



# 'This can't be church!'

By DOUGLAS TARPLEY

with Him is the most important experience one can have. Through Royal Rangers boys learn the plan of salvation.

Boys learn to consider the implications of their attitudes and behavior. They are encouraged to be faithful in church attendance, to develop Bible study habits, and to practice a vibrant prayer life.

Royal Rangers leaders take a personal interest in the spiritual life of boys. Moreover, the leaders function as role models.

One pastor declared, "Royal Rangers means evangelism." Whether lingering after an outpost meeting, or as the fire burns low at a campout, boys respond to dedicated leaders who are burdened for their salvation and spiritual growth. Men also deepen their commitments to God in such environments. Boys develop spiritually through Royal Rangers.

*Mentally.* The advancement pro-



**R**oyal Rangers, the Assemblies of God scouting program for men and boys, celebrates its 22nd anniversary October 7-13 during national Royal Rangers Week.

This year's theme, "Developing the Total Boy," is what Royal Rangers is about. As a father of a Royal Ranger, I know the importance of the program to boys and their families.

I appreciate the teaching my son gets on what is right and acceptable through instruction, activities, and modeling. I value the support I receive in encouraging him to live a Christian life-style.

Throughout Royal Rangers Week churches will honor Royal Rangers and leaders with ceremonies and activities. Why? Because Royal Rangers is a proven ministry to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. In 1983, 15,000 boys were saved and 7,000 received the Holy Spirit through this ministry.

**T**he following examples illustrate the effectiveness of Royal Rangers.

At the recent School of Missions in Springfield, five men talked with Johnnie Barnes, Royal Rangers national commander. Each told of coming to Christ and receiving a missions call through Royal Rangers.

A youth leader in a small Assemblies of God church in Springfield, Missouri, named several families brought into the church through boys who were first introduced to the

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church through Royal Rangers.

One boy declared, "I wanted my mom and dad to be Christians too."

Some of the boys and their family members are now in Bible college studying to be pastors and missionaries, while others attend Christian liberal arts colleges.

A student at Central Bible College continues to be active in Royal Rangers in a local church because of the "great potential for evangelism" the program offers. He also values its possibilities for education about the church and its doctrines.

One Ohio pastor declared, "Royal Rangers means much to me personally, to the church I pastor, and to the Movement."

The chairman of the Christian Education and Ministry Department of Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, North Dakota, believes Royal Rangers is such an important ministry that he is making plans to include the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course in the curriculum for ministerial and Christian education majors.

"If you want kids to understand the Pentecostal experience, the pastor, local church, and denomination, you must invest time, energy, and money to expose them to it in ways that will reach them," he said. "Royal Rangers is an effective way to reach boys."

**R**oyal Rangers is designed to prepare boys for Christian manhood in four ways.

*Spiritually.* Royal Rangers is Christ-centered and Bible-based. It recognizes Jesus Christ as the most significant historical person in our world, and that a personal encounter