



part 1 of 2—

Royal Rangers, Missionettes, and the Purpose-Driven Church

by David Boyd

Lately I am often asked, “How do Royal Rangers and Missionettes fit within the scope of the WE BUILD PEOPLE focus of growing our churches? This is a question I am glad to answer.

I first began these ministries 20 years ago in my first church as children’s pastor. I’ve served in three churches in those 20 years, and all of them grew and thrived. Royal Rangers and Missionettes exploded in all three churches! They were a big part of the growth we saw in these three churches. Why? What makes these ministries so different?

They fit perfectly in the WE BUILD PEOPLE model. They cover all four bases and they are extremely Base One evangelistic! They are perhaps the most evangelistic ministries in the church; at least they were in the three churches where I served. Let me first explain their incredible Base One evangelistic potential.

Wednesday Night Evangelism

On Wednesday night, very few churches offer something for kids. Thus, with a good Wednesday night program you have something evangelistically great no other church

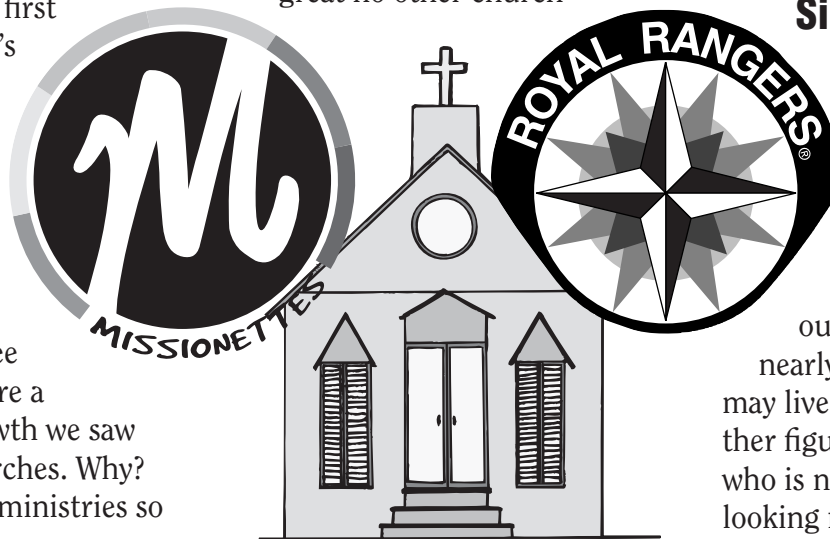
come to a “club” on Wednesday. Once their kids join these ministries, little by little the parents are drawn in through the outings, awards nights, parent’s events, etc.

Meeting the Needs of Single Parents

A second reason these clubs are such a great evangelistic success is that they meet the needs of the growing number of single parents within our society. In our culture nearly 50 percent of the kids may live in homes without a father figure and more have a dad who is never there. Moms are looking for a godly place where they can place their sons and have them impacted by the good example of a godly man. Similar reasoning can be said for girls in Missionettes. Thus, these ministries meet the exact need many families are looking for.

Gender Grouping

A third reason why these ministries are so attractive is the



has to offer! Many families move to your town looking for the church that has something to offer their kids.

Other families may have had a religious background but no longer go to church. They often won’t allow their children to go to a “church” on Sunday, but they will allow their kids to

separation into boys' classes and girls' classes. Kids this age prefer this, yet most of the time they never get that opportunity. Boys love to do boy things and girls love to do girl things. These programs make it easy for children to invite their friends.

In the three churches I served in, we averaged 250,

350, and 525 boys and girls on Wednesday nights. The churches didn't start out that way; they all started with about one third that amount. One senior pastor always commented, "Where are all of these visiting adults coming from on Wednesday nights?" I would inform him that their kids had been coming for six to eight weeks. "Reach the lambs

and the sheep will follow" was the slogan for that church. In the 9 years I was at that church, it grew from about 650 to 1,250 in attendance. Most of those were families with kids! Royal Rangers and Missionettes attract visitors, attract new families, and can be a powerful evangelistic arm for your church!

Questions for Further Study—

1. List ways your Royal Rangers and Missionettes programs serve the role of evangelism in your church.
2. How can your programs meet the needs of the different family types: Divorced, mixed families, etc.?
3. What benefits may exist for boys and girls in gender-segregated classrooms?
4. How do you see your Royal Rangers and Missionettes programs becoming a key to your ministry's success, especially in the area of evangelism?



part 2 of 2—

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Base Two Ministry

How do these ministries fit with the other three bases of the WE BUILD PEOPLE model? Wonderfully! The second base, *discipleship*, is the core of the curriculum of both these ministries. In fact, Missionettes has for years been known as one of the most biblically sound discipleship processes we have. Children are taken down a measured path of discipleship, which has various levels of tests and accomplishment providing measurement tools of the growth of the girls. Royal Rangers has been somewhat weaker in the past years, mainly because of a poorer curriculum and a less stringent lesson plan. Both of these areas have been incredibly improved with the new programs.

Base Three Ministry

Base Three of the WE BUILD PEOPLE model is *ministry*. Royal Rangers and Missionettes excel in this area due to the following. First, they are entire ministries built for the boys and girls, which prepare them for ministry. Boys are chosen

to be “patrol guides” whose job it is to lead the rest of the boys and help (minister to) the newer boys who need help. JLTC (Junior Leader Training Camps) are provided to teach boys to minister to others with the goal of producing men who will lead ministries in their local churches. Girls are taught to



use their talents to minister to others. Girls are taught to tutor other girls and are taught new ministry skills they can use in the future.

A second major result of Base Three ministry is the training that both these ministries provide for the adults who join

the program. No other ministries have the leadership training courses, videos, classes, and opportunities that these ministries have. These ministries have as their goal to produce men and women who are not only called to minister to children, but capable as well. Training covers everything from teaching techniques and age-level learning characteristics to life saving and first aid skills. These two ministries may boast of “lifers”—individuals who join this ministry and continue to minister for life.

Base Four Ministry

The Base Four WE BUILD PEOPLE concept is *mission*. Mission is a little harder to define, but it encompasses long-term

mission, growth of the church, missions emphasis, and our Pentecostal heritage. Countless kids have been filled with the Holy Spirit around the campfires at Royal Rangers and Missionettes meetings. Possibly more than any other, these campfire meetings are most like the early

days of Pentecost when “camp meetings” meant sawdust floors and tarrying around the altar for hours. Kids tarry around the campfire, away from their normal environments, alone with God, touching His presence.

Missions is a huge part of the Missionettes ministry and has now become a large part of the Royal Rangers ministry with its adoption of BGMC. Many of our

Royal Rangers and Missionettes leaders today are the kids we had in our programs 15 years ago. This proves the long-term results of the mission of these ministries.

Royal Rangers and Missionettes are relevant trends of today. They are extremely evangelistic in nature and build

the church by discipling children and leaders. They can be and should be an ongoing part of your church and its effort to meet the needs of your community.

Feel free to contact the National Children’s Ministries Agency for any questions you have about children’s ministries within your local church.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What character skills are developed through Royal Rangers?
2. How does Base Three of the We Build People model affect Royal Rangers and Missionettes?
3. What goals do you have for the children currently in your club ministries five to ten years down the road? How can you begin to lead them in that direction through Royal Rangers and Missionettes?
4. How does the “mission” concept (Base Four ministry) fit into your current program?