



ThinkOne: COMMUNITY

*Royal Rangers:
71 nations,
Six regions,
One community*

*by Douglas Marsh, Director
Royal Rangers International*

*Doug Marsh addressing the International Delegation
to National Camporama 2006 in Eagle Rock, Missouri.*



While reading the great love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, my attention is normally drawn to the selfless qualities of love—it never gives up, cares more for others than self,... Recently, however, I was struck by the good things one can do *without* love. Take a look. I can:

- Be a convincing public speaker, a powerful Word-preacher (*without* love)
- Perform demonstrative acts of faith (*without* love)
- Give generously to the poor (*without* love)
- Even become a martyr (*without* love)

In our context, we can even lead thriving outposts (*without* love).

These activities are noble when performed *with* love! Paul is warning that it is possible to engage in worthy causes without the right motives. The Christian method and motive for life and ministry is love.

God is calling Royal Rangers worldwide to ThinkOne: COMMUNITY. If we each approach God, people, and life with the love-method and love-motive, God promises to grow Royal Rangers into a purposeful family that will “bless the nations” (Genesis 12:2).

Love!

Love is the accurate assessment and the adequate supply of someone else’s need. God saw you and me in our lost state. He knew sin would require our life as penalty-payment. So Jesus sacrificed his life in our place; he rose so we could live.

Love by its nature requires us to notice others—to look around us, to be outward-focused. We find ministry purpose by seeing the needs of others and satisfying their cries. Love is being other-centered rather than self-centered.

Love Completely!

I tell my two young children that Deuteronomy 6:5 teaches us to love the Lord our God with head-love, heart-love, and muscle-love. It is no accident that God demands this three-fold expression of kinship; all three are vital.

Head-love is commitment. Commitment is defined as the importance we place on a relationship and the effort and persistence we expend to maintain or improve it. The opposite of commitment is apathy. Apathy is a silent form of hate that involves ignoring others and their needs (Deuteronomy 11; 30:16, 20; Joshua 23:11; Psalm 116:1; 1 Corinthians 16:22).

Heart-love is intimacy. Intimacy speaks to the emotional or spiritual intensity of interest, connection, and comfort we feel in a relationship. In the absence of intimacy, relationships are described as cold; where present, intimacy generates warmth and kindness (Psalm 34).

Muscle-love is zeal. Zeal refers to the energy or enthusiasm that propels the action necessary to confirm and deepen the relationship or cause. Without this passion there is little sense of progress or purpose (2 Kings 10: 16-28).

Even as we love God with heart-love, head-love, and muscle-love, we are called to love others in this same way. God invites us to love completely because he knows it will bring out the best in us. Love turns obligation into a choice, drudgery into joy. As we invest our lives in loving God and loving people, our zest for life increases. We can invest this energy into making our outposts into the life-changing communities they are intended to be.

Love: “And there are Patrols, Advancements, and Friendship. But the Greatest of these is Friendship!”

Of all the Ranger-methods (activities, patrols, advancements, service projects, etc.) friendship has the deepest impact. Paul said, “Love never dies” (1 Cor 13:8). Increasingly we live in a world that is distant and impersonal. In this context, students (and fellow leaders) are desperate for genuine camaraderie.

Communicating love within Royal Rangers requires a family, or community environment in which everyone feels accepted and valued. The degree to which we are effective in creating such an atmosphere is the degree to which we are effective in changing lives for Jesus’ sake.

How, then, do we create such a community?

➤ Community requires time: Students feel important and affirmed when an adult they admire shows a special interest in them. This takes time. Plan event schedules with opportunities for leaders to linger with the students.

➤ Community requires touch: An appropriate hug, a high-five, an arm around a student’s shoulder at a campfire. These personal expressions of warmth can often say more than words.

➤ Community requires concern: How about an e-mail on their birthday, a text message before that big test? How about attending that ball game, that graduation, that wedding? How about praying for them privately and publicly?

➤ Community requires affirmation: Psychologists tell us that many young people today suffer from poor self-esteem. Students are creative and unique, valued as they are today and full of God-given potential. Royal Rangers should affirm the essence of who they are, leaving them feeling good as they exit our meetings. Criticism needs to be kept to a minimum, as each critical comment requires nine affirmations to cancel out its negative effects.

➤ Community requires discipline: Yes, sometimes love must be tough. Affirmation and acceptance will also include correction. It is properly received when offered in a loving community environment.

When we build our outposts into strong, loving communities, we inspire our students to love God, love people (including non-believing friends and family), and love life. These committed, connected, and energetic young people make an incredible impact upon their world.

Love God, Love People, Love Life!

Love God—because He first loved us first.

- “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
- “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him” (John 14:21).
- “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor. 2:9).

Love People—because God gave himself for them.

- “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).
- “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).
- “Whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21).
- “But love your enemies, do good to them,…” (Luke 6:35).

Love Life—because the world will see your joy and believe in God.

- “For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor” (Prov. 8:35; 21:21).
- “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).
- “‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend” (James 2:23).
- “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you” (Ps. 63:3).

As Royal Rangers leaders, God looks for us to build a community strongly committed to one another and to the purposes of reaching the lost. As a method, love dictates that we create an inviting and affirmative ministry environment for students. As a motive, love dictates that we regularly search our heart and minister as unto the Lord. After all, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Gal. 5:6). Love is our highest method and our deepest motive.

God’s love expressed through us changes Royal Rangers from just another program into a noble, caring ministry. He plans to use Royal Rangers to bless the nations with His transformative love.

Let’s ThinkOne: COMMUNITY. God has established Royal Rangers in 71 nations, six regions, and given Royal Rangers one noble method and motive—**build a connected, caring global community that loves extravagantly.**

Love One Another!

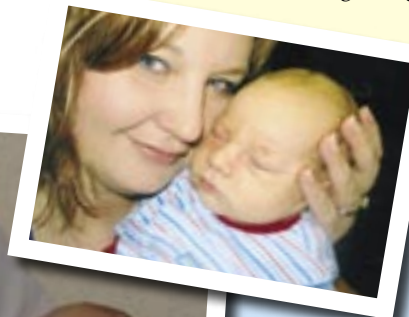
- “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John 13:34).
- “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).
- “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another” (Rom. 13:8).
- “Love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Pet. 1:22).
- “This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another” (1 John 3:11).
- “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us” (1 John 3:23).
- “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).
- “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11).
- “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us” (1 John 4:12).
- “I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another” (2 John 1:5).

Baby Ian

Born: August 11, 2006

Parents:

*Kristi & Matt Kling
(RRI Resource &
Development Coordinator)*



Baby Elijah

Born: July 10, 2006

Parents:

*Alex & Shana Ortega
(RRI Secretary)*

RRI BABY BOOM!

2006 Royal Rangers International Council Summary

April 25-27, 2006



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Jeff Cooper, *Latin American & the Caribbean Assistant Regional Coordinator*; Andy Whitman, *RRI Communications Coordinator*; Richard Mariott, *USA National Commander*; Doug Marsh, *RRI Director*; Robert Crabtree, *RRI Field Advisor*; JoAnn Butrin, *Director of International Service Ministries for Assemblies of God World Missions*; Mark Broberg, *Eurasian Regional Coordinator*; Jukka Piirainen, *European Regional Coordinator*; Jim Guneratnam, *Asia Pacific Auditor*

The third annual Royal Rangers International (RRI) Council meeting was held in Costa Rica, Central America, April 25-27, 2006 at the Latin American and Caribbean regional Royal Rangers center, called Camp Summit. The RRI Council meets each year to conduct business, exchange information and ideas between regions, and to build camaraderie and teamwork among the members. Here are some important outcomes of this year's meeting:

National Leadership Award: The Council approved an annual recognition program exclusively for National Commanders. The program is called the National Leadership Award (NLA). It is designed to honor National Commanders for their commitment to personal and ministerial growth. The recipients will be awarded a medal, a ribbon, and a handsome certificate to proudly display. Ideally, National Commanders will earn the distinction year after year beginning in early 2007 for points accumulated in 2006. Further information will become available in the October edition of the RRI 360° newsletter and on the RRI website.

RRI Global Leaders Encounter: The RRI Council is planning an exciting worldwide gathering of Royal Rangers July 14-18, 2010 near Springfield, Missouri, USA. It will be called the RRI Global Leaders Encounter, and the theme of the event will be "One Family." Attendance will be limited to National Commanders and their top national staff members, organizational leaders, presidents, superintendents, bishops, missionaries from around the world, and invited guests. The RRI Global Leaders Encounter has been scheduled immediately before the U.S. Camporama so that you and

your delegation can enjoy both of these events on the same trip to America. Please mark your calendar. This is an opportunity you will not want to miss! In the meantime, please send any ideas you might have or topics you would like covered at the Encounter to your Regional Coordinator (or to Andy Whitman, the RRI Communications Coordinator, if your region does not yet have a Coordinator). We are eager to hear from you. All ideas received by next April will be considered. Additional information will be provided mid-2007.

Global Curriculum and Training Resources: The new Global Curriculum and training resources have been completed and given to the Regional Coordinators for regional adaptation and contextualization. These fresh and exciting resources will be helpful for established nations and for those recently implementing Royal Rangers. Please contact your Regional Coordinator for full information.

Fifth Anniversary: In 2007, RRI will celebrate its fifth anniversary! Plans are underway to properly celebrate God's faithfulness to Royal Rangers all around the world. Did you know that Johnnie Barnes started Royal Rangers in 1962? It was pioneered by William Thorne in Asia Pacific in 1966, by George Davis in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1967; and by Hanspeter Neck in Europe in 1982. Many others, too, have been faithful pioneers. As RRI prepares to celebrate, we invite you to share with us your ideas on how we might focus the attention of church leaders, parents, and youth on Royal Rangers in such a way that it would build the ministry worldwide. Plans are underway even now, so please direct your comments to Andy Whitman,

the RRI Communications Coordinator, right away.

Camp Summit Dedication: The Council officially dedicated Camp Summit for the work of the Lord in a special ceremony led by Jeff Cooper, the camps director. JoAnn Butrin prepared a dedicatory message, and the members concluded by earnestly praying for the emerging camp ministries, the director and his family, and the staff. The fully functional camp is the result of Doug Marsh's vision for a facility to serve the needs of Latin America and the Caribbean. With God's help, similar facilities may emerge in each of the regions of the world.

The 2007 RRI Council meeting is scheduled for the week of April 23 in Sri Lanka. To learn more about RRI, visit the ministry website and download the *RRI Operational Guidelines* and the *RRI Cooperative Values and Practices*. The site also contains the minutes of the Council meeting, and other related information.

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Camporama 2006 Summary



International delegates from around the world greet the 5,000 US Rangers at National Camporama in Eagle Rock, MO.



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— INTERNATIONAL —

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We are happy to announce that Royal Rangers International is growing! Since 2002 RRI has been a guest of National Commander Rich Mariott in the Royal Rangers USA office complex. Now, in order to expand our missionary staff and to enhance our ability to serve the nations, we have undertaken a two-phase move to an office with warehouse space in Ozark, Missouri. Our new headquarters is known as the RRI Global Ministry & Resource Center. Phase one, the actual move and renovation of part of the office and warehouse, is already completed. Phase two, the building of an additional 1,500 square feet (approx. 500 square meters) of ministry space is underway and should be completed by early 2007. If you can help with a donation to cover some of our renovation and building costs, please contact us.

As stated on the official National Camporama website, "Camporama 2006 has come to an end and thousands of campers have now returned to their homes challenged to live the life of a champion for God. This week (July 17-21, 2006) will be remembered for it's hot and dry weather, loads of fun activities and competitions, exciting worship music and inspiring and challenging evening messages."

Royal Rangers International had the pleasure of hosting the international delegates from around the world. Approximately 80 Rangers attended from many countries including Germany, Mexico, Australia, Norway, Finland, England, Sweden, and the Dominican Republic. American Rangers got to meet the foreign delegates at the RRI booth, while competing in a soccer tournament known as the Ranger Cup and learning more about the ministry of Royal Rangers International. Mike King, the president of Pathfinder Missions, was on hand to tell leaders and boys how they could actively advance the kingdom of God through a Pathfinder trip.

To learn more about the results of National Camporama and see the great photos and streaming videos, visit the RRI website and use the Camporama link at: <http://royalrangersinternational.com>

EuroCamp 2007 — Keep On! Lillehammer, Norway



During the week of July 31 – Aug. 4, 2007, an estimated 5,000 Royal Rangers from all over Europe will travel to Lillehammer, Norway for EuroCamp. This special event takes place every 4 years and is similar to National Camporama in the USA, but instead of boys coming together from the 50 states, boys and girls will gather from 23 nations across Europe.

During the day, Rangers will participate in sports and compete against each other in activities designed to test their outdoor skills and use their God given talents. Many workshops and craft stations are offered that allow Rangers to

exercise their creativity through various artistic means.

Special services will be held each evening and are the spiritual highlight of the camp. Rangers will enjoy worship bands composed of their own peers, have the opportunity to express themselves through drama, and hear challenging messages from God's word. The services are usually conducted in English, but translation is available through headsets into the many languages used throughout Europe. Historically, many young people give their hearts to the Lord, or are motivated to a deeper Christian walk during these services.

To sum it all up, begin making your plans to be at EuroCamp 2007 where you will experience great fun and fellowship and be personally challenged to a higher level of love and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ!

www.RoyalRangersInternational.com

Stay connected to what is happening around the world by visiting the RRI website. The site is your one source for program information, reports, and details on upcoming global events. Be sure to read *RRI 360°*, the official newsletter for Royal Rangers leaders around the world, which is archived on the site. You can also read current news, like the progress of the program in Asia Pacific, or the results of the recent RRI Council in Costa Rica.

— PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFO ABOVE —