

Mentoring for 50 Years

evangel: Royal Rangers, then, is an outreach?

MARSH: Absolutely. Rangers has traditionally been a mid-week program for the church, and it can continue to do that. But a lot of churches are opting to use it as an after-school program.

We also have churches that use Royal Rangers as their Sunday morning outreach to the community because families outside the church will often come out at that time, and bring their children. So, Rangers can include a strong emphasis on outreach or a strong emphasis on discipleship.

evangel: Many boys have been saved under Royal Rangers, and many boys in the church have had their lives turned around for the good through the ministry. Could you share some examples?

MARSH: I had opportunity to pray with a young man at the altar recently. His unsaved mother was raising him alone, and he came to Christ within the past few months. He was a boy who, by all accounts, was tough on a single mom. The transformation that occurred in his life caused his mom to say, "I'm going to have to find out what these people at church did to you." She has since come to know the Lord

because of the boy's example.

Stories such as these are very common. There are so many lives being changed. I always tell our Rangers leaders that evange-

MARSH: All of us have had those same kinds of thoughts. *I'm going to stand in front of a group of kids and suddenly wake up to realize I've made a tragic*



National Commander Johnnie Barnes meets with California Gov. Ronald Reagan on the 10th anniversary of Royal Rangers, in 1972.

lism and discipleship work 100 percent of the time. That doesn't mean 100 percent of the people will respond positively. But when you cast the seed, God always honors it with fruit. And that's what is happening.

evangel: Talk about leadership in the local church. What would you say to the laymen who think Royal Rangers sounds like something they might like to try, yet they don't feel qualified?

decision. We've done a number of things to help take the fear out of leading Royal Rangers.

I would encourage any potential leaders that we have created excellent resources; you're not flying blind. We have a leaders manual, and all our resources are conveniently found online. We offer them online so we can keep them current and relevant. Included are week-by-week meeting guides — everything you need if, for example, you want to teach basketball.

We also have training to take