



Royal Rangers International's 5th Anniversary Celebrating God's Faithfulness

In May 2007 the RRI Council held its 4th annual meeting in London, England. For the first time in the council's history, there were individuals gathered together representing all five of the RRI regions (LAC, Europe, Eurasia, Asia Pacific, and Africa). One of the main topics of discussion was the 5-year anniversary of the founding of RRI.

Doug Marsh recalled sitting alone at a small desk in a cleaned-out closet in the US Royal Rangers ministries complex five years earlier. On that day, he plugged in his laptop and began to list what he dreamed could take place if God rested His favor on the endeavor to create the new ministry now known as Royal Rangers International (RRI).

For the next several months, his attention turned to developing the documents that would define and guide the ministry and finding the personnel to form the RRI Team. Doug also began a dialogue process in which national Royal Rangers leaders from 45 nations, in addition to national church



(Back Row, from left to right) Jukka Piirainen, Europe; Mark Broberg, Eurasia; Doug Marsh, RRI Director; Jim Guneratnam, Asia Pacific; Jeff Cooper, LAC

(Front Row, from left to right) Matt Kling, RRI Director of Operations; Robert Crabtree, RRI Field Advisor; JoAnn Butrin, ISM Director; and Andy Whitman, Africa

leaders and missionaries spoke into the development of the Operational Guidelines, Cooperative Values and Practices, and the Chartering Steward Agreement. In 2003, the first staff member was recruited. Missionary Mark Broberg joined RRI and began coordinating the Eurasia Region and developing plans for expansion in the former Soviet Union and beyond.

The next year, 2004, was a big one for RRI. The Europe Region elected Jukka Piirainen as their Regional Coordinator. Shana Ortega began the data processing and formatting of the RRI Global Curriculum. Andy Whitman transferred from Europe to serve as the RRI Communications Coordinator, later

becoming the liaison for the Africa Region, as well. Bob Crabtree joined the RRI team as the Field Advisor, sharing his years of missionary, pastoral, and organizational leadership experience. Also, Dr. JoAnn Butrin was appointed the International Service Ministries Director of the Assemblies of God World Missions, and within only one year, established RRI as an official ISM ministry of AGWM.

In 2005, JR Whinery began to develop the products related to the implementation of the RRI Global Curriculum. The RRI "READY" Evangelism Force fund was established to give churches an opportunity to support RRI monthly. Jeff Cooper became the Camp Summit Ministry



Director in Costa Rica and eventually the Regional RRI Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

In 2006 RRI secured and renovated office space in Ozark, Missouri, moving its daily operations from the US Royal Rangers complex. Matt Kling transferred in from the LAC Region to join the team as the Director of Operations, and Jim Guneratnam accepted an appointment to become the Regional Representative for RRI in Asia.

In conclusion, as a result of the combined efforts of the RRI Team, we have achieved our 5-year goals:

1. Staff: Personnel to serve each of the five global regions.
2. Expansion: Over the course of the past 5 years, Royal Rangers was established in 17 new nations—an average of 3.4/year compared to the average rate of 1.3/year over the previous 40 years.
3. Direction: RRI has established unifying principles to guide the ministry globally and every year more nations commit to these principles through the *Chartering Steward Agreement*.
4. Curriculum and Products: A flexible and adaptable Global Curriculum to help nations start Royal Rangers or give them new ideas to improve their existing curriculum is now available.
5. Training: Leadership development resources are available, and others are under development, to prepare junior and adult leaders for Christian service.
6. Communication: Communications systems are in place allowing RRI to communicate with National Commanders, missionaries, and US donors. The RRI website is robust allowing for the distribution of timely information, product sales, event registration, and more.
7. Promotions: RRI now has promotional resources available, including DVDs, posters, and brochures.
8. NLA: A recently introduced National Leadership Award system was created to encourage National Commanders in their service, ministry roles, personal growth, and to promote annual reporting.

Most importantly, RRI has enjoyed God's favor. Simply put, God in His sovereignty has allowed RRI to grow Rangers around the world, to reach more children for Christ.

RRI Africa Summit Summary

Nairobi, Kenya

The recent RRI Summit in Kenya greatly encouraged the leaders of all the African nations that are involved in Royal Rangers. The nations of Uganda, Madagascar, Malawi, Ghana, and Kenya, were represented and either shared reports of how God is using Rangers to win boys and girls for Christ in their country, or how they desperately want to begin Rangers as soon as possible. Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana, and Tanzania were not able to attend, but RRI has been communicating with the leaders in those nations.

As a result of the summit, RRI has begun working with the Assemblies of God of Madagascar to introduce Rangers and to translate the RRI Global Curriculum into French for the 22 nations in Africa, like Madagascar, that use French as one of their official languages. Also, several training events are planned for other nations. For example, the delegates from Ghana asked for assistance to train their new generation of leaders.



Dan and Walter from the Ghana delegation to the Africa Summit. Walter is the National Commander and Dan is his assistant. RRI is sending an NTC Training Team from the US to Ghana in November to train 62 new leaders.

Since then, God has helped us put together a team to leave for Ghana this fall. Ranger training instructors from Tennessee, W. Florida and Minnesota will conduct Ghana's first NTC since 1999. The Royal Ranger program in Ghana dates back to the mid-70's and is now over 30 years old.

We expect 2008 to be an even busier year for pioneering and expanding Royal Rangers on the African continent! We need your continued support of the Ready Evangelism Fund to make all of this possible.



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PARTNERING WITH RRI THROUGH THE RRI "READY" EVANGELISM FORCE

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