

'All the LIGHT you need'

The 1982 theme for the Royal Rangers ministry is "Walking in the Light." One of the major tasks of Royal Rangers leaders is to teach boys to walk in the light of God's Word—to be guided by sound Christian principles.

As a boy I lived on a small Texas ranch. Our nearest neighbor lived about half a mile away. Many times my father would walk over to our neighbor's house and visit during the evening. Sometimes he took me with him.

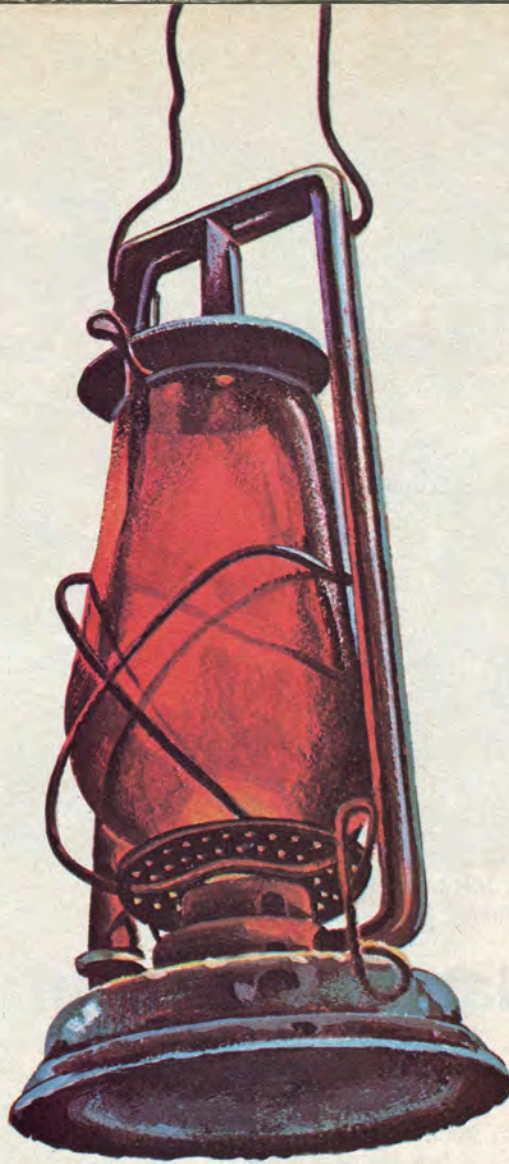
On one such occasion our visit lasted longer than usual. Becoming tired and sleepy, I told my father I wanted to go home.

"If you want to go home now," he answered, "you'll have to go alone."

"But, Daddy, it's dark!" I protested.

Rising, my father proceeded to light an old kerosene lantern. "Here's a light, Son. Go on home."

Carefully I stepped off the front porch and started for home. At the yard gate, it dawned on me I could no longer see the house. All I could see was a small patch of ground around my feet illuminated by faint lantern



light. In panic, I cried, "Daddy!"

"What's wrong now?" my father called.

"It's dark all around me, and I can see hardly at all!"

The figure of my father appeared out of the darkness. Placing his hand on my shoulder, he gently instructed me: "Just start walking down the trail, Son. It's all the light you need."

By **JOHNNIE BARNES**
Royal Rangers National Commander

Reassured, I cautiously took one step—then two—then three. Each step I took, the faint lantern light went before me, revealing the trail. Soon I was standing on the steps of my home. Just as my father had promised, it was all the light I needed.

Many times since then the darkness of uncertainty has settled around me. Often I cried, "O God, it's so dark. What lies ahead—what will the outcome be?" Then the Spirit of my heavenly Father would assure me: "Stop worrying, Son. Just keep walking ahead. You have all the light you need."

His promises have always proved true. Every dark trail had led into a brighter place. If I keep walking, one day it will lead to the light of my heavenly home.

We must place into the hands of boys a light (the Word of God), then teach them this light is reliable. Today's boy lives in a dark world, a world corrupted by immorality, dishonesty, violence, and greed. Many boys grope for an answer, for a sense of direction. Thank God, the Bible still provides all the light they need.

The Royal Rangers ministry has a strong emphasis on Bible study. We believe the greatest knowledge a boy can acquire is a knowledge of God's Word.

This emphasis is stressed through a weekly Bible study lesson a boy completes in the privacy of his own home. These lessons are then reviewed at the weekly outpost meeting.

Bible study is also incorporated into the advancement program. To earn the colorful badges and awards a boy must demonstrate certain Bible knowledge. This is in the form of Bible facts and memorized Scripture verses.

Biblical principles are also woven into all Royal Rangers activities and events.

It is a vital and rewarding task to teach boys to walk in the light and to know the light God gives is all the light they need.