

Challenge center has already begun training its students to be urban commanders. Royal Rangers leadership training is offered to all students at the center. Also the center is working with a local outpost to provide Royal Rangers programs in three independent urban programs that had offered their facilities.

- New York, New York: In 1993 an African-American commander in Harlem completed the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course and National Training Camp, then established a new outpost with 45 boys. A local church member raised the funds to outfit each boy and commander in the Royal Rangers uniform.

- Dallas, Texas: An urban church in Dallas is holding Royal Rangers meetings in a government housing project, which was provided by that local government. Some 40 boys are coming to weekly meetings and are being taught about Jesus Christ, the Master Ranger. The boys then are being integrated into the local urban church's outpost for further discipleship. The South Central Region Royal Rangers leaders are raising funds to assist that and other urban outposts.

Thomas Wilson, pastor of Oak Cliff Assembly of God in Dallas, reported that a local boys program was unable to continue due to lack of leaders and had asked the pastor for assistance. With that request some 160 urban boys were taken into that local assembly's outpost.

- Phoenix, Arizona: Regional leaders here worked locally to establish a Royal Rangers outpost this summer in a neighbor's backyard, which served as a neutral zone between two major gangs. When canvassing nearby neighborhoods to invite boys, the commanders quickly recruited over 70 boys. The objective of the commanders was to first present the program, then—after having gained their confidence—begin addressing the boys' spiritual needs. One commander there says the outreach outpost can reach up to 200 boys.

- Milwaukee, Wisconsin: One of the first outreach urban outposts was established here in a public school. "Twenty-six boys have been ministered to through this out-

reach," reported Brian Schmid, a local outpost commander and district public relations coordinator. "Almost all these boys have received Jesus into their hearts. The school staff has nothing but praise for our Rangers program."

In August district commanders of the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

District conducted a Royal Rangers inner-city powwow near Waupaca. Inner-city boys from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota attended this first-ever district urban powwow. ☐

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October 2-8 is National Royal Rangers Week.

Building an army

By **KEN HUNT**

I responded to the tug on my sleeve by turning to face a bronze-skinned slender lad of 14. "Commander Hunt, pray that I might be a missionary too," he pleaded.

The setting was an altar service during the 1994 National Camporama. I had given an altar call after centering on the apostle Paul's admonishment to "preach the gospel in the regions beyond you" (2 Corinthians 10:16, NIV). My challenge was that God had called each boy to be a missionary to his community as well as to the regions beyond. Then I asked: "What would happen if an army of 4,000 youngsters, led by the risen Savior and filled with the Spirit of God, would march into the cities of America?" The response to the altar was massive.

What precious work the Holy Spirit did in this young man's life. He immediately received the baptism



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in the Holy Spirit. There on the campground until after midnight a hungry vessel was being filled.

The church at large has left the inner cities of America in search of safer surroundings. Satan is having a heyday. This is changing. God is raising up an army of Royal Rangers with a desire to reclaim the cities for Him.

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