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E. KS / W. MO Awana Missionaries

2005 Annual Awana Ministry Report

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service.

This year has been exciting because we have been serving our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our world has gone through so much tragedy this past year, but we are reminded that God is a sovereign God and He is in control of ALL things. What a privilege it is to be alive and serving in Awana and seeing lives changed for eternity. We, along with our Ministry Team, have done many presentations and trainings for churches over the past year. We had a large amount of leaders trained at the Basic Trainings. The biggest blessing was hearing about all of the decisions for Christ from kids in our area. God is working!

As our year progressed, we added new clubs to the Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri Awana family. We started the same amount of churches as last year, 24, but unfortunately we had 12 churches that dropped Awana this year. That puts the total number of churches we serve to 251. Pray that we can work with the churches that are struggling, so we can have 100% of the churches we serve continue to use Awana to reach their community for Christ.

We had a great event season in the spring with the three Regional Bible Quizzes, two Regional Sparks-a-Ramas and AwanaGames, and the 24/7 Ministries competition. The regional quizzes saw a decrease in participation this year of about 20%. Please pray that clubbers can get excited about participating in quizzing. The Kansas City Quiz had team speed introduced to allow more clubber participation. We received a positive response from the churches using this format. The KC and SWMO AwanaGames and Sparks-a-Rama competitions were BIG as usual. We had a total of 106 teams that participated in our region. What a joy to see the smiles and enthusiastic spirit in these kids competing in the AwanaGames. Our annual Teen Day for 24/7 Ministries was exciting because now it's called the Midwest Regional Youth Day. We had churches that attended from Arkansas and Oklahoma and because of these additional teams that participated we had over 300 teenagers in attendance. There were 22 JV and 20 J24/7 Quiz teams and 11 JV and 9 J24/7 AwanaGames teams. Praise God for answered prayer, not only for a great turnout, but also for a youth team that is coordinating this event. We pray that more teams from the Midwest will get involved in the future.

This past May we attended the North American Missions Conference in Lancaster, PA. It was a great time of fellowship and relaxation with the other missionaries as well as a time of renewal for our ministry.

Red River Valley Scholarship Camp was a blessing this year. There were 267 campers with 67 Counselors and supporting staff. Our area was represented by 136 of those campers. Praise God that He is answering our prayers with the teen ministries. Our theme was Under Construction with Phil 1:6 as our theme verse. The camp speakers were used by God during the week to change hearts and minds and many decisions were made to follow more closely after the Lord and to change their lifestyle making it more pleasing to Him. Please be praying for the camping ministry as many changes will be affecting camp in the future.

We are always excited to see the churches in our area participate in the Fall Leadership Conferences. We had around 550 leaders attend one of the three conferences with about 40% of the churches represented. This year we introduced Rorheim Institute, which is a leader and parent development network, by having a vision seminar that was part of the conference. The objective of RI is to raise the priority of children's and youth ministry, deepen the biblical worldview and broadening the shepherding skills of leaders. We want to continue to be creative in thinking of diverse workshops to meet the changing needs of not only the kids, but also the leaders. We pray that leaders will continue to seek additional training to be effective as they reach lost souls for Jesus Christ. We are thrilled to see what God is going to do with the conferences and Rorheim Institute.

The biggest blessing we had all year was welcoming our son, Evan Joel Hart into the world on October 8th. What a joy he has been and with 3 older sisters to watch over him, he has been getting a lot of attention! We are looking forward to seeing him develop this next year. Children are a blessing from above!

At the end of October and early November we had our Regional Grand Prix. Continue to pray that God will grow this event, but also use this as an outreach tool in the local church.

We are so grateful for all the prayer and financial supporters that believe in our hope, vision, and mission. We thank you for each and every gift we receive. Our financial support is 91% and we can't express the joy in seeing churches and individuals working with us in this ministry. We trust the Lord will meet our needs and will bless us as we serve Him in Awana. Continue to pray for not only our travel safety, but our Ministry Team as well. They continue to work with us in coordinating events, presentations, trainings, club evaluations and ministry visits. As a team, we will be focusing on building our relationships with the churches in our area. Please pray for the new and experienced Awana churches that their focus will remain on reaching boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and training them to serve Him.

Our Hope

That all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ

Our Vision

To be a strategic partner with churches in Kansas and Missouri to ensure the opportunity for all children and youth to be evangelized and disciplined in Christ

Our Mission

To work with our pastors and commanders in giving our leaders the proper tools and training that will equip them to evangelize and disciple children and youth for Christ