

Boys ministry celebrates its 30th anniversary



More than 132,000 boys
in nearly 6,000 U.S.
Assemblies of God
churches will be involved

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Royal Rangers still changing lives

in Royal Rangers
this week.

By KEN RIEMENSCHNEIDER

Luis Santaella, 23, moved to New Haven, Connecticut, from Puerto Rico 10 years ago. Fortunately his life didn't turn out like some of his buddies in New Haven's inner city. Nef* is still a drug dealer, and Tony Ocasio died New Year's Day. He was shot to death while trying to break away from dealing drugs.

How did Luis avoid a similar fate? He met Jesus when he was 13 years old in Royal Rangers. About his first visit to Rangers, Luis said, "I could see the love in these people."

His parents and the influence of Royal Rangers kept Luis in high school. After graduating he attended trade school and today works at Yale University. In return, he is now touching the lives of inner-city boys

as a Royal Rangers commander at his church.

Royal Rangers—30 years old

Royal Rangers observes its 30th anniversary this week. In fall 1961 the Men's Fellowship secretary, Burton Pierce, invited North Texas District Christ's Ambassadors president, Johnnie Barnes, to develop the new ministry. *Rangers* had been the working name for the program. It was Assistant General Superintendent Charles W.H. Scott who first dubbed the ministry "Royal Rangers."

"Reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ" was the stated purpose under which it was officially launched in the October 1962 *Pentecostal Evangel*. An Assemblies of God phenomenon was born.

Since then more than 1 million boys have been a part of this outreach in America. More than 2,200 boys have

*Names have been changed.

