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IN THIS ISSUE:

ENGAGING KIDS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

THE IMPORTANCE OF A NAME

LEADERS LOUNGE – The Trust Factor



THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE REWARD AT THE END

By Pastor Liz Robinson
National Director of
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Warmest Greetings to you all.

The emphasis of the current issue of Rangers eNews is on 'relationship'. I hope you will enjoy reading the articles.

I would like to highlight one of my passions in this theme.

Consider the following: *Your Rangers don't care how much you know. They want to know how much you care for them!*

Please don't get me wrong; all leaders need to have the proper skills and knowledge in order to run their group. However, does it stop there?

Young people need to be continually hearing how much God loves them, even if they make a mistake. They also need to know how much you care for them too!

If we give our Rangers just knowledge, information and experiences just because we know they will enjoy and benefit from it, without actually caring for them we have missed the whole point of doing Rangers.

In every activity, do we show love and concern for them? Are we interested in how they are doing? Or are we quick to correct bad behavior or just get the job done for the reward at the end?

It is important to be showing God's love to them, speaking in a tone that reflects God's heart and be interested in them as a person, not just getting them to the reward at that end point. **The journey is just as important as the reward at the end.** It's not just what we give them it's **how** we give it to them.

Let's not be just event or task driven but relationship driven. **What will the young person remember? Will they remember the skills we have taught them, or how we made them feel while they were with us?**

Being interested in each Ranger's life, their strengths and weaknesses, their walk with God, their family, their friends, their challenges, is all about

caring for them. The journey each Ranger is on will be different to others, and it is important as leaders that we can discover each Ranger's journey.

Let's make a difference in their lives, mentoring them and discipling them so that they know that we care for them and in turn they will know that God cares for them.

The journey is just as important as the reward at the end!

*Your Rangers don't care how much you know.
They want to know how much you care for them!*

ENGAGING KIDS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

By Cheryl Walker – School Principal, Teacher and Ranger Leader

I am sure most of you have agonised over why it is so difficult to engage some of the kids in your Ranger group. Why is it that most of your group will listen to what you have to deliver but one or two withdraw or become disruptive and don't want to participate? There are a whole range of possibilities that can be considered that may or may not be relevant to your individual situation.

Ultimately, kids respond to people who inspire them. As leaders we must be passionate about our role. We must be excited about what we want to present and we must believe that what we offer is worthwhile.

We may have had a long day at work and there is baggage that we all carry, but we must approach each Ranger meeting with a freshness that only God can give us. In praying for your Rangers and the meeting, don't forget to pray for yourself, that God would bring your passion to the front and your daily life to the back. Kids too have had full days. School can be a draining process for some where learning does not come easily. They have often been contained in classrooms with tasks that may not always be inspiring to them. Rangers must be different from school. Sitting at tables with books and paperwork is just not going to cut it for some kids. Some kids also have draining home lives - struggling relationships, tension, low finances, trauma, the list could go on.

As leaders we must build safe, secure relationships with our young people. Relationships built on trust that gently shows the child that they are so important to you and valuable. Your relationships should show the compassionate love of God in all you do. These relationships need to be for the whole groups but also for each individual child. Throughout the meetings make direct and personal connections with each member during the activities.

Your program needs to be exciting and practical. Where possible bring in physical examples of things to show and use. The program feature is all about giving our young people new skills to integrate in their lives. You can't always develop these skills from a book or handout. You actually have to DO. Research shows

that children do learn some by hearing and seeing, but they have far more effective learning by actually doing, and then by teaching others. Once they have mastered a new skill, have them teach someone else.

Learning is also more effective when it is framed in personal experiences. Open your own life up to your group. Show that you are human. Let your guard down a little. Talk about your life. I do this so regularly in my classroom. My students know all about my family, my interests, my hobbies and my life. Relationships must be 2 way. My students relate well with me and they share their lives with me because I share mine with them. In your group, talk about how God relates to you during your devotion and quiet times. Share specific examples of His movement in your life. During your program feature share how you have been able to utilise the skills you are teaching or have your other leaders contribute their experiences. It's all about connecting with people. Have fun with them - join in the games don't just stand on the sideline as the referee. Allow yourself to laugh with them, but above all be real.

Be relevant. If you can use technology to assist your presentations then do so. The children of today learn differently from how we do. Their lives are visually stimulated through interactive programs. You can agree or disagree with the technological advances of today but they will not change. This is their life. Harness what you can to work for you and still incorporate the hands on approach that is so necessary, especially for our outdoor programs and skills.

In my experience as a Teacher, a School Principal, a Ranger Leader and as a human being, the key to working with people of any age is 'relationships'. Healthy, safe, secure relationships. As leaders, you need to know your young people and know what it is that will build that relationship most effectively. God designed us all as relational beings – in relationship with others and ultimately in relationship with Him. Through positive relationships with you, your young children will seek after that relationship with their Lord and Saviour – maybe not immediately, but seeds will be sown.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A NAME

by Pastor Sean Godfrey – National Chaplain for Rangers Australia

There is one thing we all have in common – a name. Some of us are named after family members, while others are given names just because they sounded good. Our name is our identity.

Each time my wife and I were expecting a child, we would go through a myriad of names. We concentrated heavily on the meanings of each name as we desired that each one of our children would have a rich spiritual meaning to their full name.

In the Old Testament, we find time and time again specific names given due to any number of reasons, from circumstances surrounding the birth through to a command from God such as in the case of John and Jesus.

Names are powerful and it is amazing how people in most cases will live up to the meaning of their name without realising it. God himself has many names which reflect His character and yes, He does live up to each and every one of them. If you really want to know who God is, do a personal study of the names of God.

The young people God has entrusted to you to disciple also have names and it is important that we pray for each one of them regularly individually by name. In John 10.3 we see that Jesus knows each believer in Him by name. Those who have their identity in Him will follow Him and stand strong in trials and tribulations.

One of the greatest struggles of young people today is identity. As a leader, you have the opportunity to help them discover their identity. You can help them to know what their name means but more so, as you disciple them, they will begin to know that their identity can be firmly rooted in God our Abba Father. It is when each person knows who they are through Jesus Christ that we will see signs and wonders and great exploits for God's glory by those who believe in His name.

Regardless of what their name means, we need to ensure that each child and young person knows that there is power in the name of Jesus Christ.

FREEZE FRAME



All of us have taken photos at many Ranger events. They are either hidden away in photo albums or may be still in the envelope that they came in from the photo lab, while more modern photos lay in storage on computers, CD's or hard drives.

Now is the time for those photos to be exposed to the light for all to see.

At Camporama in January and throughout the year, we would like to put on show a collection of photos from around Australia across the five decades of this great ministry and we need your help to do it.

All we ask is that you scan your favourite photos from Rangers. It could be a moment at a weekly Rangers night, or at a state or national Rangers event.

Please email all photos to enews.rangersaustralia@gmail.com



CAMPORAMA 2015 – TIME IS RUNNING OUT! \$395 REGISTRATION PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED

There is still time to register for Camporama 2015 for just \$395. All registrations will be processed subject to availability. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Come and also meet Rangers from Malaysia and Japan.

Do whatever you can to get to a great celebration of 50 years of the Rangers ministry in Australia.

This will a great time where your Rangers and their friends can Xperience God in a powerful way either for the first time or as part of their ongoing growth walk with Him.

We believe there will be many who will Xperience God's love, forgiveness, Divine healing from physical and emotional hurts, freedom from fears and more.

We want as many as would come to be impacted powerfully with the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit.

For more information and registration forms, please go the Rangers Australia website <http://www.rangers.net.au> and click on the green Camporama banner.



THE TRUST FACTOR IN LEADERSHIP

by Pastor Sean Godfrey

The young people that come each week to your group place their trust in you as their leader. They have a reliance on your integrity, and have confidence in that you will be there each week for them. They believe that what you say as being the truth and they have an expectation that they will be accepted, respected and loved by you as individuals. Each time you interact with each child or young person, you are developing a relationship through trust.

Trust is the foundation on which all forms of relationships are built and developed. Without trust, a relationship simply will not and cannot exist. The following comment was stated in a survey conducted by the Integro Leadership Group – ‘Trust is the foundation of all interpersonal relationships and in its absence other interpersonal skills are essentially meaningless.’

Without the investment of trust by the children or young people of the group, the groups existence will be short & the goals that a leader has and is working towards for the group will end in failure. Trust takes time to build up but can be completely destroyed in seconds through a comment or action that was not given any thought to in regard to the impact it would have.

As we are now part way into a fourth school term, some leaders may already be considering what their involvement will be in Rangers for next year. Some leaders will want to continue serving the children and young people as a leader in Rangers in the same age group or may desire a change to another age group. Feeling tired or flat for any number of reasons may cause some leaders to consider leaving Rangers or having a break. Other leaders may feel God stirring their heart to move into another area of ministry. A job transfer or change in jobs may also necessitate a key reason for leaving.

If you are a leader that is considering a change, be it a change in age group or total removal from Rangers, it is important that you consider the trust that the young people have for you and how your departure will impact them.

I have seen it many times where a leader simply chooses to not return, without informing the children or young people in their group. One situation resulting with some children asking, “Didn’t he like us?” I have also seen the impact where the departure of a leader was announced on the last night of the year which then puts a very solemn mood over what was up to that point a great time enjoyed by all. One situation resulting in a child refusing to talk to that leader as they were upset to the point of tears. In both these situations, children and young people have been devastated, the trust they had in their leader had been broken and a residual emotional mess was left for others to deal with. Do not have them remember you in the future as that person they once trusted but walk away.

My prayer is that all of you will choose to continue to disciple those that God has given you, however if you are choosing to leave the Rangers ministry no matter what the reason, the following is important for you to consider to maintain that trust.

1. Speak with your Senior Leader first – they have to plan placement of leaders for the following year.
2. Speak with the other leaders in your age group – they too have placed trust in you.
3. Speak in person to all the children or young people of your group at least 3 weeks prior to your departure to allow them time to process the news, enjoy their remaining time with you and plan their way of saying thank you. It is important they hear this news straight from you and not from any other source. When speaking to the children or young people of your group:
 - Be honest with your words.
 - Express your love for them and the sadness of you going if that is a true emotion you are dealing with.
 - If appropriate, explain in brief why you are going (without conveying any negativity about other leadership if that is the reason).
 - Do not say you will come and visit. Our intentions are always good but not always practical. It is better to do a surprise visit than for you to give them an expectation that they will be disappointed with because you do not return.
 - The young people may still see you from time to time in various places. Do not avoid them. Make eye contact and give a genuine smile. Still take an interest in them with your conversation as they will remember you fondly.