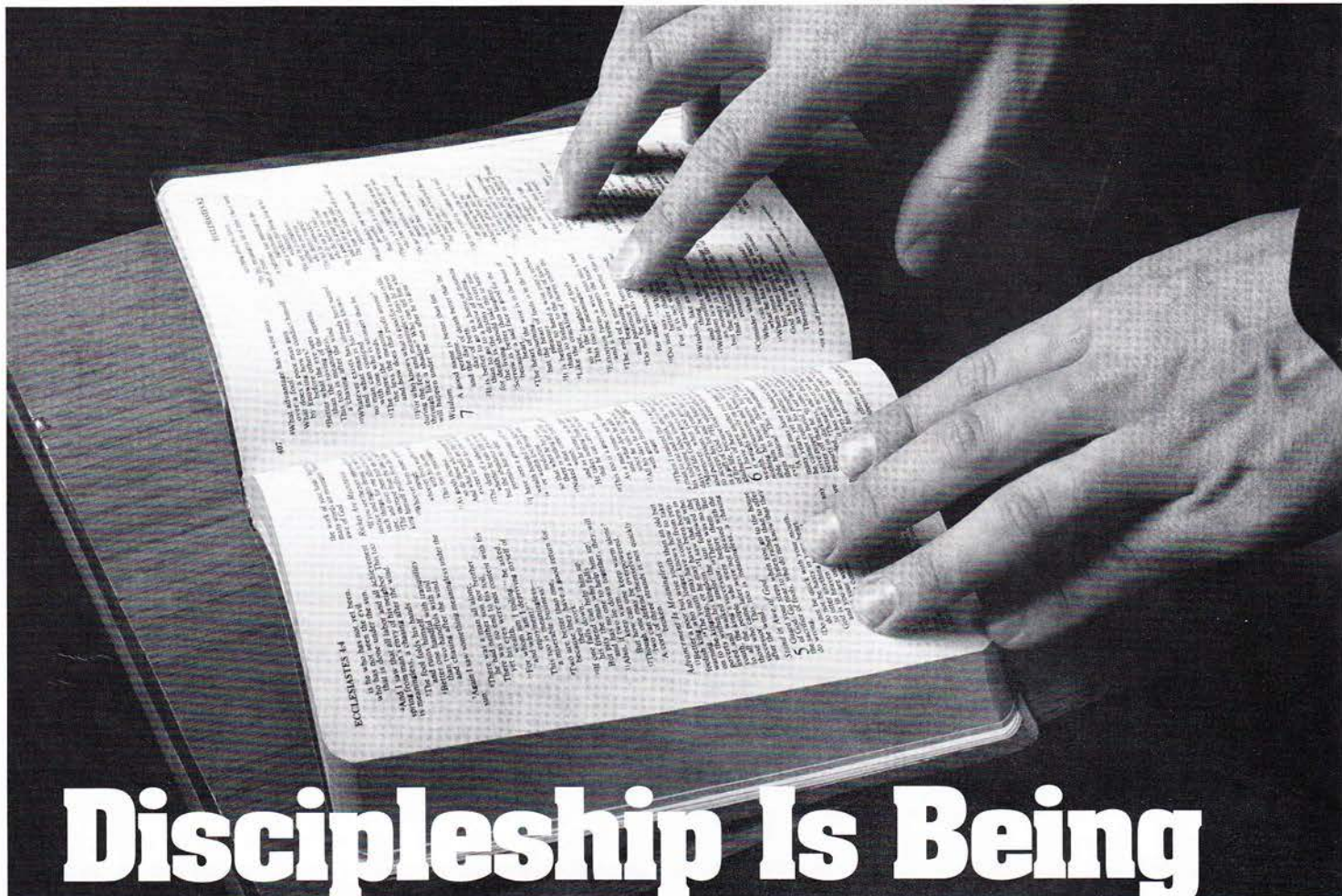
that promote firearms, hunter safety, and marksmanship skills. They can supply your outpost with firearms, targets, and money for training or national competitions.

Compete! Compete!
Compete! Competing in local, regional, or even national contests can be rewarding. The more you compete, the better your chances of earning USA

Shooting national rank placement or setting national records. You can access information about sanctioned USA Shooting matches online at www.usashooting.org. Royal Rangers offers shooting competitions through the National Championships. Using these postal competitions boys and men can be recognized and rewarded at the outpost, section, district, and national levels. Brochures on the postal competitions can be requested from the National Royal Rangers Ministries by contacting Steve Schultz at rangers@ag.org.

Shooting challenges the individual. Some of the benefits of shooting sports are testing personal motivation, honing the senses, sharpening the eye, and focusing concentration. Shooting sports instill a sense of confidence and achievement for young and old alike. ♣





Discipleship Is Being A Royal Ranger

by Ryan BEATY (Part 1)

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them” (Matthew 19:14, NIV) — some of Jesus’ most famous words. As the Master Ranger, nobody understands more than He how important discipleship is when it comes to children. Solomon wrote, “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22: 6, KJV). Training involves a lot more than telling children stories and making them attend church. It involves a purposeful plan of action focusing on developing them from immature children into mature adults. The purpose of Royal Rangers has always been to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ; and that purpose is for a discipleship fully focused on Christ. I am worried, however, that many of us have allowed our focus to wander from Christ and attach itself to auxiliary functions of the Royal Rangers ministry.

Some indications that your focus may have wandered are:

- Devotions become a second thought.
- Bible studies are rushed and dismissed quickly during meetings.
- There is no time for boys to pray with and for each other.
- Salvation is not occurring.
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit among your boys is absent.

These are things that as a ministry, much less a ministry focused on discipleship, we can not live without. One of the major reasons that so many churches do not have Royal Rangers is because church leadership has not seen a Rangers ministry that demonstrates Christ-focused discipleship. The only Royal Rangers many pastors, youth



pastors, children's pastors, board members, etc., have ever seen is the one that is always asking for money, the one that just goes camping, and the one that is producing no spiritual change among the boys.

The old Leadership Training Course states, "The measure of a successful outpost is its advancement system." That may be true, but the focus of discipleship has never been success, but significance. Discipleship equals significance. An individual's significance should be found from God, encouraged through being part of a Christian community and through realization of one's own God-given purpose in life. Our outposts should be structured so all of our leadership understands that our primary focus is significance and that success ranks second. Nobody has ever been successful without first feeling significant.

The outpost should be a place of consecration to God, of community with other boys, and of connection to life's purpose. All three of these aspects require Royal Rangers commanders to lead boys into greater levels of commitment to Jesus Christ. The local outpost is just the right incubator in which boys can grow in all of these ways. This is reaching, teaching, and keeping boys.

So how do we make sure that our outposts are outposts of significance? We do it by using the tools that we already have.

CONSECRATION TO GOD

How do we get our boys to consecrate their lives to God? First of all, we as leaders must be consecrated. We must be sure that our relationships with God are still growing. There is no place in a God-to-person relationship where we have arrived or can become static. You can never take your boys where you have never been. This is all the more reason that our prayer and devotional lives must be ones of meaning and consistency. Church attendance, Honor Bound participation, and Sunday school membership are important, not just for your own spiritual growth, but because it also sets a pattern your boys can emulate.

The Royal Rangers ministry includes built-in opportunities for boys to consecrate themselves to God. The number one way is through your weekly devotion time. This time should be the most anticipated and is, without a doubt, the most important part of your meeting. As Royal Rangers leaders, we are responsible

for the spiritual lives of these boys, and the devotion should be carefully planned each week to maximize opportunities for boys to hear from God. Spend time in prayer each week specifically for your devotions. Come every week with expectancy that God will anoint your words and that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, He will change the lives of your boys. He will do it, you know. Boys will be saved, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and healed in your outpost meeting if you will allow for it to happen.

These things do not happen arbitrarily, however. They happen when the leadership allows opportunities for God to work and prepare the boys for His work. This does not mean that you have to prepare your own devotions every week. There are tons of good devotions out there. Spend time praying to make sure that you are sharing the right one each week, and ask God to change your boys' lives through your message.

The second way that we teach boys to consecrate themselves to God is through weekly Bible studies. Bible studies should be done in correlation with your devotion time. There should never be a one-or-the-other mentality with devotions and Bible studies; it should always be both. The Leaders Guides provide Bible studies that enable the boys to earn Bible merits as an additional benefit to what they are learning about God's Word. Although the Leaders Guides prepare devotions for you, it does

not mean that your only role is presentation. To better help the boys, spend time previous to your meeting going over the Bible study studying the passage of scripture and topic to be discussed. Be prepared to provide additional information should the opportunity arise. Provide extra background information, and explain to the boys how this Bible study is relevant to their lives. This will pique their interest in the Word of God and place His words deep within their hearts.

The third way to help boys consecrate themselves to God is through Christian service. There is no better way for boys to learn the heart of the gospel than to give them opportunities to live out the words of Christ. Simple acts, such as holding a Thanksgiving food drive, a Christmas toy drive, or a neighborhood clean-up, teach our boys to love our neighbors as ourselves, which is the second of the two Great Commandments. Christian service also provides an opportunity for a display of your boys' love for God, which is the first Great Commandment. ❧

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ROYAL RANGERS
INTERNATIONAL

Jeff Cooper Appointed to Lead Royal Rangers International



The Executive Committee of the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) recently chose Jeff Cooper as the RRI director-designate. Currently, Jeff and his wife Danette are itinerating, preparing their missionary budget to return to Costa Rica. After they get their feet on the ground, they will assume the directorship of Royal Rangers International in the summer of 2009.

If you would, please do the following for them:

- 1) Pray for Jeff, Danette, and their children, Zach, Lucas, and Maddie;
- 2) Approach your church about picking them up with a monthly faith promise before they return to Costa Rica in ten months;
- 3) Drop Jeff an e-mail and get to know him by visiting his family and ministry website.

E-mail: jcooper@royalrangersinternational.com

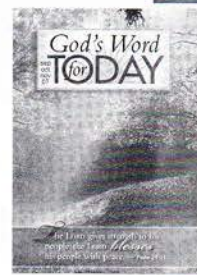
Website: www.coopersforchrist.com

We believe Jeff is the man for this position and will do an outstanding job leading the charge to “expand, strengthen, and serve” Royal Rangers around the world. 🍀

Jeff Cooper was called to be a missionary at the age of 8 on the same night he was saved. He wasn't sure what a missionary was, but he quickly began to learn. At the age of 10, he started attending Royal Rangers, and shortly thereafter, Jeff and his dad were able to participate in the first of several church missions trips that completely changed Jeff's life. As an adult, Jeff became a Royal Ranger leader in the church in which he grew up. God used Royal Rangers and missions trips to touch his life and grow him into a leader with a passion for the lost.

A few years ago, God gave him the opportunity to fulfill his two passions—Royal Rangers and missions—by becoming a vessel to reach children and youth around the world through Royal Rangers International. Jeff and his wife, Danette, have served as missionaries in Costa Rica and as the assistant coordinator for Royal Rangers in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for three years. Jeff now serves as the coordinator for Royal Rangers in LAC where the ministry has grown to over 45,000 participants. 🍀

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Dreams Take Work *Read Proverbs 27:11 through 29:27*

He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty (Proverbs 28:19).

In the agricultural society of King Solomon's day, successful farming was strenuous work. Workdays began early and ran late. Famine was a constant challenge that forced these people to work their fields diligently to make sure their families would be able to survive. Such a demanding life left little room for the farmer to become a careless dreamer.

Having godly dreams—and just being a “dreamer”—are vastly different attitudes in the kingdom of God. God wants His people to dream big dreams for Him and have a vision of what He wants them to accomplish. Dreamers, however, move from one fantasy to another, rarely giving any thought to take care of the responsibilities God gives them.

When God gives people dreams, He does not want them simply to remain dreams. He will give His people daily responsibilities needed to turn these dreams into realities.

CHALLENGE FOR TODAY:

Ask God to give you big dreams and help you turn them into realities.

QUICKLOOK: *Proverbs 28:19–22*



I Can't, but God Can!

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1–18

When you face an impossible situation, do you think it's the end of the road or just a bend? God often asks you to do things that seem to be impossible. A God-given task stretches you beyond your perceived limitations. It may appear risky, but He wants to show you what He can do if you remain dependent on Him.

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God (2 Corinthians 3:5).

What God wants to produce in your life can only be accomplished supernaturally. Apart from Christ you can do nothing God expects. Your close connection with Him is what enables you to accomplish what seems impossible.

You cannot tap into God's full provision until you can admit your complete poverty. The weakest area in your life becomes the launching pad for God's possibilities. It is not what you bring to the kingdom, but what God produces through you that is really spectacular.

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Lord, help me not to focus on my inability, but on Your power at work in me.

QUICKLOOK: *2 Corinthians 3:1–6*

Program Implementation Options

by Ryan Beaty

If you have been around long enough, you know that no one church is the same as the next. Each church has its own flavor and flair, its own unique culture that it operates within. That means there is no cookie cutter for ministry that will work at maximum potential in every church, which includes a Royal Rangers ministry. Each church presents its own challenges. Those challenges include the community the church is in, the size of the church, the organizational structure, the philosophy, the leadership, and much more. Ultimately, the local church has to tailor all of its ministries to meet the needs of the local body. That means that the local Royal Rangers ministry has to be flexible too.

Royal Rangers is, at its core, all about men mentoring the next generation of godly men. We can be better at that than any other organization in the United States, or the world for that matter. However, that means we must understand the needs of our locations and adapt to those needs. There are a number of different models for churches to use that are all appropriate when it comes to conducting the ministry of Royal Rangers. Choosing the model which best suits the church and community you reside in is the key.

Often large churches break up their age groups into grades. They have the leadership numbers and the classroom space to put third graders in one room, fourth in another room, and fifth in another. The positive to this approach is that boys get more individual attention and help when it comes to advancements and merits. A smaller number of students also makes it easier to manage issues of discipline and classroom control.

There are drawbacks to this model as well. It is difficult to effectively conduct the patrol system with the younger groups. It is important that they be a part of a patrol immediately and experience being a part of the team. It is also important for the older boys within the group to be able to gain leadership experience through leading the younger boys as well as peers.



There are large churches that, in order to maximize the patrol system, will have the entire group meet together for opening ceremonies, patrol corners, recreation, devotions, and closing ceremonies and only separate into grades for advancements. This works well to build patrol spirit, leadership, and friendship among the boys, all of which are vital to being a successful Royal Rangers ministry.

The opposite is usually an issue in smaller churches. Many Rangers outposts are forced, because of lack of space and/or lack of leadership, to combine age groups. If this is the case, it is best to leave Ranger Kids as its own group and combine Discovery and Adventure Rangers. This can be done easily, since Discovery and Adventure Rangers are on the same cyclical merit system. Focus on the merits that work for both groups' advancement systems: the four red merits required for the Gold Medal of Achievement, the seven red merits required for entrance into FCF, and green elective merits that count for either age group. Boys should continue to do their age-specific Bible merits, and, with effective use of patrol leadership, the commander should be able to ensure that both brown and orange merits are completed during the weekly meeting.

Having the boys together will also allow for the older boys to receive an opportunity to lead the younger boys and promote a greater patrol spirit. Servant leadership is at the very heart of the patrol method, and what better place for it to be modeled than in the local outpost by your older boys? Having the boys in leadership will greatly reduce the amount of work that you, the commander, have to do; and it will also go a long way toward making Royal Rangers the boy-led, adult-facilitated ministry it is supposed to be.

Make Royal Rangers work for you, no matter the size of your outpost or church. Sometimes it takes a little creativity, and other times it takes a little bit of good old hard work. Either way, the fact that boys' lives are changed during the process makes it all worth it. ☘





Puerto Rico, the “Enchanted Island”

by Perry SIDDLE, National Training Coordinator

Beautiful mountains, beaches that resemble paradise, and extraordinary vegetation await those who are fortunate to live on or visit this incredible island. The animal life is as unusual as it is amazing. Historical building structures date from the 1800s. However, the real beauty of Puerto Rico is its people. Their warm and distinctive attitude, along with their love for others, made the first World Class Outpost (WCO) in Puerto Rico a huge success. The WCO was held at a church in Rio Grande, 19 miles east from the beautiful city of San Juan.

Sixty-seven leaders, pastors, and district and sectional staff members attended the seminar. At the conclusion of the seminar, all attendees committed to invest two to five years of their life to make their local outpost a “world class outpost.”

The Assistant Superintendent of the District of Puerto Rico expressed his gratitude to National Royal Rangers Ministries for creating this wonderful tool. He personally saw how to become a better leader in the Royal Rangers ministry. He caught a vision on how to reach the world with this seminar—a vision that enhances the ability of local leaders to fulfill the mission of “reaching, teaching and keeping boys for Christ.”

Under the direction of Fenelon Courvertier, dis-



trict commander, and the presiding of Javier Cheverez, training coordinator of the district of Puerto Rico, the first World Class Outpost in Puerto Rico was a success.

“I was impressed with the quality of leaders attending the seminar and the positive response to the materials the seminar provided for them,” said Commander Hector F. Lavalley, the seminar director from the Southeast Spanish District. “I am pleased with the outcome of this seminar, and I am positive the district of Puerto Rico will flourish when they start

implementing the information they acquired at WCO. I am sure we’ll see many ‘world class outposts’ in the years to come on this great island. I have a special love and respect for the Puerto Rican people, especially for the Royal Rangers of Puerto Rico, who will always be in my heart and prayers.”

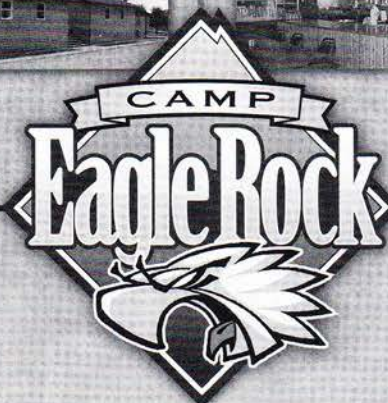
National Royal Rangers Ministries extends its heartfelt thanks to Commander Lavalley for his tireless efforts in translating materials from English to Spanish, thus ensuring the success of this seminar.

We at National Royal Rangers Ministries wish to congratulate Royal Rangers in Puerto Rico for their efforts to improve their ministry through training and for their commitment and dedication to “reach, teach and keep boys for Christ.”

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Mountain Mahem!

by Jo Lynne KEOUGH



Climb your way through this peaked puzzle to find the name of important mountains in the Bible. Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Some letters are used in more than one word. Leftover letters tell what happened on Mount Carmel.

- Ararat** **Hermon** **Seir** **mount** **Carmel** **peaks**
- Sinai** **Lebanon** **Ebal** **Moriah** **Tabor** **hike**
- Nebo** **Gerizim** **Zion** **climb** **Gilboa** **Olivet**

What did Elijah do on Mount Carmel? _____

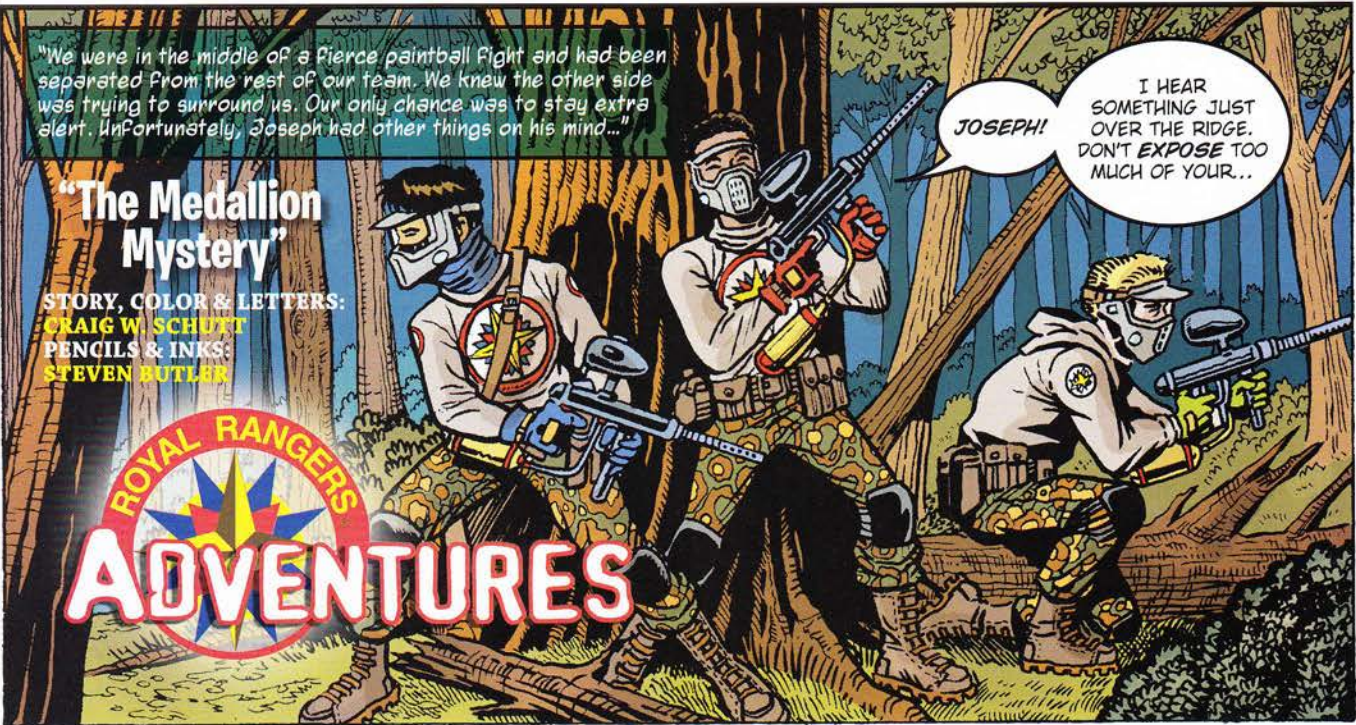
— Answers to Quiz on page 15

"We were in the middle of a fierce paintball fight and had been separated from the rest of our team. We knew the other side was trying to surround us. Our only chance was to stay extra alert. Unfortunately, Joseph had other things on his mind..."

"The Medallion Mystery"

STORY, COLOR & LETTERS:
CRAIG W. SCHUTT
PENCILS & INKS:
STEVEN BUTLER

ROYAL RANGERS ADVENTURES



JOSEPH!

I HEAR SOMETHING JUST OVER THE RIDGE. DON'T EXPOSE TOO MUCH OF YOUR...



UGH!

SPLAT! SPLAT!



HEY, GUYS--WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE? WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE HARDER TO TRAP THAN THAT!

I'M SORRY GUYS...I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THAT OLD MEDALLION WE FOUND IN THE LAKE...

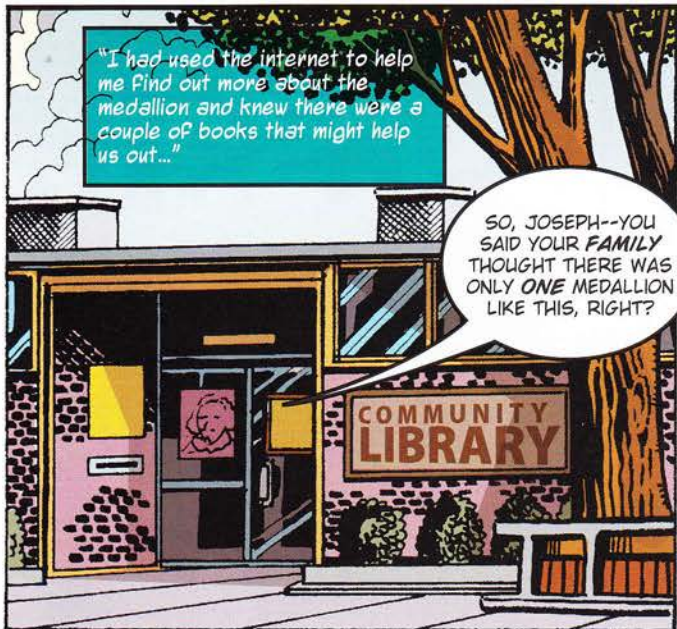


I TOLD YOU WE'D HELP YOU SOLVE THAT MYSTERY, JOSEPH.

AS A MATTER-OF-FACT, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY JOURNALISM MERIT BADGE AND I THINK SOME OF MY INVESTIGATION SKILLS WILL HELP US FIGURE THIS MYSTERY OUT.

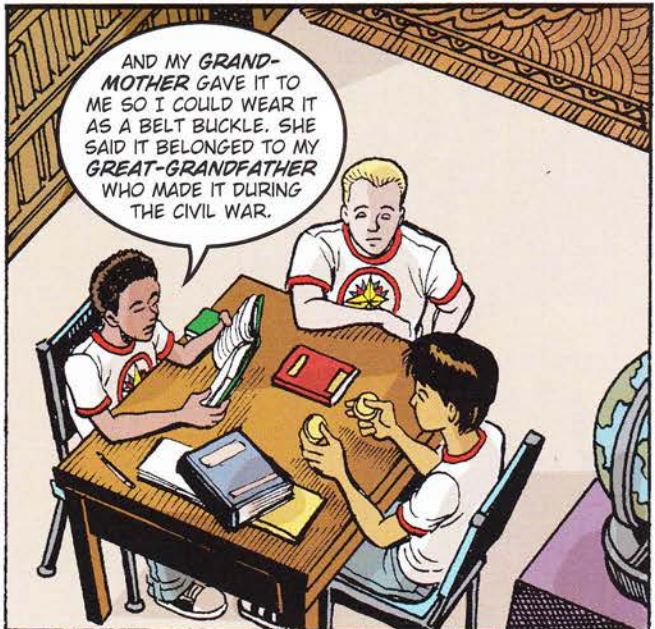


UH-OH. SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DRAG US TO THE LIBRARY AGAIN...

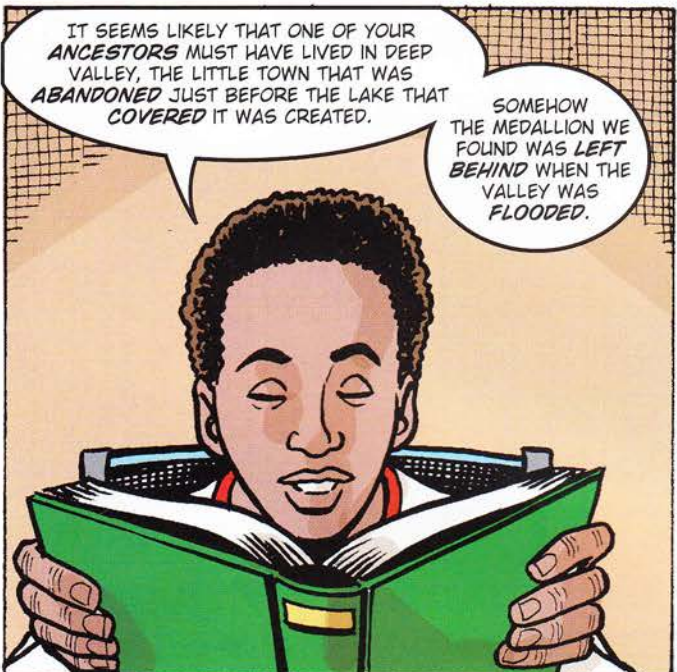


"I had used the internet to help me find out more about the medallion and knew there were a couple of books that might help us out..."

SO, JOSEPH--YOU SAID YOUR FAMILY THOUGHT THERE WAS ONLY ONE MEDALLION LIKE THIS, RIGHT?



AND MY GRAND-MOTHER GAVE IT TO ME SO I COULD WEAR IT AS A BELT BUCKLE. SHE SAID IT BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WHO MADE IT DURING THE CIVIL WAR.



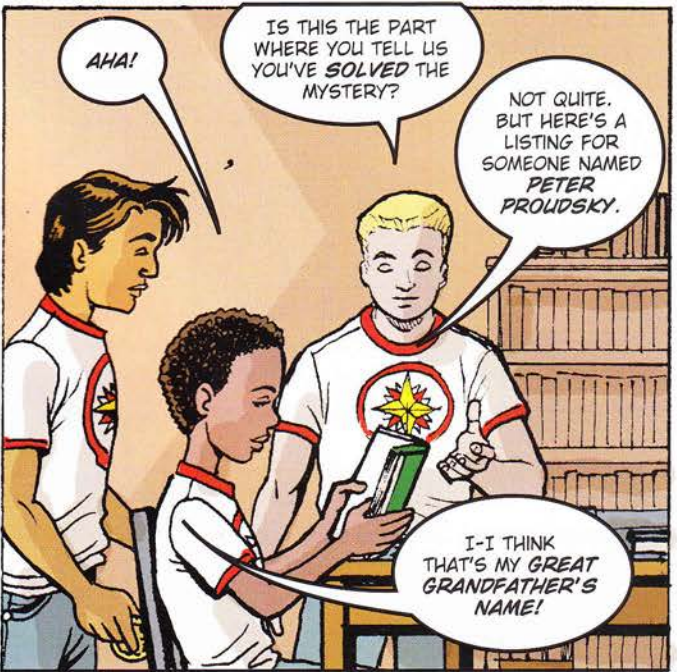
IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS MUST HAVE LIVED IN DEEP VALLEY, THE LITTLE TOWN THAT WAS ABANDONED JUST BEFORE THE LAKE THAT COVERED IT WAS CREATED.

SOMEHOW THE MEDALLION WE FOUND WAS LEFT BEHIND WHEN THE VALLEY WAS FLOODED.



I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE IN MY FAMILY TALK ABOUT DEEP VALLEY. HOW COULD WE BE SURE?

THIS BOOK HAS SOME OLD DOCUMENTS FROM DEEP VALLEY, INCLUDING A PARTIAL LIST OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE. IF WE CAN FIND SOMEONE WITH YOUR LAST NAME IN IT, THEN WE WOULD KNOW...



AHA!

IS THIS THE PART WHERE YOU TELL US YOU'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY?

NOT QUITE. BUT HERE'S A LISTING FOR SOMEONE NAMED PETER PROUDSKY.

I-I THINK THAT'S MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S NAME!



IF YOU DON'T MIND, JOSEPH, I THINK IT'S TIME WE PAID A VISIT TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

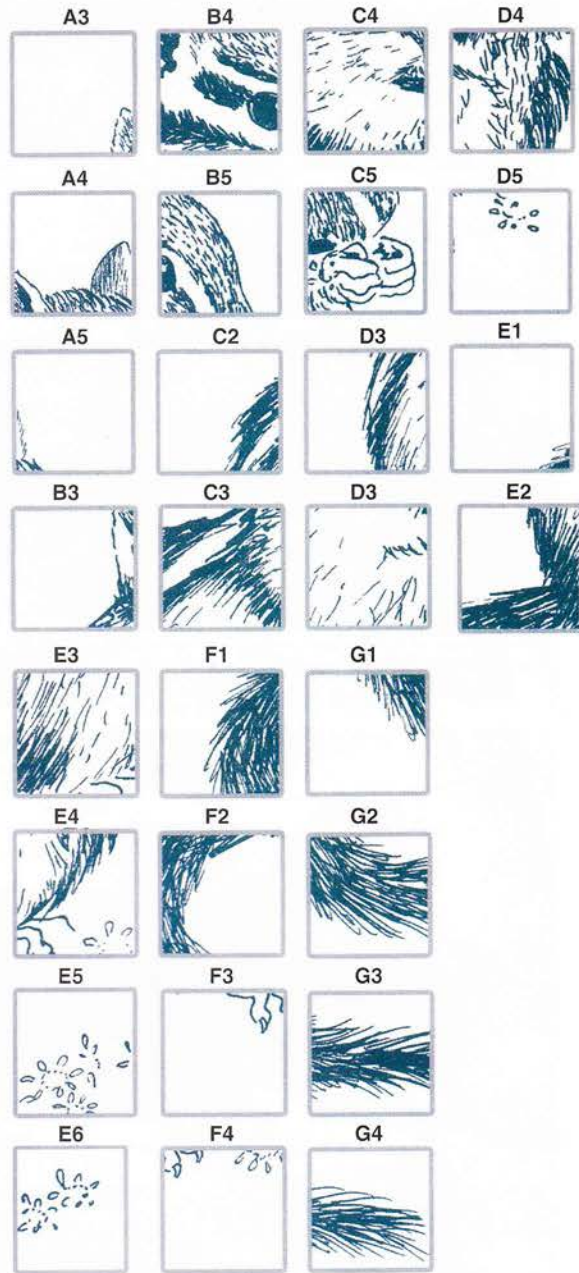
OH, BOY --THIS IS GETTING GOOD...

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE IN "REVELATIONS!"

PICTURE THIS!

1 2 3 4 5 6

A
B
C
D
E
F
G



by Denise McGILL

You need no drawing skills to create this picture in the empty grid above. Use the letter-number guide above each square and carefully copy what is shown into the corresponding square in the grid.

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:

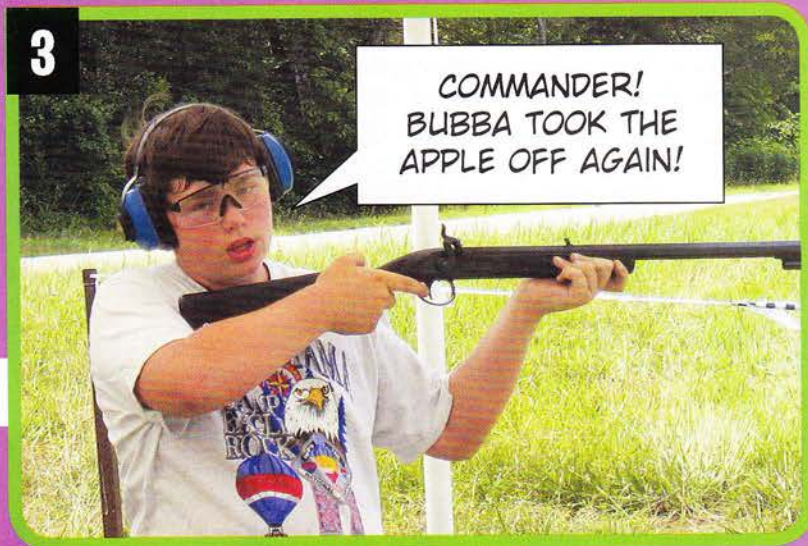
- A. ADMIT YOU HAVE SINNED.** *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).
- B. BELIEVE IN JESUS.** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).
- C. CONFESS AND LEAVE YOUR 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.

Create-A-Caption

SAY WHAT?

Create your own captions for this photo!



Hey dudes! Digital Dave here. I'm kinda new to this whole "ranger" thing, but I've been havin' a totally AWESOME time at all the fun Ranger events I've attended lately. And since I'm something of a "photo junkie," I just love taking pictures of all the cool stuff going on.

In all my travels, I've come across a few special pics that just seem to "speak to me," ya know what I mean? Check out these pics and let me know what you think they might be saying. You can let me know what you think by going online at **WWW. ROYALRANGERS.AG.ORG** and givin' me your thoughts. The ones I like the best will be printed right here in the next issue of **High Adventure** as well as posted on-line.

Don't miss out dudes! Tell me what they're sayin'. This is gonna be fun!

"DINK!"



Go online at www.royalrangers.ag.org and enter a caption for any of the photos above. Multiple entries are allowed. Winning entries will be printed in the next issue of *High Adventure* and also will be displayed online on the Rangers official website: www.royalrangers.ag.org.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have some funny photos that you think might work for "Create-a-Caption", e-mail them to rangers@ag.org.

Blogged Truth

Read Acts 25:6–11

Meet Daniel.

Daniel is one bitter guy. He uses words like weapons in his favorite arena—his blog. Daniel says labels belong on blue jeans. He rages against Christians, mainly because at the ripe old age of 15 he had already made up his mind about them. He's decided Christianity is political.

See, the Bible has rules and guidelines that steer people around life's potholes, bringing them close to the God who loves them. But Daniel knows from TV that rules equal hate. In a self-contradictory stance, Daniel believes it is wrong to believe in right or wrong, feels he is open-minded because he doesn't label people, but Christians are bigots. Daniel likes only people who "love" him enough to never talk about salvation.

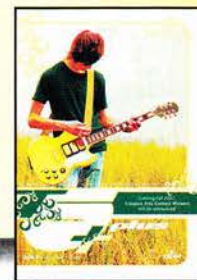
When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar" (Acts 25:7,8).

Real truth isn't so popular. The temptation is to water it down to avoid being stereotyped as a right-wing nut. But for a Christian to yield to a watery truth only undermines Christianity. Note Paul's willingness to defend his faith in the middle of animosity. What would you do if your faith was attacked?

How would you answer Daniel's charges?

Today's Thru-The-Bible Reading:
Psalm 78:40–72; Acts 25:1–27

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for Daniel, and ask God for the courage to face down falsehood masquerading as truth.



Not Forgotten

Read Esther 6:1-10

Army Capt. Humbert "Rocky" Versace finished one tour of duty in Vietnam and volunteered for another, even though he had plans beyond the military. He had been accepted into seminary and was considering working with orphans in Vietnam.

However, shortly before the end of his second tour, Versace volunteered to help destroy a Vietcong command post. But things went wrong: Ambushed, Versace was wounded and captured. Even so, he never allowed the enemy to break his spirit, leading and inspiring other prisoners—until He was executed in September 1965.

In July 2002, President George W. Bush posthumously awarded Versace the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mordecai also went for a time without due recognition. But the oversight came to light one night as the king listened to his attendants read from the official records of his reign. Mordecai had foiled an assassination plot against the king.

"What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.... "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai" (Esther 6:3,10).

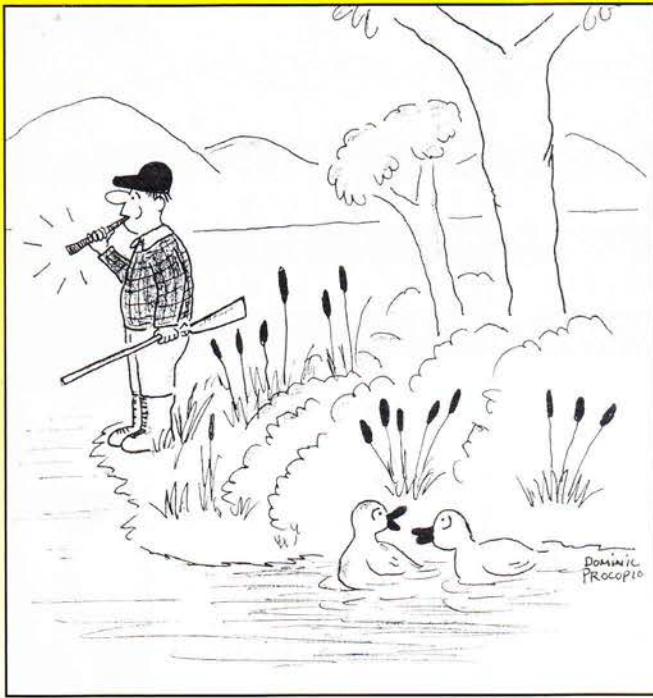
Governments, bosses, and teachers sometimes overlook work worthy of extra recognition, but God overlooks nothing. Every good deed done for His kingdom will one day be rewarded. *Have you ever felt like your good work was overlooked?*

Today's Thru-The-Bible Reading:
Esther 6:1 to 7:10; John 20:1–18

Prayer Emphasis:
Ask God to help you keep doing your best, even when it seems no one notices.

These devotionals come from **Take 5 Plus** (copyright 2007). For daily devotions that will inspire and encourage, subscribe to **Take 5 Plus** today by calling **1.800.641.4310**. Subscriptions are just \$14.40 per year (Item 1YTFNN). For more devotions online, visit youth.ag.org/discipleship.

DEEPER



"Ignore him — he's just looking for attention."

Did you hear about the fight at the fish shop last night?
Two fish got battered!

What do you add in oil to make it boil?
The letter B!

The maker doesn't want it.
The buyer doesn't want it.
The user doesn't see it. What is it?
A coffin!

COMEDY CORNER

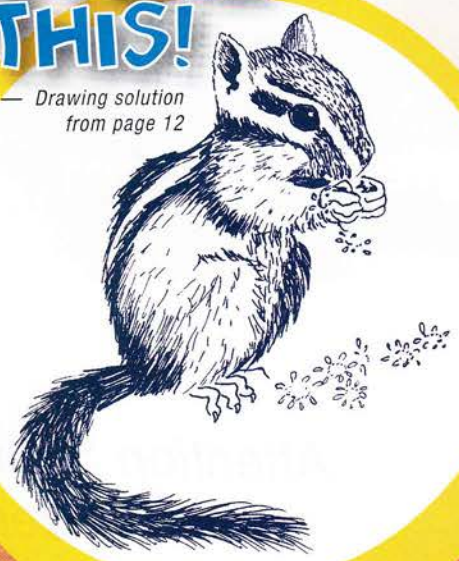


"I'm trying to earn a merit for archery."

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
Mt. Everest, it just hadn't been discovered!

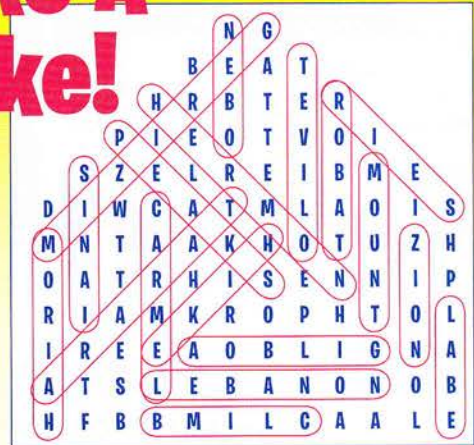
PICTURE THIS!

— Drawing solution from page 12



Take A Hike!

— Answers to PUZZLE from page 9



What did Elijah do on Mount Carmel? **BATTLED WITH THE PROPHETS OF BAAL**

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