



REACH • TEACH • KEEP
STUDENTS FOR CHRIST



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THINK One

A Royal Rangers minister who is committed to these five biblical principles will impact the next generation of leaders around the world.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES for Ranger Leadership

Royal Rangers is established in thousands of churches, in 73 nations, and in six regions. However spread out around the world, our experienced adult and youth leaders share *one* unifying set of ministry principles —

- OUR PURPOSE**, evangelism
- OUR POWER**, the Holy Spirit
- OUR CALL** and its expression, from God
- OUR COMMUNITY**, loving extravagantly
- OUR DISCIPLINE**, prayer

Are you part of this innovative team of leaders?

Rev. Doug Marsh, *Director*
ROYAL RANGERS INTERNATIONAL



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- Jukka Piirainen** Europe
- Jeff Cooper** Latin America
- Andy Whitman** Communications / Africa
- Matt Kling** Operations
- Bob Crabtree** Field Advisor

ROYAL RANGERS — INTERNATIONAL —

1644 West Lloyd Street
Ozark, MO 65721 USA
phone: (417) 595-0613
fax: (417) 485-0655
e-mail:
rri@royalrangersinternational.com

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WE BELIEVE:

■ We believe the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. ■ We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ■ We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. ■ We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ is absolutely essential. ■ We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance according to Acts 2:4, and in the operation of the spiritual gifts and ministries. ■ We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. ■ We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved to eternal life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. ■ We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ and in the unity of believers. ■ We believe in the practical application of the Christian faith in every day experience and the need to minister to people in every area of life, which includes not only the spiritual but also the social, political, and physical. ☺



EVANGELISM

THINK One

ROYAL RANGERS

73 NATIONS

6 REGIONS

**1 PURPOSE—
EVANGELISM**



A pair of teen golfers sliced their drives deep into the rough and went in search of their errant golf balls. The grass was high, the trees were thick, and tempers flared as they looked in vain through the underbrush.

A kindly old man observed all this from the front porch of a nearby house. After the search had lasted nearly half an hour, he finally called to them, “I don’t want to bother you fine young people, but will it be cheating if I tell you where the golf balls are?”

As Royal Rangers leaders we all look around us and see young people searching for a true friend, for real meaning in life, for a place to belong, and for hope. We must not keep silent; we have the answer.

Fulfilling the Great Commission means “reaching, teaching, and keeping students for Jesus Christ” all around us. It means reaching out, speaking up, and guiding them to forgiveness of sins and salvation. This is our purpose!

It is so gratifying to witness firsthand outpost leaders around the world who are aggressively seeking the lost. They take John 9:4 seriously, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent us. Night is coming, when no one can work.” In fact, I have observed that the most effective outposts are comprised of between 40-60% unchurched students, and they are coming to the Lord regularly.

Just a few days ago I was copied on an e-mail in which a leader from North Dakota excitedly reported that a boy had come to Christ during the previous night's Ranger meeting. That is exactly what Royal Rangers is for, and there is no better place for students to meet Christ than at a weekly meeting. I would like to propose three simple suggestions that will enable outposts to attract and retain students.

SUGGESTION #1: Get known in the church and community. How? Advertise. Have young people pass out flyers announcing special events or open house visitation meetings. Plan and/or participate in church and community service projects. Set up displays in public places and wherever else God opens doors. Open satellite, or off-site, outposts in schools, orphanages, and town squares. Get outside the four walls of the church and get known.

An outpost near Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, recently played a key role at a community-planned event and saw a dramatic increase in attendance. If the Royal Rangers outpost is known in the community, it is positioned to make Jesus known.

SUGGESTION #2: Get a reputation for excellence. That means get known for doing things well and right regularly, and for constantly improving. How? Plan high quality weekly meetings and outpost activities. Make them fun! Fun is contagious.

As a ministry we are so blessed to have such a great curriculum. While we will continually improve them to keep the ministry relevant, the materials are age-appropriate, commander friendly, high quality, flexible, systematic, tooled to attract the unchurched, and built to develop Christians to maturity. These materials help leaders tremendously to gain a reputation for excellence in the meetings and outpost activities.

(Visit www.royalrangersinternational.com for more information on the global curriculum.)



SUGGESTION #3: Get Rangers excited about inviting their friends, relatives, and neighbors. 75-90% of all growth is produced as Rangers get excited about their outpost and personally invite others to attend regular meetings.

To do this, it is important to involve Rangers in leadership and decision-making. Students are excited about what they are involved in shaping. What is more, teach them how to welcome and include visitors so they enjoy their first Ranger experience, and each one thereafter.

A word of caution is important at this point. The motivation behind these suggestions must be evangelism.

- Conversion is more than joining a Rangers outpost—that is just affiliation.
- Conversion is more than reciting the Rangers pledge—that is just allegiance.
- Conversion is more than observing rules—that is just discipline.
- Conversion is the remaking of the soul to desire God first.

If we apply these suggestions, in addition to other techniques, we will have success in interesting students to join our outposts. But unless we minister in such a way that they ultimately experience a personal encounter with the risen Savior, they have only joined a religious club.

A Royal Ranger is not one who has simply made Jesus another piece of his life-puzzle; Christ, rather, becomes the whole picture. Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).

Author Charles Alexander once wrote, "The last thing the devil wants you to do is to win a soul to Christ. If you don't believe it, try it. The devil will let you go to prayer meetings, he will let you talk religious subjects and do 'many mighty deeds' if only you will stop short of persuading men to accept Christ as Savior and openly confess Him before men."

Experienced Royal Rangers leaders know there are many valuable methods that enable them to direct an evangelistic outpost. But these

same leaders know success is not measured by their ability to master the methods, as important as they are. They never let the application of Ranger techniques become the "mighty deeds" that cause them to lose focus of their ultimate goal—evangelism.

Leaders recognize success when students repeat the question Paul asked on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:5, "Who are you, Lord?" Once the student hears the answer, "I am Jesus," he will ask, "What do you want me to do?" *That* is success, because conversion took place!

Master the methods and perfect the techniques? Absolutely! But define success by one word—evangelism.

There are over 1 billion Ranger-aged students in the world; millions of them are unsaved. Our mission is to "reach, teach, and keep them for Jesus Christ." Faced with such challenging numbers, we must love God and minister in His power. A minister once put it this way, "Make sure it is God's trumpet you are blowing—if it is only yours, it won't wake the dead; it will simply disturb the neighbors."

In addition to loving God, we must unconditionally love students, and build personal friendships with them. Programs like Royal Rangers can become cold and impersonal, and no program can lead a soul to Christ. God has no other plan for saving the lost outside of using you and me personally. So let's keep close to God, keep close to students, and bring God and students close together.

It is my hope that as Royal Rangers leaders we will be satisfied with nothing less than leaving the deepest impact on our nations' students; every last one of them. Royal Rangers must be an evangelistic ministry. If it is to be so, it must be so in the local outpost and at every other level of our organization.

Let's **THINKOne: EVANGELISM**. God has established Royal Rangers in 73 nations and 6 regions, and calls us to one purpose, *to adequately communicate Jesus-salvation to every Ranger-age student in the world.* 🙏

1 billion Ranger-aged students in the world; millions unsaved.

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DOCTRINE

THINK One

ROYAL RANGERS

73 NATIONS

6 REGIONS

1 DOCTRINAL
IDENTITY

We are
FULL GOSPEL
PENTECOSTAL



asked his religious master why, if the elephants were only illusions and not real, the religious leader joined the rest of the group in the trees. The religious leader answered, “What elephants?”

Biblical truth is not merely to be confessed, but lived and taught. James says, “Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear!” (1:22, *The Message*). It brings such fulfillment when we allow the Word to define our actions and our leadership.

I can still hear the words of one Royal Rangers leader on this topic. “Doctrine!?!” he exclaimed. “Students don’t join Royal Rangers because they want to learn sound church doctrine. They become members because they see the promise of fun and friends.”

Up to this point I was in full agreement with this person. It is true that young people become Royal Rangers because of its adventurous lifestyle, not because they researched our doctrine first. What this leader said next, though, surprised me. He concluded, “It does not matter what our doctrine is. Let the local church implementing the ministry decide that.” I then proceeded to explain my views.

If young people join Rangers for fun and friends, why devote an entire article to the subject of doctrine? Because what we believe, live, and teach as members of this worldwide ministry matters. Our doctrines define Royal Rangers in at least four ways. They define our (1) identity, (2) source, (3) outposts, and (4) legacy.

Doctrine Defines Our IDENTITY

Royal Rangers is a full gospel/Pentecostal ministry! It is who we are. Johnnie Barnes, the founder of Royal Rangers, was a Methodist minister when he personally experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It so changed his life and leadership that he designed Royal Rangers to be a ministry defined by the Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Today our course is unchanged—we lead a Bible-believing, Pentecostal ministry.

In every generation the church is tested to determine if it will allow the secular world to define it. Today's societies tolerate every lifestyle and choice. Like a termite, compromise with the world is eating away the church's moral authority. Increasingly we talk of godliness, but we do not experience its power in our lives. Sadly, many times our doctrine is not relational; it is believed but not lived out in an expression of love for God.

The church described in the book of Acts faced its generational test, similar to ours, but did not let an immoral society dislodge its firm identity. The church was devoted to preaching the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a result, the message was spread throughout the entire known world.

The lesson for us today is that our ministry identity must likewise remain unchanged—we are Christ-centered, Bible-based, and Holy Spirit-empowered. We proclaim both the truth of the Word and the power of the Spirit. If we only teach the truth, we become legalistic. If we only teach the Spirit, we become libertarians given to excess. We are to minister the Word in the power of the Spirit. Royal Rangers is a global, full gospel/Pentecostal ministry with life changing power.

Doctrine Defines Our SOURCE

I have yet to run into a leader who is afraid of the full gospel label on Royal Rangers. It is the word Pentecostal that some fear. They explain, "While I am personally Pentecostal, many churches will not establish Royal Rangers if we identify ourselves as a Pentecostal ministry!"

Their concerns revolve around potential ministry growth—which we all know is

important. The number of churches that adopt Royal Rangers, however, does not limit our growth. Expansion is limited only by our evangelistic efforts. Just take a look at the Full Gospel Forum in Stuttgart, Germany. That one church has Royal Rangers groups in over 14 locations around the city and numbers well over 1,200 Rangers. Their strategy is biblical—it is based on evangelism.

Don't misunderstand. We want to establish Royal Rangers in every Pentecostal and charismatic church possible, and additionally in any non-Pentecostal, evangelical church willing to associate with Royal Rangers. But we lack integrity if we hide who we are and what we teach. We cannot expect God's blessing if we downplay who we are for the benefit of increase. God's formula for growth is evangelism and discipleship, and it works every time it is tried.

What is more, this attitude betrays a hesitancy to depend on God's power. If the baptism in the Holy Spirit confers additional power for ministry, the logical question is, "How much additional power is gained?" A dramatic amount is the answer!

Pentecostal scholar Dr. Gordon Anderson documents, "Pentecostals have been dramatically more successful in planting and growing churches than those who have rejected the Pentecostal understanding of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The following statistics are drawn from the development of Pentecostal missions in the 20th century. In Chile, the Methodists grew to approximately 5,000 members, while the Pentecostals grew to 2,371,000. In Brazil, the Baptists grew to 1,050,000, while the Pentecostals grew to over 21 million. Worldwide, the Christian and Missionary Alliance grew to 1.9 million, while the Assemblies of God surpassed 50 million." Pentecostal ministry growth is not slightly larger than non-Pentecostal; it is dramatically so!

A word of caution is in order: Pentecostals are not spiritually superior. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not the only experience of importance in the life of the believer. Of equal importance for life and godliness are justification, Bible reading and application, prayer, fasting, fellowship, water baptism, sanctification, sacrifice, suffering, and service. Pentecostals, too, must individually develop

the fruit of the Spirit, explore the gifts of the Spirit, and unconditionally love each other and the world. However, by experiencing the baptism in the Holy Spirit the Pentecostal receives additional power, gifts, miracles, passion, and emotion for ministry. But we must be emphatic—Pentecostals do not believe that all power and gifting for ministry occur after the baptism in the Holy Spirit. But we believe the Bible teaches (and history substantiates) that God has an additional dimension of His grace and power for those who receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The bottom line is, God is our source for ministry growth. His Word instructs us to reach the lost and to do so in His power, not our own. He is our source. Let us humbly, obediently, and completely depend on Him.

Doctrine Defines Our OUTPOST

Dr. Anderson reminds us that even Pentecostals have different beliefs regarding when one is baptized in the Holy Spirit and the evidence of that. Statistically, the vast majority of Pentecostals hold to the traditional belief that the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for empowerment for service and that the initial physical evidence is speaking in tongues. Non-Pentecostal Evangelicals usually teach that the Holy Spirit is received by faith at salvation and there is no subsequent baptism. Charismatics maintain that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience that follows justification, but that tongues, while usually accompanying the experience, are not necessarily the initial evidence—any of the gifts may be the evidence. Moreover, they emphasize tongues as a prayer language and to some degree de-emphasize it as empowerment for service. The newer Third Wave groups believe in tongues, believe it can provide additional power, but are vague as to whether the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a specific experience. These are just some of the views among Pentecostals.

These differences, however, do not present a challenge to Royal Rangers. Our motive is not to debate these distinctions, but rather to underscore the fact that we all depend on the work of the Holy Spirit. We also understand that the Holy Spirit is not the only doctrine or discipline we teach. In fact, it is one of

*God is our source for ministry growth.
His Word instructs us to reach the lost
and to do so in His power, not our own.*



THINK One

DOCTRINE

many (as mentioned earlier)—justification, sanctification, Bible reading, prayer, fasting, the church and its mission, water baptism, suffering, service, and the Holy Spirit. We do not teach all these except the Holy Spirit; we teach them all, including the Spirit. We simply agree not to make these disparate views regarding the baptism in the Holy Spirit an issue.

This understanding defines our outposts because it determines the development of ministry curriculum designed both for evangelism and discipleship. The curriculum presents the full gospel, including the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, our methods and ministry at national and international camps will reflect our Pentecostal foundation. We will focus our events to reach the lost and to encourage the students to seek everything God has for them, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit. If our constituents understand our full-gospel orientation beforehand, conflict is avoided.

One of the awesome things I have witnessed over the past 20 years developing Royal Rangers in Latin America and around the world, is how this position has allowed Royal Rangers to bridge the gap between many different churches, including non-Pentecostals. Evangelicals and Pentecostals agree on most doctrine. And, increasingly, more evangelicals are experiencing the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These congregations eagerly want to use Royal Rangers to reach their communities. They know we are a Pentecostal ministry and are open to experience what they will as they use our curriculum and attend our camps. We welcome them!

Our curriculum dictates how we train our leaders, what we do at our camps, and that shapes what takes place in our outpost meetings. As you can tell, our doctrine has a huge influence upon our outposts.

Doctrine Defines Our LEGACY

It goes without saying that our doctrine impacts the future, our ministry legacy. As organizational Royal Rangers leaders we are responsible to see that this ministry

grows inside our nation. But of equal importance are the trails we blaze for those who will follow—these trails point the way for future generations. Every current and future national leader should be vigilant to position Royal Rangers as a cutting-edge evangelistic and Spirit-empowered ministry. The human tendency, except we provide decisive leadership, is to drift away from our foundational purposes—to forget who we are, to revise or ignore our Pentecostal history, or to rely on ourselves rather than our divine growth source.

We are all familiar with the YMCA, the Young Men's Christian Association. George Williams started the movement in London in 1844. He described himself growing up as a "careless, thoughtless, godless, swearing young fellow," but eventually became a devout Christian. When he started the YMCA he was a 23-year-old draper who wanted to provide the young men of London an environment where they would not be tempted into the rampant sin of the city.

The Y, as it is also known, was without question a Bible-based, evangelistic ministry. It quickly grew around the world. Lay evangelists like Dwight L. Moody and John Mott were part of the organization, which began to send missionaries around the world to accelerate its expansion and evangelism.

But let us move quickly from its roots to where the YMCA is today, 162 years later. While it still accomplishes many noble things, few of its individual clubs fulfill the intentions of its founder. Many are community fitness centers or youth hostels, but have little or no evangelistic impact. Why did this happen? Leaders through the years forgot about their identity, their Source, their history, their future.

As leaders we cannot afford to dilute our identity as a full gospel, evangelistic, Pentecostal ministry. If we minimize who we are thinking it will encourage growth, we deceive ourselves and do so at our own peril.

What will our Royal Rangers story be when we are 162 years old? You and I are literally deciding that today by our doctrines and by how we practice them in our own lives. History is full of ministries that,

like museums, showcase their doctrines and Christian roots, which were once held sacred but are now empty of reality and influence. Let's determine that will never be our legacy!

Peter Cartwright, a nineteenth-century circuit-riding Methodist preacher in the United States, was an uncompromising man. One Sunday morning when he was to preach, he was told that President Andrew Jackson was in the congregation, and was warned not to say anything out of line.

When Cartwright stood to preach, he tactfully said, "I understand that Andrew Jackson is here. I have been requested to guard my remarks. Ladies and Gentlemen, Andrew Jackson, just like you and me, will either spend eternity in heaven or hell depending on his choice to repent or not." He then proceeded to preach a powerful evangelistic message to which many responded.

The congregation watched carefully after the service wondering how the President would respond. President Jackson shook hands with the Pentecostal preacher and said, "Sir, if I had a regiment of men just like you, I could radically change our nation!" God has commissioned you and me to build a "regiment" of bold ministers, adults and young people to radically change our world in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is our awesome privilege!

As national leaders I urge you to know the Word from which all our doctrines come, experience them, live them, love them, teach them, and, when necessary, defend them (Ps. 119:103). Let us live and lead so that we anchor Royal Rangers on the Word of God and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the only way Royal Rangers will stay strong and healthy—if we personally recommit ourselves to them. To do anything less is to court compromise and decline.

Let's THINKOne: DOCTRINE. God has established Royal Rangers 73 nations, 6 regions and *He calls us to adequately declare the always-relevant Word of truth to every Ranger-age student in the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.* ☛



ROYAL RANGERS

73 NATIONS

6 REGIONS

1 CALL

God is calling Ranger leaders the nation over to *THINKOne*. If we “reach, teach, and keep” in agreement of purpose we become the answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:23: That Royal Rangers everywhere “may be brought to complete unity *to let the world know that you sent me....*” Being one will empower Royal Rangers to let the whole world know about Jesus. That should excite you!

In our two previous *ThinkOne* articles we discussed that our ministry *purpose* is evangelism, and that our ministry *distinctive* is that we are Pentecostal-Charismatic. On this occasion we look at the driving *ideal* of our leadership — our ministry leaders are God-called and use God-methods!

In an assessment meeting held some years ago, numerous pastors were convened to help reflect on the strengths and limitations of the Royal Rangers ministry. One pastor suggested the training process was too challenging. He exaggerated to make a point, “It is easier to

become a pastor than to become a Royal Ranger leader.” Jim Barger, President of the National Royal Rangers Council humorously quipped, “Perhaps, but being a Royal Ranger leader is a higher calling!” Everyone laughed.

No disrespect was intended toward pastors by Jim’s comments and everyone knew it. But the underlying message conveyed was serious—being a Royal Rangers leader is a high calling; it really is! We are called to minister in God’s church, and as such we should express that call in New Testament fashion.

Royal Rangers Leaders are God-Called

A call is the committed-knowledge that a particular ministry and way of life is a personal God-ordained duty and honor.

Some mischievous teenagers broke into a department store one night and changed all the price tags. The following morning customers found washing machines priced at the cost of a



candy bar, and candy bars priced as computers. Pants and dresses were marked very low while toothpicks were tagged as fine furniture. The shoppers were completely confused because the values were all mixed up.

Satan has entered the world and changed all the price tags. That which is of great value has been devalued, and that with little or no value is made to look expensive. Unfortunately, the enemy has depreciated in the minds of some leaders the significance of their Royal Rangers calling to “reach, teach, and keep” students and their families for Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, in the opening of each of his letters talks about his own commissioning. Reflecting on his words will help Ranger leaders understand the value of their God-call*.

- I am a Royal Rangers leader “to proclaim God’s words and acts” (Romans).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader commissioned and “sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God’s plan, along with my” fellow Ranger leaders (1 Corinthians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “sent on a special mission by the Messiah, Jesus, planned by God himself” (2 Corinthians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader under contract—it “does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. I am God-commissioned! Jesus Christ rescued us from this evil world we’re in by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. God’s plan is that we all experience that rescue!” (Galatians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “under God’s plan; I am a special agent of Christ Jesus” (Ephesians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader because I am a “committed servant of Christ Jesus” (Philippians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “sent on a special assignment by Christ as part of God’s master plan” (Colossians).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “together with” my fellow Ranger leaders; I am not alone in this cause (1 and 2 Thessalonians).

- I am a Royal Rangers leader “under God our Savior’s command” (1 Timothy).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader “carrying out God’s plan laid out in the Message of Life by Jesus” (2 Timothy).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader because I “am God’s slave and Christ’s agent for ... getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago—and he doesn’t break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I’ve been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself” (Titus).
- I am a Royal Rangers leader in spite of hardships; I am committed! (Philemon).

Why am I a Royal Rangers leader? Because I have been called by God himself! What an honor to be called to this cause and this lifestyle; what a responsibility.

But it’s not sufficient to be called. God’s call must be expressed in God’s fashion.

Royal Ranger Leaders Use God-Methods

We are not commissioned to accomplish our purposes or to fulfill them in our own manner! We are called to do God’s work God’s way. He calls us to be shepherds after his own heart (Jeremiah 13:5).

Fortunately, the Bible is very clear about how to live out our call. As leaders we are expected to produce *spiritual* and *numeric* growth in Royal Rangers (Acts 16:5); to be spiritual leaders who influence students to become lifelong lovers of Jesus by following us as we follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Here are the New Testament methods that work 100% of the time used:

- **Grow Royal Rangers by evangelism & discipleship** (Acts 2:42-43, 47): God expects Rangers to reach the spiritually lost. Then, through our activities, advancements, and other systems, we are to diligently and intentionally teach practices that promote the lifelong lifestyle of becoming more like Jesus.
- **Grow Royal Rangers by worship & prayer** (Acts 2:42-43): We are to encourage and promote worship and prayer

in our meetings and around campfires. God richly blesses those who call on him (Romans 10:12).

- **Grow Royal Rangers by multiplication** (Acts 11:19-26): We are to follow the early church model — multiplication by duplication. Every outpost should pioneer other outposts, plural. This supports world evangelism by teaching students to reproduce themselves spiritually.
- **Grow Royal Rangers by compassionate service** (Acts 2:44-45): Students should be mobilized to serve and to sacrifice to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people as Jesus did — with compassion.
- **Grow Royal Rangers by friendship** (Acts 2:46): Nurturing strong friendships is biblical — God mandates it, students thrive on it. (More on this in our next THINKOne article.)

Royal Rangers leaders are called. The call is not intended to make us feel good or look good. No! It is all about God. For that reason, wise leaders fulfill their calling God’s way. As we serve with diligence, spiritual and numeric growth follows; guaranteed!

I think of what God is doing in Stuttgart, Germany. Martin Seiler and his leaders caught a vision of what God could do through them if they simply expressed their God-call with God-methods. Martin recently said, “We realized that if we isolated our outpost from the world, the world would infiltrate the outpost. So we determined to go to the world and change it!” Changing their world, they are! The outpost now numbers over 1,200, and they are helping establish groups around Germany and in other nations.

All the world-changing outposts I’ve had the privilege of visiting at home and abroad in the last years have been led by leaders convinced of their God-call, and committed to using God-methods to grow their outpost.

Let’s THINKOne: CALL. God has established Royal Rangers in 73 nations, 6 regions, and gives Rangers 1 leadership ideal, we are God-called to reach every student in the world with God-methods (2 Chronicles 30:12). ☺

*Quotations taken from *The Message* by Eugene Petersen.



THINK One

COMMUNITY

ROYAL RANGERS
73 NATIONS
6 REGIONS
1 COMMUNITY

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 around the world 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!

Rev. Dick Foth is fond of reminding us, “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.



THINK *One*

COMMUNITY



*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 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 Corinthians 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” (Proverbs 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” (Psalms 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 73 nations, 6 regions, 1 noble method and motive—**build a connected, caring 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”
(ROMANS 13:8).*

*“Love one another deeply, from the heart”
(1 PETER 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).*



PRAYER

THINK One

ROYAL RANGERS

73 NATIONS

6 REGIONS

1 FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLINE

PRAYER

Author and speaker Edwin Louis Cole often made a vivid statement Royal Rangers can picture: “Too often we build our tents and pitch our altars, rather than build our altars and pitch our tents.” There is no substitute whatsoever for the altar, for prayer. In fact, E. M. Bounds said, “A person who does not pray cannot possibly be called a Christian.”

We build an altar each time we bow our heart or bend our knee to pray, and when we do, we can anticipate a divine meeting with God. Jesus taught His disciples “they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1).

There are six essential principles of prayer that serve as the foundational disciplines of effective ministry.

PRINCIPLE #1: Faith is the CONDITION OF PRAYER

In 1 Chronicles 5:20 we read, “He answered their prayers, because they trusted in him.” Faith

is the only condition God places on prayer.

Jesus said He could perform no miracles in Nazareth due to unbelief (Mark 6:1-6). James instructed his readers to “believe and not doubt.” In fact, he said doubters “should not [expect to] receive anything from the Lord” (James 1:5-8). Unbelief is a sin because it casts doubt on the reliability of God’s Word.

Two things build confidence in our prayer life:

1) *Praying in the will of God.* Lewis

Drummond put it this way, “Christian prayer is God-centered, not self-centered. It’s not getting things from God; it’s finding out what God wants and getting ourselves into cooperation with that.” Hear the words of the Apostle John, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us” (1John 5:14). Praying in the known will of God always leads to a bold prayer of faith (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1).

2) *Hanging out in the presence of God.*

We usually need to pray long enough that the Holy Spirit can give us the inner assurance that our prayer is heard (Psalm 38:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

God is true to His word! He reveals himself as the one who “rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). He provides assurance that “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” We, like Jesus, can say, God, “I know that you always hear me” (John 11:42).

The very act of calling out to God is an act of faith sufficient to move mountains (Matthew 17:20). God is eager to hear your voice and to respond. Cry to Him in full assurance. Faith, not word choice or volume, is the only condition God places on approaching Him (Hebrews 4:16).

PRINCIPLE #2: Obedience is the POWER OF PRAYER

The obedient person is submissive, humbly accepting the authority and legitimacy of the One to whom he or she prays. Obedience is not merely the avoidance of sin. That is far too passive. As Rangers, we must actively seek to do what pleases God. John said, we “receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him” (1 John 3:22).

Edwin Louis Cole said, “Power is released into the life of the believer to the degree of his or her obedience and no more.” (1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 21:3.) King Solomon would agree, “If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable” (Proverbs 28:9). King David echoes this point, “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18). Elsewhere the Psalmist said, “God is present in the company of the righteous” (Psalm 14:5). James states emphatically, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (5:16).

As we actively obey God and do what pleases Him, the power of our prayers increases dramatically. Jesus affirms, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (John 15:7). Obedience is the power of prayer.

PRINCIPLE #3: Godliness is the FRUIT OF PRAYER

Sin will keep you from prayer—just ask Adam and Eve. Sin caused them to hide from God (Genesis 3:8)—but prayer will keep you from sin. The Bible says that King

Rehoboam “did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the Lord” (2 Chronicles 12:14). There is a direct connection between seeking God and growing in righteousness. King David said, “You who seek God, may your hearts live!” (Psalm 69:32). To discipline yourself in godliness, you must discipline yourself to seek God. Christlikeness is formed in prayer.

PRINCIPLE #4: Passion is the SOUL OF PRAYER

Passion is born when we recognize a need and determine to do something about it; like the drowning person gasping for air. Prayer becomes passionate when we realize how much we depend upon God. When we discover we need him more than air, we “call out to the Lord” with a cry (Joel 1:14).

We cling to God in prayer when we realize:

- How weak we are and how powerful He is (Psalm 34).
- How foolish we are and how wise He is (James 1:5; 3:7).
- How mired in sin we are and how free He is (Isaiah 64:6).
- How unfaithful we are and how true He is (Psalm 50:15).
- How frail we are and what a healer He is (1 Kings 17:17-22; Mark 10:46-49)

Prayer born from a passionate dependence on God has soul and calls to the One who can mend the deepest human hurts—our own and those of others. Passion is the soul of prayer.

PRINCIPLE #5: Perseverance is the TEST OF PRAYER

Psalm 13 records a difficult time for King David; he was discouraged and God seemed very distant. In these difficult times—due to finances, sickness, or loss—God may appear to pay no attention to our cry. Yet, like David, we persist in prayer because we trust in His unfailing love (Psalm 13:5). Like the persistent widow Jesus described in His parable, we persevere in spite of silence or delayed answers (Luke 18:1-8).

But perseverance is also needed in the daily grind. It is instinctive to cry out to God in trouble. But when life is moving along well, at a normal pace, consistent prayer can suffer. The Word says, “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway” (Proverbs 8:34).

Periodic difficulties and the daily routine will equally test our commitment to pray. Paul commands us to be “faithful in prayer” and to “pray continually” (Romans 12:12;

1 Thessalonians 5:17). If we pass the test of perseverance, we will receive God’s blessings (Hebrews 10:36). Persevering prayer = much blessing; no prayer = no blessing. Perseverance is the test of prayer.

PRINCIPLE #6: Building God’s Kingdom is the FUNCTION OF PRAYER

By way of intercession, petitions, fasting, praying the Scriptures, and corporate prayer, “God’s Kingdom comes” (Matthew 6:10). Rev. John Lindell writes, “If we pray, the rest of the work is easy.” If we work, we work; if we pray, God works. The Psalmist understood this well: “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

If Royal Rangers is to achieve its fullest potential to reach, teach, and keep young people for Christ, it will be accomplished first through prayer. E. M. Bounds said, “Prayer is the soul of a man stirred to plead with God for men.” The marks of a strong ministry are wet eyes, calloused knees, and a broken heart. Most people who come to Christ can point to someone who had been praying for them. Building God’s Kingdom is the function of prayer.

God is calling Royal Rangers around the world to *THINKOne*. In previous articles we discussed our *purpose*, evangelism; our *distinctive*, Pentecostal-Charismatic; our *leadership ideal*, God-called leaders using God-methods; and our *motives*, to build a community to extravagantly love the hurting world. These will only be achieved if we have discipline. Prayer has been described as the Christian’s bedrock discipline. George Buttrick said, “Prayer is not a substitute for work, thinking, watching, suffering, or giving; prayer is a support for all other efforts.”

Please think back on the words of Edwin Louis Cole from the opening: “Too often we build our tents and pitch our altars, rather than build our altars and pitch our tents.” As leaders, let’s remember the prominence and priority prayer must have in our lives and ministry. God alters lives at the altar; prayer is foundational to all our efforts.

Let’s *THINKOne*: PRAYER. God has established Royal Rangers in 73 nations, 6 regions, and gives us **one discipline, prayer—that we might not sin against the Lord and this ministry by failing to pray** (1 Samuel 12:23). ☺

Dear friend,

How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I care about you.

I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me too. I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you and I waited. You never came. It hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you sleeping last night and longed to touch your brow so I spilled moonlight upon your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awoke and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

If you would only listen to me! I love you! I try to tell you in blue skies and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in colors of flowers, shout it to you in mountain streams, give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean, and bigger than the biggest need in your heart.

Ask me! Talk with me! Please don't forget me. I have so much to share with you!

I won't hassle you any further. It is YOUR decision. I have chosen you and I will wait.

I love you.

Your friend,

Jesus

MARSH



Rev. Douglas Marsh founded Royal Rangers International and has served as the director since 2002. His vision is to grow Royal Rangers by building a responsive and relevant evangelistic program by developing young people into effective leaders, and by ministering to *every* student in the world, even those who do not attend Royal Rangers' weekly meetings.

An Assemblies of God missionary, Doug previously served as the training coordinator, and later the coordinator, for Royal Rangers in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 1989-2002. While residing in Costa Rica from 1993-2002, Doug and his wife, Kerry, co-founded Camp Summit, an 80-acre evangelism center for men and boys.

The son of missionaries, Doug was born in Peru and raised in Bolivia. As a teenager, he earned Royal Rangers' highest award, the Gold Medal of Achievement, in 1987. Doug and Kerry were married in 1992 and are the proud parents of two children, Jonathan (*97) and Katelyn (*99). 🌸



REACH • TEACH • KEEP
STUDENTS FOR CHRIST

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

NUMBERS 6:24-26, NIV



royalrangersinternational.com



Celebrating
Five Years of God's Faithfulness.