Gearing up for urban ministry



By MARSHALL BRUNER

members of the Division of Home

n 1993 the Royal Rangers ministry began gearing up for urban ministry in an endeavor to evangelize boys and train leaders in the cores of our U.S. cities. The challenge toward urban ministry was presented to the national Royal Rangers office in February 1993. Since then the national office has begun a multilevel strategy to target inner-city youth.

Study

An Urban Task Force Committee was appointed to begin and continue studying how to better evangelize urban America. Also national officers have met with

The national Light-for-the-Lost and Royal Rangers offices contributed 100,000 urban youth Bibles, developed for African-Americans, for distribution to the 39 major population centers.

Missions, home missionaries, urban pastors, and urban commanders.

Prayer Task Force

National, district, and sectional leaders participated in the first-ever urban Prayer Task Force trip to Chicago in October 1993. They met with urban commanders and pastors to learn about urban needs and to fast and pray for God's move in those urban outposts. The national office plans to hold annual urban PTFs and is encouraging districts to conduct PTFs as well.

Urban Bibles

Some \$50,000 has been raised, with another \$80,000 pledged, through

the Light-for-the-Lost Junior Councilmen program. The moneys are being used to develop and print urban youth Bibles. The national LFTL and Royal Rangers offices contributed 100,000 urban youth Bibles, developed for African-Americans, to the Division of Home Missions earlier this year for distribution to the 39 major population centers targeted by DHM. Plans are to later print at least 100,000 multicultural urban youth Bibles.

Urban commanders training and resources

The national office has developed the Urban Commanders Training Guide and is preparing an Urban Commanders Resource Guide to strengthen local urban outposts. Also national and district officers have begun conducting urban commanders training conferences. To better prepare urban commanders for ministry, urban training conferences and workshops are being held in strategic locations.

Achievements have been designed with the urban Rangers in mind. Insight Group curriculum, designed by Turning Point to help teenagers deal with life-controlling problems, is being published and distributed through the national Royal Rangers office for use in local outposts. Also values-based curriculum is being prepared by the national office.

Teen Challenge

The national Teen Challenge and Royal Rangers offices have teamed up to conduct Royal Rangers leadership training in local Teen Challenge centers. The program is being offered to Teen Challenge students wanting to become urban commanders.

Field reports

• Cincinnati, Ohio: A Teen