



— OUR PLEDGE —

With God's Help, I Will... "Live by the Ranger Code"

Royal Rangers are missional leaders. Missional leaders model Christlike character!

PART THREE in a series of four articles | BY DOUGLAS MARSH

Charisma. Gravitas. Talent. Image. Name recognition. Designer brands. These are the qualities that impress men of the modern era. But God has been, still is, and always will be committed first to character.

Character is what you do when no one is watching. Reputation, on the other hand, is what you do when others *are* watching. King Solomon suggested that if we care for our character, our reputation will care for itself (Proverbs 13:6).

Have you ever used or heard the phrase, "The real McCoy"? Ever wondered how it was coined? In 1891, Elijah McCoy, an African American inventor/scientist, invented an automatic lubrication device for heavy equipment, such as locomotive axils. This was big! His invention resulted in cost savings and increased efficiency.

He organized his own firm, the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company in Detroit, Michigan, to market his products and

consulting services. When others tried to copy his invention, his company coined the phrase, "The real McCoy." His name stood for something! McCoy became synonymous with "the real deal," with a reputation for quality and character.

What does it mean when we say, "I'm a Royal Ranger"? The name should mean something beyond affiliation. It should speak to the kind of person we are, "the real deal."

In *The Last of the Mohicans*, author James Fennimore Cooper writes, "With an Indian it is a matter of conscience; what he calls himself he generally is." When we call ourselves Royal Rangers, we commit ourselves to be and do what our pledge prescribes.

- Our pledge calls us to *depend* on God; "With God's help..." (SEE ARTICLE 1).
- Our pledge calls us to *serve* God, our church, and our fellowman with *excellence*; "I will

do my *best* to *serve*..."

- Additionally, our pledge calls us to be people of Christlike *character*; "To live by the Ranger Code..."

The Royal Rangers Code is a profile of the character of Christ. The Word calls us to "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). Jesus revealed himself as the Light of the World and promised that anyone who followed Him would "never walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). The Ranger Code points boys and leaders to the Light by describing the character of Christ.

Saying, "I'm a Royal Ranger," should be synonymous with declaring, "I'm a young man eager to reflect the true character of Christ."

Committing a code to memory is knowledge; committing it to life is wisdom. Wisdom is applied knowledge. How do we help boys live by the Ranger Code?



Boys Live the Code When Men Set the Example

Walter Cronkite, the retired iconic American broadcast journalist and CBS anchorman for nineteen years, was getting on an elevator in New York City once when a woman recognized him. Running to where he was she asked, "Are you the real Walter Cronkite?" The doors were closing and with a twinkle in his eye he said, "Only when I'm alone."

Royal Rangers leaders do not have a public persona that is different from the private persona; they are one in the same. Their character reflects that of Christ at all times and places. When speaking to young men, they echo the words of Paul, who said, "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

We can't be a big shot at the outpost and a big phony everywhere else! Credibility is only established as people see that our words and example match.

The key to spiritual influence in the lives of boys is living an authentic life of character they will find worth copying. With a genuine model worthy of imitating, boys will recite a code packed full of meaning. It all starts with a man who will walk the Christian walk.

Boys Live the Code When Men Teach the Truth

In addition to modeling the way, men are called upon to instruct the next generation of men in Christlikeness.

When and Where Do Men Teach?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 describes teaching young people all the time and everywhere!

- Teach boys as soon as they wake. Sit around the fire, gripping a cup of coffee, and talk and laugh while interjecting instruction in godly living.
- Teach boys when you are doing stuff together—during

***Watch your thoughts;
they become words.***

***Watch your words;
they become actions.***

***Watch your actions;
they become habits.***

***Watch your habits;
they become character.***

***Watch your character;
it becomes your destiny.***

—FRANK OUTLAW

***Want to be
reminded of
how awesome
God is?***

***Watch this video
on You Tube, titled
"That's My King."***



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upGCMI_b0n4

weekly meetings, while hiking along a mountain ridge, or while scrimmaging on the court.

- Teach boys when you are just hanging out, taking an extended trip, eating a meal together, or watching a lightning storm.
- Teach boys just before they conk out, peering into the embers of a campfire, or gazing at the stars.

You will notice that the times and places suggest action. How God knows His creation! Young people learn best in the midst of hands-on experience. Teach them on the fly, capturing those teachable moments!

What Do Men Teach?

Jesus said He was the Truth (John 14:6). Teach boys to love the Truth and to build their life on the Truth. To build life on anything else is to build on a lie.

Point boys to Jesus. Lift Him up as the model of authentic manhood. Let boys know He is the one you yourself pattern your life after because Jesus is the only one who ever lived His life the way God intends for us men to live our lives—totally sold out to God, His cause, and those He has seen fit to place in our care!

Compare and contrast the first Adam and the Second Adam, Jesus Christ.

- The first Adam was passive, watching Eve sin; the Second Adam was proactive, rescuing us from our sin.
- The first Adam was irresponsible, blaming Eve for his own lack of leadership; the Second Adam stepped up to the plate, assuming responsibility for the sin of the world.
- The first Adam was shortsighted, relinquishing the eternal for the temporal; the Second Adam was visionary, temporarily giving up the glory of heaven to provide an eternal solution to our sin-broken relationship with the Father.

Real men are like Jesus! He was a proactive and responsible leader, wired to prefer the eternal to the temporal. The Ranger Code describes the character of that Man, Jesus. True men copy Jesus, and that is the truth!

Why Do Men Teach?

The most important lessons young men learn in Royal Rangers are moral. Boys must understand that power for living is proportional to their love for God and that their love is evidenced by their obedience (John 14:15). God calls boys and young men to love Him totally!

Love is the greatest power in the world! A genuine love for God will motivate boys, and it will constrain them. A boy who loves right will do right.

Gratitude is the key to teaching boys to love God (1 John 4:19). As you systematically point out all that God has done for them, they will learn to love God, and more, they will love loving God! Love for God will keep them from sin (Jude 1:24); love will motivate them to be and do the Ranger Code, which is to be like Christ.

Boys Live the Code When Men Tell Their Stories

A grown man is never irrelevant to the next generation of men if he will share his life stories and lessons. How has God worked in your life? If and when appropriate, tell the good, the bad, and the ugly. Get to the point (you are speaking to boys after all) and remember to make Jesus the point; your stories must make *Him* look good.

Boys Live the Code When Men Affirm and Discipline

Model, teach, and tell stories that illustrate the biblical/moral behavior you expect of the young men. Then inspect what you expect.

Learn to *catch boys doing things right*. As you do, your relationship bank will grow, permitting withdrawals when you catch the young man doing something wrong.

Good discipline is three parts systematic instruction, personal attention, and consistent affirmation and only one part correction. So learn to affirm boys; what they hear you praise in them and their peers is what they will repeat.

Here's the bottom line! Ranger boys have a Code that describes Christ's character. What they are missing is a picture. Leaders must be that living picture by their example, their instruction, their Christ-honoring

stories, and their affirmation and loving discipline.

As Royal Rangers we take a pledge, which includes becoming like Christ in character. The personal rewards for the men and boys among us who strive to be like Christ are great.

- We feel right. Living with character frees us from guilt (Proverbs 10:9).
- We lead right. Living by example enables us to leave a godly legacy (Matthew 5:16).
- We love right. Living with integrity produces intimacy with God and others (Psalm 15:1-2).
- We make God look right. Living biblically makes Jesus look good and causes people to believe in Him (Titus 2:9-10).

There is another reward for missional leaders. As we model how to **"live by the Ranger Code..."** boys will proudly declare, "I'm a Royal Ranger." Their words will mean more than affiliation. They will be saying, "I'm a young man eager to reflect the true character of Christ." *That* is our goal and one of our greatest ministerial rewards. Let's be authentic and model Christlike manhood! ☞

**THE
CODE:
A Ranger
PRAYS,
reads
the BIBLE,
and
WITNESSES.**



Jim Guneratnam, the RRI Representative for Asia

RRI Asia Pacific Summit

Jim Guneratnam, the RRI Representative for Asia, has been quietly working behind the scenes to revitalize Royal Rangers in Asia. Now, he is ready to host the next RRI Council meeting and hold their first regional conference in April. These conferences have worked well wherever RRI has instituted them, like the Seminario de Administración Nacional conference for LAC and the Africa Summit held in April 2007. In fact, the annual EuroLeader conference has been one of the key reasons behind the strong unity and cooperation among the Ranger nations across Europe. Therefore, we are expecting great things and a "new day" for Royal Rangers in Asia as a result of this upcoming Asia Pacific Summit.

Jesus was courageous and traveled to Jerusalem even though He knew it would end in His crucifixion, a price He was willing to pay for our eternal salvation (Luke 19).

ERLNER Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region



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Royal Ranger leaders from the LAC Region gather for the 4th ERLNER in Panama.

The fourth encounter for national Royal Ranger leaders in Latin America, called ERLNER, was recently hosted by the nation of Panama in a joint effort with RRI. This event is held every two years and the nine nations that participated this time were Panamá, Honduras, Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Brazil.

The Royal Ranger ministry in Latin America has undergone many changes in the last 5 years. Most of this was due to the G-12 movement, the shift of regional coordinator from Doug Marsh to Jeff Cooper, and the implementation of the new Global Curriculum. So this ERLNER was seen as especially vital to the continued strength and future of Royal Rangers in Latin America. The main focuses were:

- Promoting fellowship among the national leaders
- Assuring them that they have the support of RRI
- Reaching into countries that have never had Royal Rangers

There are more than 45,000 Royal Rangers in Latin America and we believe that we will see still greater growth as RRI prepares to expand into new countries like Brazil. RRI is currently involved in the process of translating the Global Curriculum into Portuguese, which will benefit Europe and Africa as well.

RRI Upcoming Events

Royal Rangers International Council Meeting

Royal Rangers International will hold the 5th annual RRI Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 22 - 24, 2008. This meeting will be hosted by Jim Guneratnam, the RRI Representative for Asia, and followed immediately by the first ever regional conference for Royal Rangers in Asia. Please pray for these two very important events!

Europe Happenings

RRI would like to congratulate Jukka Piirainen on his reelection to another 4 year term as the coordinator for Europe. Europe will be holding a Royal Ranger Training Academy in Germany from April 27 - May 3, 2008. For more details, visit <http://royalranger-seurope.net/> or contact Jukka and the Europe Regional office.



SCORE Sports Evangelism Outreach

Royal Rangers International will hold its second SCORE Sports Evangelism Outreach in Oaxaca, Mexico, May 14-25, 2008. Please pray that many boys and young men will find Christ as Savior, and connect with the Royal Rangers ministry!



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.