



# Royal Rangers:

*Doug Marsh has served as national Royal Rangers director since early 2007. Marsh recently visited with Pentecostal Evangel Editor Ken Horn.*

**evangel:** Give us some background about Royal Rangers, for those who may not be familiar with the ministry.

**MARSH:** We mobilize, inspire and resource men (and many women as well) to invest their lives in boys and young men. These are the future leaders of our homes, our churches and our communities. The world sends many mixed messages to boys and young men. Through the lives of our Rangers leaders, they are receiving a clear message that being like Jesus Christ is what it means to be a real man. In short, Royal Rangers is a mentoring ministry for future men.

**evangel:** Talk about why 2012 is a very special year for Royal Rangers.

**MARSH:** The ministry started in 1962, so 2012 is our 50th anniversary. We will celebrate by holding our largest event ever. Camporama will gather boys from all across the United States and over 20 nations around the world. It is a huge celebration.

**evangel:** What kinds of activities are the boys involved with in Royal Rangers?

**MARSH:** When Rangers began in 1962, the activity that attracted the greatest number of boys was camping. As a result, back then it was largely modeled after the Boy Scouts, with a camping feel and a uniformed look.

While we still have that today, a church can opt to run Royal Rangers with or without uniforms. It can be a camping program, a sports program, a technology program, a ministry outreach or any combination of these.

We've really shifted Rangers through the years to put the pastor and his vision at the center of the ministry. It's flexible enough that the church can

things side-by-side with boys. In the process, discipleship begins to happen.

**evangel:** Is there a church that is too small to have a Royal Rangers program?

**MARSH:** If the church has the desire to reach the lost, and wants to reach out to young families, then there is no church too small. We have plans for incrementally growing a Royal Rangers program by starting small and growing big. There are four groups that span ages 5-17. A church may not be able to offer all of that on day one, but Rangers has a track record of helping even a small church start

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choose how to focus it. In short, we put men and boys together, doing activities that are of mutual interest, whether that be hunting, hiking, baseball, photography — or even website design.

We want to build relationships in a highly interactive manner. Men build relationships by doing

small and grow the number of families coming to the church.

There are even examples of churches that have been started though Royal Rangers (and Girls Ministries), as a way to reach their communities and grow. There really is no church that could not start Royal Rangers if they are willing to start small and grow.