

Teen Challenge center starts Royal Rangers outpost

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—John Koth, a former drug addict and ghetto resident who was saved through

the Teen Challenge ministry, has formed what could be the most unique Royal Rangers outpost in the nation.

Some 60 boys from the ghetto areas of the Bronx make up this new outpost.

Impetus for the program came through David Wilkerson, founder of the Teen Challenge ministry and now its executive director.

"If only these adult men and women were reached for Jesus Christ as young boys and girls," Mr. Wilkerson often said. "If only the prevention could have been possible instead of the painstaking cure. It is better to build boys than mend men." This burden resulted in the beginning of the Christian Urban Renewal Effort (CURE) four years ago.

The major purpose of CURE is to work with the children of the ghettos by setting up separate clubs for boys and girls with Bible classes, prayer times, and recreational activities. Its goal is to avert the drug problem before it gets started.

The Royal Rangers group, under the direction of John Koth, started with a handful of boys about two years ago. The boys had no place to hold their meetings so they began to pray that God would supply a clubhouse.

On Fox Street, in the center of the Bronx ghetto area, was a poolroom where drug pushers hung out to purchase their

drugs. John and the Royal Rangers began to pray that God would move these people out of this place. For two months they continued to pray, and one day John was told that the pushers were being evicted for non-payment of rent. The landlord asked if John and the boys could use the building.

The building was soon occupied by the Rangers. They had plenty of room, but no recreational equipment. Prayer went up for this need, and in two weeks the owner of a department store donated two Ping Pong tables and several games for the boys.

Their next need was for Royal

Rangers uniforms. Faith had steadily grown in each boy's heart through answered prayer, so again they prayed. Within a few weeks, a church donated \$150 for uniforms.

The power of prayer and the reality of Christ have caused these boys to surrender their lives to the Lord. Some have been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The boys are witnessing to teachers and other students at school, and also distribute tracts and other literature to people in their area.

"These young men have become a fantastic witness to their communities," Mr. Koth states. "Though their surroundings be that of sin and terror, the words of Jesus have proved true in their lives, 'Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.'"

John Koth, director of the boys division of CURE, is surrounded by some of the members of the Royal Rangers outpost.



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CURE staff member Howard Farmer, a former drug addict and ex-convict who was saved through the Teen Challenge ministry, works with members of the ghetto outpost on Bible study projects. (Photos by Bob Spangler)

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