

For over 20 years the light of Jesus Christ has been shining brightly through the ministry of Royal Rangers.

Sensing the need for ministry to boys, the executives of the Assemblies of God made a decision in 1961 to begin such a ministry.

Responding to the invitation of Howard Bush, then executive director of Men's Fellowship, Johnnie Barnes moved to Springfield to supervise the formation and development of this program in January 1962.

Many names were considered, and finally *Royal Rangers*, suggested by Charles W. H. Scott, then an assistant general superintendent, was adopted as the program's official name.

For Johnnie Barnes involvement in this kind of ministry was the fulfillment of a vision which he had for many years—a program ministering to boys.

He spent countless daytime and evening hours during those initial months formulating the program of the Royal Rangers.

The Royal Rangers pledge, code, motto, advancement requirements, use of the handbooks, application form, charter certificates, membership cards, promotional brochure, uniforms, badges, insignias, and awards all came into being through the tireless efforts of Commander Barnes.

About 1:30 one morning he awakened with an inspiration which resulted in the design and meaning of the Royal Rangers emblem.

During spring 1962 a pilot program was begun at Webster Park Assembly near Springfield. Bob Reed provided the leadership for this project and later became the first national training coordinator.

The program and materials were completed by October 1962, and Royal Rangers was officially promoted by announcements and articles in the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

The priority goal of Royal Rangers is evangelism—reaching boys for