

ature evangelism. The funds were used to purchase Gospels of John for Mexico. Later the Gospels were provided for Central America also; then shipments went to Peru, Argentina, and Brazil. Later we shipped Gospels to Italy and Ceylon. Our goal was to give the Word to the world.

It was not long until the laymen decided they should organize this program, give it a name, and ask the Southern California District of the Assemblies of God for official recognition. A meeting was called and ten men drew up a statement of purpose. The name Missionary Gospel Society was selected. A board of directors was organized. Sam Cochran was asked to be chairman. A vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer were elected. In 1953 the organization was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the state of California.

It was announced that the quartet would sing in any church which would receive an offering for the Missionary Gospel Society. A member of the quartet would speak to the congregation about the need of gospel literature on the mission fields. The quartet was not to use any portion of the offerings for expenses; traveling expenses would be paid by the members of the board of directors and the offerings would be used a hundred per cent for foreign literature.

Brother Cochran gave a large amount of time to the program. He took care of his insurance business during the week and spent his weekends promoting the literature project.

Experienced ministers who shared this burden for literature evangelism and were acquainted with distribution methods offered to travel with the quartet to raise funds for the work. Interest multiplied. As enthusiasm spread throughout the state it became evident that the small group of laymen who had started the work in Southern California would not be able to supply all the funds needed to promote it properly. An additional laymen's group therefore was organized in Northern California.

By 1959 the work had spread to such proportions that the General Council of the Assemblies of God, meeting that year in San Antonio, Texas, decided to incorporate it in the program of the Men's Fellowship Department and make it nationwide. Immediately after this a committee was organized in the Oregon District. Next came Southern Missouri, Arizona, West Central, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Northern Michigan. In each of these districts a committee of laymen was organized, and each committee member pledged to provide a monthly sum of money to underwrite all the costs of promoting the program and distributing the literature.

Since 1959 the program has been called "Light for the Lost." Due to the fact that the laymen across the country make donations each month, all the offerings are used one hundred per cent for the purchase of gospel literature. Each district committee designates one of its members to serve on the National Men's Fellowship Missions Council which administers the program. Sam Cochran is National Administrator.

It has been thrilling to watch a vision become a reality. Although the growth has been gradual and many people have been involved in spreading the program, yet the miracle of the fulfillment of the vision is bold and clear. "Light for the Lost" began with a burden and continues



Johnnie Barnes, National Commander, looks at Royal Ranger Handbook.

Royal Rangers on the Move

The official launching of Royal Rangers in September has created great interest everywhere. Requests for information have come from every state, including Alaska and Hawaii, and from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, and South Africa.

Many churches have already chartered outposts. One leader from California writes, "This is the greatest thing to hit California since the gold rush." Another outpost Commander comments, "This is an answer to prayer for our boys; I only wish it had happened sooner."

A pastor writes, "Royal Rangers has caused a spiritual stirring among the boys of my church I never thought possible." One mother states, "I don't know too much about the Royal Rangers, but I know it sure has changed the way my son acts at home and during church."

This Christ-centered program for boys is becoming a real blessing to the churches as well as to the boys. Every church will benefit by organizing a Royal Ranger outpost.

For further information and assistance, write Men's Fellowship Department, Royal Rangers Division, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri.

because dedicated laymen of the Assemblies of God are willing to shoulder this burden for lost men and women around the world.

In 1961 "Light for the Lost" sent out more than three million Gospel portions. In 1962 it joined forces with the Foreign Missions Department by supplying literature for foreign city crusades.

"Light for the Lost" also has launched an Operation Saturation program of house-to-house literature evangelism, beginning in Mexico City. The program is expanding everywhere as members of Men's Fellowship catch the vision that God revealed to Sam Cochran and consecrate themselves to the task of sending light to the lost. ❧