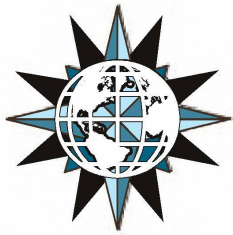


# ROYAL RANGERS INTERNATIONAL



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The bimonthly newsletter for  
Royal Ranger leaders around  
the world.

# 360

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## Short Term Missionaries - Part 1 "Field Driven"

A three part series by Doug Marsh

Early pioneer missionaries have good reason to be jealous of today's missionaries so well supported by volunteer ministries and construction teams. This assistance is accelerating the spread of the gospel around the world.

Royal Ranger leaders and boys represent a significant number of the end-time volunteers. Opportunities for men and boys to involve themselves in overseas ministry and construction abound - training events, prayer catalyst teams, and volunteer construction trips, just to name a few.

Leaders often ask, "How do we connect with these opportunities?" and "What constitutes a successful overseas ministry endeavor?"

There is no "1-2-3-formula" for answering these questions, but there are a few guiding ideals. Successful short term overseas ministry is: 1) field-driven, 2) accountable, and 3) practical.

### Field-Driven

Field driven needs are determined and directed by those with boots on the ground overseas. We set ourselves up for success when we listen for and respond to needs that arise from the grass roots. Field-driven needs are timely and passionate.

Successful short-term work must be perpetuated, or built upon, by local and national leaders after we

return home. We are wise to prepare for and respond to field-initiated invitations. Such invitations indicate that national leaders want to learn from our experience and are willing to pay the price to continue what we help start.

Such invitations create a win-win for us and for the national church. When we meet a true need, we have earned the satisfaction of contributing to a timely and important cause. The national church has been blessed, and they will give continuity to what we helped start. In this manner, our short-term ministry investment blesses missionaries and nationals for the long-term.

The opposite of a field-driven invitation born from a real need is a self-invitation born from a perceived need, or, worse, a personal (or ego) need. Typically when missionaries and leaders overseas yield to such invitations, they are bending over backwards to accommodate you kindly and graciously. But when you leave, there is little chance they will follow through and build on what you tried to start. In fact, they may resent you for pulling them from other priorities.

The good news is that field-driven needs and ministry invitations to strengthen and expand...

See "Field Driven" on page 4

### RRI Calendar of Events

#### *RRI Council - Finland*

**May 11 - 13, 2005**

#### **Camp Summit Dedication**

**Costa Rica**

**July 4-10, 2005**

#### *RRLAC Committee*

**Costa Rica**

**September 1 -4, 2005**



A view of one small portion of Camp Summit. This building houses the Cafeteria and Conference Room. The Repelling Tower is also visible.



Sometimes it is necessary for a missionary to start a church or ministry when pioneering in areas that have very few evangelical witnesses...

## RRI Spotlight – Camp Summit

Camp Summit (La Cumbre) is a 35 hectare training and discipleship center serving the Royal Rangers in 22 nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. Located in north central Costa Rica, about a 2 hour drive from the capital, San José, the camp is covered by tropical trees and inhabited by various exotic birds and animals. A river runs down one side of the property and the camp has modern cabins and facilities to accommodate hundreds of Rangers. This pristine piece of land is lo-

cated 20 minutes from the nearest town, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí.

RRLAC purchased the land for the training center in 1997 and construction started in 1998. Many volunteer construction teams from the US and elsewhere contributed towards its development, coordinated by American John Anthony. A Costa Rican named Christian Torres is the current administrator and Jeff Cooper, a missionary from Alabama (USA), is slated to be the full-time ministry director beginning in August.

## The Indigenous Church Principal

If you haven't noticed already, the theme of this issue of the RRI 360 newsletter is "Missions." One of the most important philosophies behind Royal Ranger works around the world is the "Indigenous Church Principle." This principle teaches that the local church in each nation is responsible for reaching their own people. The rest of us, particularly when we work in a missionary capacity, should only come alongside them to help. We are to submit to the local church's authority and partner with them in their evangelistic efforts. Sometimes it is necessary for a missionary to start a church or ministry when pioneering in areas that have very few evangelical witnesses, however the work should ultimately be handed over to a native when God sends the right person. We are just there to meet a need (such as the establishing the Royal Ranger ministry for the children) until they are able to do it on their own.

A local church or ministry is considered "indigenous" when it meets 3

criteria. First, it must be self-governing. No foreigner should be serving as pastor or making the day to day decisions. Secondly, it should be self-supporting. The church or ministry should not be dependent on sponsorship or outside support for its survival. This is where many missionaries fail, because they too easily give in to the temptation to hand over money and the local believers often don't learn to tithe and fully trust God for their needs. Finally, in order to be indigenous, the work should be self-propagating. The Christian community needs to grow to the point that it is reaching the nation and establishing new congregations of believers.

If you ever go on a missions trip or attempt to pioneer the Ranger ministry in another country, please keep this important principle in mind. Contact RRI if you want more details or are planning a Ranger missions trip to another country. (See the contact information listed on page 4.)

## Reports

### EuroLeader Conference Budapest, Hungary



National Commanders & leaders from 23 European countries at the annual EuroLeader Conference in Budapest, February 12, 2005.

### SAL Conference Orlando, FL

One outcome of the recent RRLAC meeting in Costa Rica was to determine the time, place and manner of launching the new Global Curriculum for Latin America and the Caribbean. It was decided that the national commanders and training coordinators of the 20 + RRLAC nations would be invited to Orlando, Florida for a special conference called "Seminario Actualización Latinoamérica" or "SAL" for short. The conference is scheduled for February 20 - 25, 2006.

Latin America's goal in the next 10 years is to grow from 45,000 boys to 250,000.



We need to let our superiors know what is taking place and allow them to carefully guide us, as they are led by God.

## Communicate and Coordinate — by Andy Whitman

It is a wonderful experience to pioneer the Ranger ministry in a new nation, but it can also be a real challenge. I have had the opportunity, with the help of many others, to pioneer the ministry in Macedonia and Bulgaria. Good communication with those in the "Chain of Command" (please refer to the previous issue for more information) is crucial for any endeavor. We need to let our superiors know what is taking place and allow them to carefully guide us, as they are led by God.

Unfortunately, many leaders launch out into new territory without properly coordinating and communicating their intentions. This often leads

to confusion, frustration and even waste. Many times the efforts of some previous pioneer go unrecognized and their hard work may be undone or needlessly duplicated by well meaning, but misinformed Rangers. For example, in Malaysia the Royal Ranger ministry was unwittingly introduced in one place by a nation and also in another part of Malaysia and in a different church by another nation. Ironically, these pioneer works took place only two weeks apart, but neither group had knowledge of the other's efforts and the work was not coordinated. The result? Today there are two programs, one co-ed and one "boys only" in Malaysia.

When I set out to pioneer in Bulgaria, two necessary steps took place. First, I waited until I was asked by the Coordinator for Europe to get involved. Second, I was in contact with the German Rangers of Outpost 93 in Erlangen who had a relationship with a national pastor and had already laid a foundation at that pastor's request. In fact, we met together at the last EuroCamp and then stayed in touch via email. Now, I constantly report on the developments and try to make sure that everyone involved is communicating with each other and knows what is happening.

*Continued on page 4*



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## What Exactly Is Royal Rangers?

- Royal Rangers is passionate about reaching, teaching, and keeping young people for Christ!
- It is a doorway to action and adventure for young people in 70 nations of the world. Royal Rangers seeks to develop the total person for Christ—spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially.
- The Royal Rangers ministry provides exciting opportunities for boys and girls, in co-educational nations, to discover a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This life-changing ministry is one of the world's largest and foremost Christian adventure-based mentoring programs.
- The Royal Rangers ministry incorporates both fun and accomplishment in its ministry methods. It features indoor and outdoor activities including camping, recreation, first aid, crafts, hobby skills, nature study, sports achievements, awards, trips, Bible study and much more.
- These activities are among the resources used by Royal Rangers to build bridges to the heart of youth. The heartbeat of the ministry is to enable its members to become more successful in every area of their lives.

Visit our website:  
[www.royalrangersinternational.com](http://www.royalrangersinternational.com)

### “Field Driven”

from page 1

... Royal Rangers around the world are common. You will enjoy win-win overseas ministry success when you respond to missionaries and national leaders who have identified urgent needs where they live and work. Royal Rangers International (RRI) regularly learns of needs, as well as the skills and timing expected for meeting them.

*Next time:*

*Part 2 - “Accountable”*

### “Communicate & Coordinate”

from page 3

This spring, with God's help, I have arranged Bulgaria's first National Training Camp (NTC), which will be staffed by leaders from Finland and Macedonia. This was only possible because of the time and investment of many people such as Hanspeter Neck of Switzerland, the Rangers of Outpost 93 in Germany, the Macedonian national Ranger staff, Jukka Piirainen of Finland, and many others (plus a lot of communication and coordination between us all that caused us to work together as one, Praise God!).