

'Ranger fever' in Argentina

By RALPH HIATT / Missionary to Argentina

THE ROYAL RANGERS program of the Assemblies of God has been well received by the youth of Argentina. Calling themselves "Explorers of the King," dozens of Rangers units have been springing up across the country.

I was recently invited to the inauguration meeting of one of these units in Pacheco. The group had been started by the 17-year-old Christ's Ambassadors president, Juan Lara. He learned of the Rangers program in a nationwide retreat for CA leaders and recognized it as a means of reaching the boys in the neighborhood around his church.

One of the first things Juan did was inspire Oscar Tisera, a layman from the local church, to become the official commander of the unit.

Then they gathered seven boys and helped them learn the code, the promise, the Scripture verses, and the meaning of the Rangers emblem.

The boys worked hard, attended the group meetings faithfully, and enrolled in Sunday school. After three months of training they were ready to form an official Royal Rangers unit.

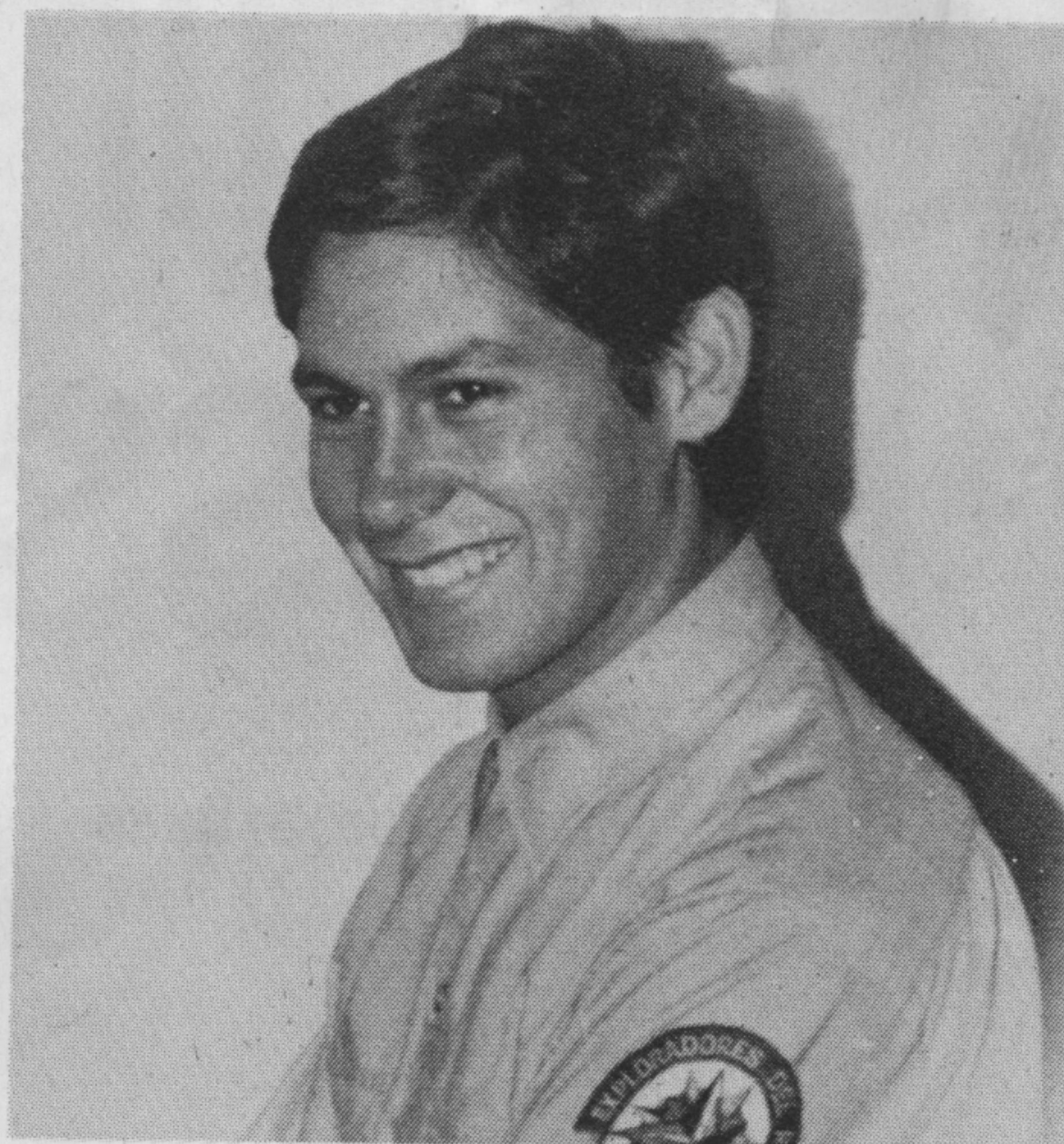
My sons Ron and Tim went with me to Pacheco and provided music for the service with guitar and trumpet. We taught the boys the chorus, "We Are More Than Conquerors,"

and presented a membership card, a cap, and an emblem to each one.

To climax the service we dressed one of the Royal Rangers in a suit of cardboard armor, and I spoke to them from Ephesians 6, giving special emphasis to Paul's comparison of the well-equipped Christian to the battle-ready soldier.

When I gave the invitation at the close of the service, one of the mothers, who had come to church to see her son become an official recruit, came forward with him and both accepted Christ as their Saviour.

Juan Lara, Oscar Tisera, and their Rangers are bringing other boys to hear about Jesus. And all over Argentina new units are being formed as "Ranger fever" rages.



ABOVE: Juan Lara, initiator of the Pacheco Royal Rangers unit and youth president at the local church. BELOW: Missionary Ralph Hiatt stands with his two sons and the leaders and members of the Pacheco Royal Rangers unit.



The Royal Rangers leaders are (left to right) Darrell Lowery, Roy McNeely, Jim Comfort, Ed Parker, Bob Johnston, Russell Bruton, and Ray Rollins.



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