

outdoors skills are a part of everyday life in Mongolia, Royal Rangers leaders use technology as an attention-grabbing activity by offering children computer training.

“Churches in Eurasia desperately need children’s ministries,” says Mark Broberg, Eurasia Royal Rangers director. “But Royal Rangers International is beginning to change that. Pastors are beginning to see the benefit of investing in tomorrow’s leaders through this ministry.”

Especially in former Soviet bloc countries, programs similar to Boy Scouts have long been popular. In the mid-1920s Russian dictator Josef Stalin copied aspects of scouting to create Pioneers, a program to indoctrinate young people in the ways of communism. Pioneers was abolished many years ago, but the scouting format still creates interest among young people. Royal Rangers International is filling the void by planting outposts that emphasize Christian values and biblical principles. As a result, the outreach is growing in popularity.

“We have a lot of disjointed, hurting families,” says Mark. “It means so much to these kids when we show them the love of Jesus, give them direction,

and disciple them through Royal Rangers. We’re praying that Rangers will become an incredible youth movement, and that pastors, evangelists and missionaries will come out of the program.”

Outpost leaders have seen dramatic turnarounds in the lives of children who attend Royal Rangers.

Gerhard and Tammy Uys oversee 14 Royal Rangers outposts scattered across Cape Town, South Africa, and neighboring Swaziland. Because many of the 850 children who attend live in extreme poverty, the Royal Rangers program incorporates educational opportunities with its regular activities.

While picking up children for a Rangers meeting in a Cape Town slum, Gerhard saw Nicole, a teenage girl, standing on a street corner, ready to begin a life of prostitution. Gerhard had previously invited Nicole to Royal Rangers, but she had never attended.

Gerhard recalls the day clearly. He says, “I slammed on my brakes and said, ‘Nicole, get into this car. We are going to our meeting, and you are coming with us.’”

Nicole agreed and faithfully attended Royal Rangers meetings from that day forward. She accepted Christ, and through the sponsorship of Royal Rangers in South Africa, she trained to become a nurse.

As the day’s activities wind down at Camporama, 5,200 campers pack the outdoor meeting area for the evening service. In the fading sunlight, the international Royal Rangers carry the flags of their nations as a visual demonstration of the far-reaching impact of Royal Rangers International.

Observing the scene, Mark Broberg says, “It’s not by laws or politics that we truly change a nation. It’s in the hearts of boys and girls.”

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Missionary Mark Broberg

