

four Assemblies of God ministers, Harold Hanson, Paul Kinney, Sid Regnier and myself. I personally look upon that boys club of the 40's in Hartford, Connecticut, as the greatest contribution to my salvation as a boy.

It was at the age of thirteen, on a boys camping trip, that I had the privilege, for the first time, of leading a soul to Christ. This is why I believe in doing everything possible to reach our boys.

When I consider this important subject, I think of a boy in five aspects:

1. *A soul with an Eternal Destiny*

Every time I see a boy, the Holy Spirit reminds me that here is an eternal soul that shall spend eternity either in heaven or in hell (John 3:36; Revelation 20:15). I must reach him with the saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Being aware that only the Holy Spirit can regenerate (John 3:5; Titus 3:5), nevertheless I realize that as a soul winner I must do all I can in prayer, witnessing, teaching, visitation, self-sacrifice to see that he accepts Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour (John 1:12).

2. *A Man in the Making*

One does not need to study psychology and sociology to recognize that a boy is formulating ideas and habits that will determine what kind of man he will be. If he is to be righteous and successful, then those seeds of the Eternal Word of God must be planted today so that he will become a man of God tomorrow (1 Peter 1:23).

3. *A Follower of Some Hero*

Every boy has a hero. Thousands of boys today have Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris as their heroes. Oh, that Jesus Christ would become the Hero of more boys! Oh, that more godly men would take a personal interest in our boys so that they would desire to pattern their lives after godly Christians. Let us pray that many more boys in sinful America might say with Paul the apostle, "For me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).

4. *A Potential Leader*

Boys may be an instrument of God or of Satan. Satan can entice boys to cheat, steal, lie, smoke, and drink.

On the other hand, the Holy Spirit indwells the boys who accept Christ and uses them for His glory. Look at what God did through Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, Moses, David, and a score of other boys in sacred Writ. Some of the greatest servants of God were saved while boys or young men. Matthew Henry, the great commentator, was eleven, and Isaac Watts, the hymn writer, was nine. Jonathan Edwards, the father of the New England awakening, was seven; George Fox, the great Quaker preacher, was eleven; Peter Cartwright, the great preacher-statesman, was sixteen; General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was thirteen; William Penn was twelve; P. P. Bliss, the hymn writer, was twelve. Spurgeon received his start in the Sunday school, and at the age of sixteen was a regular teacher. Moody was seventeen when his Sunday school teacher led him to Christ, and George Mueller was saved when only twenty.

5. *The Greatest Field for God and Satan*

The Communists are placing great emphasis on the youth. They have enlisted millions of boys to live for Marxism. It has been stated that for every child that is being taught Christianity, five are taught Communism. It is through the youth of today that Khrushchev expects the Reds to have world dominion in the next decade.

Twenty million of our boys are not enrolled in any Sunday school. Of those who are, the Church has lost 75 per cent by the time they reach the age of twelve. However, we can praise the Lord that the Holy Spirit, through consecrated workers, is reaching many boys for Christ. Statistics show that 86 per cent of all converts are saved between the ages of four and fifteen.

Royal Rangers Is the Answer

1. *Royal Rangers is God's program to stop the devil's program of robbing*

Royal Rangers has everything that a boy desires: Comradeship, camping, sports, merit badges, ranks, awards, uniforms, skills, hobbies, and much more. But, in addition, it is a spiritual program. It prepares boys to work in our great Sunday school and Christ Ambassador programs and in all other departments of the church.

2. *Royal Rangers is an ideal means of teaching our boys the Bible.*

The Supreme Court's ruling on Bible reading and prayer in our schools has dismayed us. Our boys must learn the Word of God. The Scripture, "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15) refers to our boys too. The Pioneer Handbook, the Trailblazer Handbook, and the Air-Sea Ranger Handbook present the great doctrines of the Bible. The rank system of the Royal Rangers serves as a tremendous incentive for boys to learn the Word of God. When our boys graduate from Royal Rangers into adult life, they will be able to say with David of old, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

3. *Royal Rangers presents the greatest field of evangelism among boys that I know of.*

Through Royal Rangers we can reach boys, both unchurched and church, that we could never reach by the Sunday school or church services. What a privilege it has been to lead many boys of non-Protestant and nonevangelical faiths as well as the unchurched, to acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour. Without the Royal Rangers we would not have had this privilege.

I strongly urge every church to start a Royal Rangers outpost immediately. Let every pastor and layman carefully consider the following statement by C. N. Hostetter: "What shall it profit a church if it go around the world to make converts and lose its own sons and daughters?"

