



Ten years of winning boys

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I LOOKED AT IT a second time: 87,000 boys won for Christ. Then turning to Don Franklin, the national training coordinator, I asked: "Don, are these figures correct?"

For the next few minutes we checked the annual reports and other sources together. Yes, it was true! An estimated 87,000 boys had made decisions for Christ through the Royal Rangers program over the past 10 years.

I thought back to the time 10 years ago when we prayed that God would use the newly formed Royal Rangers program to win boys for Christ. All our planning, goals, and activities were aimed toward evangelism. The uniforms, colorful badges, and exciting activities were to be the bait on the hook to attract unsaved boys to the program so they could be challenged for Christ. And it paid off!

When the challenge of Christ was presented against a backdrop as colorful as Royal Rangers, Christianity began to take on a new dimension to these boys. It suddenly became an exciting adventure to accept Christ and live for Him.

I remember the first reports of outstanding evan-

gelistic results through the program.

One pastor wrote, "When we started Royal Rangers, we could hardly find five boys to meet the minimum requirement for a charter. After a few months our group has grown to 39. What a thrill to report that now 28 of these boys have made decisions for Christ. Most of them did not attend our church before we began Royal Rangers."

Another minister stated, "I thought that this was just another program to give boys something to do to keep them out of mischief. But after seeing 11 of our boys accept Christ at a campfire devotional at our last campout, I realize that Royal Rangers has unlimited evangelistic possibilities."

Reports indicated that entire families were being won for Christ. I recall during one rally a man standing and testifying, "A few months ago my son joined the Royal Rangers in this church. A few weeks later he gave his heart to Christ. He told my wife and me about his experience, and through his influence we started attending church. Today my wife and I are both saved and filled with the Holy Spirit."

Sometime later a pastor friend came by our booth at General Council and stated, "We have won seven new families for our church through Royal Rangers—and we just started! We're going to win more! Royal Rangers has opened doors to reach outside families like nothing else we've tried."

Our office continued to receive a flow of such testimonies over the years. Annual reports from local outposts indicate that boys are won each year in almost every outpost.

The leadership training course launched early in the program contains an excellent, detailed section on "Winning Boys for Christ." Over 15,086 men have enrolled in this course. The practical training they have received in the techniques of soul winning is another reason for the outstanding evangelistic results we have seen.

When the first district-wide powwows were conducted in 1964, district commanders began to report large numbers of boys won for Christ. I personally recall witnessing 93 boys step forward at a council fire service to accept Christ as their personal Saviour. To date over 40 districts are utilizing the annual powwows to evangelize boys.

Through personal counseling, outpost meetings, campfire devotions, rallies and powwow evangelistic services, thousands of boys have started the greatest of all adventures—the adventure of living for Christ. Many of these are now attending Bible college preparing for the ministry. Some have become Royal Rangers leaders, sharing with other boys the benefits they themselves received.

Ten years ago the question in many minds was, "Will the Royal Rangers program work? Is this endeavor worth the effort?" After 10 successful years, the program has proved its worth many times over by producing the highest of all assets—the conversions of boys.

As we stand on the threshold of a new decade for Royal Rangers, we are deeply grateful for all that has been achieved through the past 10 years. However, should Christ tarry, with the help of dedicated leaders and the support of concerned churches we will see even greater evangelistic results in the future.