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Thank you,

The Editor



EXPLORADORES DEL REY: FUN WITH A PURPOSE

By Douglas Marsh

Boys know that Royal Rangers is synonymous with fun and adventure. But as boys progress through the program, their parents quickly see them developing leadership skills. The pastor soon realizes the ministry is building the next generation of men and spiritual leaders in his church. Royal Rangers *is* fun, and it has a purpose!

Delivering a mentally, physically, socially and spiritually challenging ministry –a purposeful ministry– is the mission of every Royal Rangers leader. In fact, if you want to see a grown leader tear up, just say “boy.” These men are passionate about “reaching, teaching and keeping tomorrow’s men for Jesus Christ.”

Over the past 14 years, over 6,000 such leaders have been trained in the 19 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America. Due to the efforts of these men, the ministry has grown to over 45,000 boys who are being ministered to on a weekly basis throughout our region.

Yes, 45,000 of today’s boys are having a great time while their leaders are purposefully shaping them into the next generation of godly men. Yet, the words of Loren Triplett are burned into our minds, “You don’t measure yourself against your accomplishments but against the unfinished task.”

The “Unfinished Task:” Reaching and rooting the 85 million boys under the age of 18 that live in our region. That must be the goal, nothing less! To do this, Royal Rangers in Latin America and the Caribbean (RRLAC) is “ratcheting up their efforts.”

- RRLAC is streamlining its already effective evangelistic and discipleship curriculum by making it more cost effective for parents and easier for leaders to implement it in the church.
- RRLAC is making its outstanding leadership training program for men and boys more accessible to new leaders in the local church.
- RRLAC is becoming more articulate about representing its “purposeful fun” to the church and to the unchurched.

Here is where you, the missionary body, come in. Yes, you have a role to play:

1. Pray for missionary and national personnel:

The fields of Latin American boys are definitely ready for harvest! But we are short on harvest hands. Additional missionary personnel is needed to reach and disciple boys.

Russ Turney, Asia Pacific Regional Director, recently said, speaking of the entire AGWM missions program, “Wherever we have sent missionary personnel, the church has grown.” When missionaries step up to the plate, nationals take a second look and follow our example. Far more pastors will disciple today’s boys, tomorrow’s men, when we show them its importance.

Might God be calling you to focus your priorities on training men to reach boys? How about starting a Royal Rangers ministry in the church you pastor? How about that LACC school? Why not at the children’s hospital? What about those kids living in prison with their incarcerated mothers?

2. Stand squarely behind the national Royal Rangers leaders:

Several qualities differentiate nations where Royal Rangers has deep roots and where it has shallow roots. One is in the area of support from the missionary body.

Royal Rangers is setting roots where missionaries strongly stand behind the national program. How do these missionaries make that strong stand? 1) By serving as a bridge between the national program and the Resource & Development Ministries office, which distributes the ministry curriculum and materials. 2) By allocating LFTL funds for Royal Rangers. A full-color evangelistic brochure is available, and all the boys’ handbooks and the *Leader’s Manual* are LFTL-approved. 3) By participating in key national events, like the National Camporama and/or other events. This speaks volumes about the missionary’s support of the ministry. 4) Finally, by praying for souls. We are talking about future husbands, fathers, businessmen, professionals, pastors, deacons,....

3. Send your National Commander to the upcoming “Encuentro 2004:”

January 19-23 we will gather, for the first time ever, with all the National Commanders in the region in one place and at one time—at Camp Summit (the Latin American Royal Rangers Center in Costa Rica). Please consider, as a missionary body, helping send the National Commander to this important event. We project that the activity will cost approximately \$300/person, plus travel.

The agenda includes: 1) Meeting with God, 2) Praying and planning, 3) Preparing strategies to strengthen Royal Rangers in the 21 nations currently using the ministry, 4) Preparing strategies to present the ministry to the other 14 nations that are not currently using the ministry, 5) Discussing trends that are affecting Royal Rangers throughout the region, and 6) Honoring Eugene Hunt for his wise and steady leadership in Royal Rangers over the past ten years. In January, he will focus his efforts in the direction of the *Facultad*. Eugene is loved by Royal Rangers throughout Latin America, and it is fitting that we recognize his labor of love.

Royal Rangers *is* fun, but leaders know that, like anything worthwhile, it requires effort. Your hands can make their work lighter by affirming the purpose that motivates them—to “reach, teach, and keep millions of Latin & Caribbean boys for Jesus Christ.”

Note: If you are interested in learning more about Royal Rangers, or would like to interact with Doug Marsh (dmarsh@ag.org; www.dougMARSH.org), please feel free to do so.