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NEW! OUTSTANDING  
Church of the Year  
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Boys are always full of questions. They search for the truth.

## Giving Answers

By JOHN VAZQUEZ

AS FAR BACK AS I CAN remember, I was a problem to the community, the school, the church, and my family.

Throughout my teen-age years, I constantly rebelled against God and my parents. I was privileged to be raised in a Pentecostal home—my father was a Pentecostal minister—but my rebellion led me into a life of sin. I was thoroughly confused about what God wanted or expected from me.

In the midst of my despair, the Holy Spirit convicted me about my sinful ways. I prayed earnestly that God would save me. I know He heard my prayer

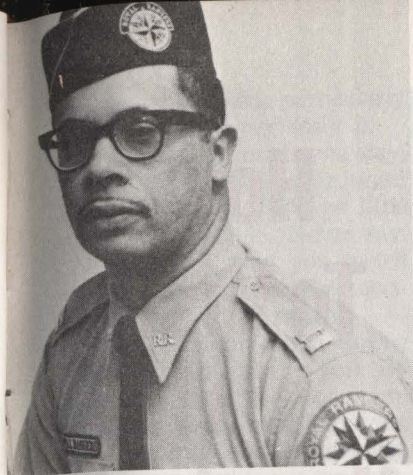
because since that day I have had the peace of God in my life.

I served two years and nine months in the United States Army. During my one year of combat in Korea, I can think of many times where the mercy of God kept me from capture and from death by enemy fire.

I returned to the United States and became active in my home church in Brooklyn, New York.

I was thrilled when I was asked to assume leadership of the Royal Rangers program. Then it hit me: Am I qualified?

My new position drove me to read the Bible, pray, ask questions, and finally to develop a



**Completion** of the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course has opened many opportunities for John Vasquez to help the boys in his outpost.

closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

God helped me to successfully complete the Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course which has proved to be an invaluable aid to me.

My background has served to remind me how important it is to reach boys while they are young and searching for answers. With God's help, through Royal Rangers, I am going to do my best to supply meaningful answers to their questions.

## What Does a Pastor Do?

**T**HE PASTOR TEACHES, though he must solicit his own classes. He heals, though without pills or knife. He is sometimes a lawyer, often a social worker, something of an editor, a bit of a philosopher and entertainer, a salesman, a decorative piece for public functions, and he is supposed to be a scholar. He visits the sick, marries people, buries the dead, labors to console those who sorrow and to admonish those who sin, and tries to stay sweet when chided for not doing his duty. He plans programs, appoints committees when he can get them; spends considerable time in keeping people out of each other's hair; between times he prepares a sermon and preaches it on Sunday to those who don't happen to have any other engagement. Then on Monday he smiles when some jovial chap roars, "What a job—one day a week!"

—Anonymous



sweets might be most inappropriate.

If you or your chapter must give a gift to the patient, why not give something useful, needed, and practical. A pair of bedroom slippers, pajamas, or writing paper and postage stamps are most always appreciated.

Almost any patient will welcome a small, inexpensive transistor radio with a private earphone. Religious tracts and church papers can be left with the patient.



WALT WOLFER

"One good thing about our situation . . . it's easy to get you together for family devotions."

Hymns, scriptures, and sermonettes in the wards (or even in private rooms) have tremendous healing power. I once belonged to a group that conducted "church" services in hospitals.

However, such a project requires careful planning, coordination and supervision. It also requires the consent and cooperation of the hospital authorities. On the basis of experience, I would say it is best to conduct religious services in the hospital's own chapel, if it has one. Then, ambulatory patients may attend, if they so desire.

Personally, I have never believed that bedridden patients should be made a "captive" audience for any speaker, no matter how well-intentioned he might be. If a patient requests religious instruction or a certain rite or ceremony, then a qualified clergyman can be called for the individual's needs.

As a lay visitor, however, you can offer a short audible prayer before you leave. Or, you and the patient can bow your heads in silence for a moment. If appropriate, hold the patient's

hand lightly during the prayer. This is a most comforting and reassuring gesture.

There is no doubt about it. Hospital visits do contribute to the health and healing of the patient. They bolster his morale and help him overcome feelings of depression, insecurity, and unworthiness. It has been said that a lack of visitors may retard a patient's recovery.

Keep in mind then, that your

visit has great therapeutic value for the patient. It spurs his will to get well quickly.

However, do not overdo the visiting. Do not use a visit to relieve your own guilt feelings or satisfy some morbid curiosity.

If you are discreet about it, your hospital visit can be "spiritual" therapy for the patient. As practicing Christians, we know this kind of therapy does promote health and healing.

**Money raised** from maintaining a parking lot during the county fair is given by Bradley McCammon, senior patrol leader, to Robert D. Hearne, supervisor of Teen Boys Cottage, for the Hillcrest Children's Home, Hot Springs, Ark. An annual project of the Boy Scout troop of Central Assembly, Springfield, Mo., the troop also gave an equal amount (\$163.51) to the Highlands Children's Home, Kansas City, Mo., and Central Bible College, Springfield, Mo. Paul Feller, right back row, is chairman of the church's Boy Scout committee.







While attending the American Bible Society council in New York City, Bishop J. A. Synan (left), and A. M. Long, of The Pentecostal Holiness Church, discuss the Society's best-selling paperback, "Good News for Modern Man," with Glen Bonds, national MF secretary. This is the New Testament in today's English. Within a year after publication the circulation reached nearly 8 million copies.

Cave exploring was enjoyed by members of the Southern Missouri chapter of the Royal Rangers Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity. The Fantastic Caverns near Springfield, Mo., was the site of the overnight adventure. Left to right around the table are Glen Bonds, national MF secretary; Wildon Colbaugh, TEAM editor; James Griggs, Southern Mo. District MF director; Johnnie Barnes, national commander Royal Rangers; David Barnes, scout, and John Eller, president of the FCF chapter.



Assemblies of God men attended the Protestant Relations Conference, a part of the national training program organized by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, held at Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base, Cimarron, New Mexico, July 1967. Present were Larry E. Tedder, second from left on front row, and Paul Feller, right back row. Paul Feller is national training coordinator of the Royal Rangers. Photo below shows Royal Rangers leaders present for a banquet meeting at the First Assembly of God, Valley Park, Mo. Of the 17 men shown, 13 are leaders in the local church, of which John Eller is the pastor. National Commander Johnnie Barnes, second from left back row, was speaker for the event.

