

man involvement

By **JOHNNIE BARNES** / *National Royal Rangers Commander*

fellow Royal Rangers gave their hearts to Christ.

Some men have their first experience in evangelism through Royal Rangers. Will Thorne, national Royal Rangers commander of Australia, wrote a few days ago concerning a new outpost in South Australia. On their very first camp-out, 17 boys accepted Christ.

These are not just isolated incidents; there is an emerging pattern. Last year, an estimated 17,000 boys were won to Christ through the Royal Rangers program.

CHURCH ENTHUSIASTS

Pastors report that some of the best backers of the church are Royal Rangers leaders. These men feel very keenly the need of being the right examples before the boys they lead.

At a recent council of achievement I was sitting next to the pastor. The commander of the group asked one of the boys, as a part of his requirements for advancement, to give the 16 fundamental truths of our church with a Scripture reference for each. I was thrilled as the boy stood and in rapid-fire succession not only gave the 16 fundamental beliefs and a Scripture reference for each, but also quoted each verse.

The pastor nudged me and whispered, "I'm glad they weren't asking me to do that." Then he proudly added, "That's one of my future deacons." This emphasis on church doctrine will produce knowledgeable church members.

An additional emphasis on Christian service involves boys in doing many odd jobs around the church. This develops a pattern of service to the church which carries over into adult life.

An emphasis on the role of their church in the kingdom of God, along with doctrinal studies and Christian service involvement, prepares boys to become enthusiastic church leaders as adults.

BIBLE READERS AND SCHOLARS

One goal in Royal Rangers is to develop an appreciation for the Word of God. Among the advancement requirements is one to read the entire Bible and to memorize many portions of Scripture.

One commander stated, "I started reading my Bible each day when I was a Royal Ranger, and it became such a habit that I am still reading the Bible each day—

not because I am required to, but because I want to."

GOOD CITIZENS

The mayor of Trenton, New Jersey, stated a few months ago, "If the Royal Rangers have made the same impression in other cities as they have here in Trenton, they are developing throughout America quite a reputation as good citizens."

In Northern California the Royal Rangers reserved a popular amusement park for the day. Around noon the manager confessed to Ray Tice, the Royal Rangers district commander, "Because of my experience with some other groups, I automatically doubled my security for the day. After observing your boys this morning, I sent all the reserves home at noon. I am of the opinion I might as well send the rest. Your boys are the best behaved group we have ever had here."

This is the way it should be. Christians should be the best citizens of all. We need a continuous cycle of Royal Rangers men and boys who will keep stressing this by their example.

CONSERVATIONISTS

With today's emphasis on ecology, we are happy to report that we are developing a corps of men and boys who have appreciation and concern for our natural resources.

One Royal Rangers group obtained permission to take a backpacking trip on one of the trails in the Absaroka Wilderness of Wyoming. After the trip the forest ranger, following his normal procedures after such trips, instructed the trail crew to "go clean up after that group."

The crew leader reported later, "You know, it's almost unbelievable, but we didn't need to clean up after those Royal Rangers; we couldn't even find where they had camped."

We want to continue this kind of reputation.

COURAGEOUS, CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS

Part of the Royal Rangers pledge states, "With God's help, I will do my best to serve God, my church, and my fellowman."

This service to our fellowman sometimes reaches beyond spiritual assistance. I have been appalled to read of the noninvolvement of some people in our society. There have been cases of individuals being robbed, beaten, and murdered in full view of several people, and no one intervened or even called the police. I am happy to report that in spite of this noninvolvement philosophy generally prevalent, the National Royal Rangers Committee has awarded more than 100 Medals of Valor to boys for quick and courageous action that saved a life at the risk of their own. We want a continuous cycle of men and boys showing this type of courageous concern for our society.

ROYAL RANGERS WEEK

October 7-14 is Royal Rangers Week. This date also marks the 11th anniversary of the program. Many churches will observe this week with a special Royal Rangers recognition service and by special events during the week, such as father-son banquets, father-son camp-outs, and Royal Rangers open house.

We are very grateful for this Pentecostal, Bible-based, Christ-honoring program that is producing a continuous cycle of boy-man involvement for Christ.

