

# Rangers in Japan—a new beginning

By **DALE JACKSON**  
Missionary to Japan

20 to 25 trainees. They were sure I had exceeded the limits of faith when I suggested we plan for at least 40. I went on to explain that, if 60 men enrolled, we could put three men to a tent instead of two.

I contacted Johnnie Barnes in Springfield, Missouri, the founder of the Royal Rangers program and its national commander, about the possibility of bringing a group of men to Japan to help us launch the first NTC in September. He generously agreed to bring a team of men, which consisted of himself, Mark Gentry, Fred Deavers, Robb Hawks, and Don Henderson, pastor of the Assembly of God in Sterling, Colorado.

Our sons, Dean and Keith, also came and served as interpreters for the team under the Mobilization and Placement Service program. Having gone through much of the Royal Rangers training program and having grown up in Japan, they were able to make the necessary cultural adaptations as they translated.

As the deadline for the National

Training Course enrollment drew near, we waited with bated breath to see how many would come. The students get only 4 weeks of summer vacation; therefore, families tend to take their vacations during that time. So it was with great excitement we tabulated 42 names.

As the training got under way, I noted with amusement that the reactions of some of the trainees were the same as I had observed at NTC in America. The first evening two pastors, who had come only after special encouragement from me, got together and decided the training was too rough. They wanted to sneak away from camp. But they decided to try it for one more day because "Jackson Sensei would feel bad if we left." I remembered training camps in America and how some of the men wanted to leave, but didn't have their own cars at the camps.

After the NTC ended, we began to hear many reports of the blessings it brought. I heard one negative response: we had too much food! When planning the menu, I had forgotten that the Japanese don't eat as much as Americans.

Already we are receiving inquiries about NTC this year. More and more people are wanting to get involved. Last March we began teaching the Leadership Training Course. We presently have over 130 people enrolled.

Already we are hearing reports of the blessings of the Lord on Royal Rangers in Japan. One of our pastors could not wait for all of the training materials to be completed, so he started the program as soon as he had the *Leaders Manual* and the *Pioneer Handbook*.

He was pioneering a new church and didn't have any people, so he went out into the neighborhood, found five boys, and began with them. In less than a year all five families were saved and attending his church, and an additional five boys had enrolled in the program.

We are trusting the Lord to provide funds for the translation and printing of the other manuals and material needed to give us a well-rounded program for the boys and men of Japan. Up to now we have concentrated on material for training leaders. With a core of leaders trained, we have begun to charter outposts. We now have six outposts, and many more are beginning to meet in preparation for chartering.

We believe this is just a beginning of what God wants to and will do through Royal Rangers in Japan, as we yield to Him and as you continue to support us with your prayers. ☺

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