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E. KS / W. MO Awana Missionaries

### 2006 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.*

Another year has come and gone and what can we say about the ministry...it's GRRREAT!! Again, this year has been exciting because we have been serving our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, knowing this is His will for our lives. 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 little over 550 leaders trained in the new Orientation Trainings that were introduced during the summer and fall and we were blessed by two churches that are now helping with Regional Trainings in our area. Once again, the biggest blessing was hearing about 700 known decisions for Christ in our area. Praise the Lord for these souls!

As our year progressed, we added 31 new clubs to the Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri Awana family. This was our largest increase in new club starts since becoming missionaries. We had 10 churches that dropped Awana, which gave us a total increase of 8% in the area. That puts the total number of churches we serve to 271. Because of the amount of churches we serve, we implemented CARE Groups to meet the needs of the clubs that are struggling so we can have 100% of the churches 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. There were approximately 500 boys and girls that participated in quizzing over material in their T&T books. We want to specifically thank John & Shawna James for their leadership in coordinating our Kansas City Bible Quiz over the past four years. God has moved them to Texas and we will definitely miss them. We do praise the Lord for sending another couple so quickly to take over this big responsibility for 2008. The AwanaGames and Sparks-a-Rama competitions were BIG as usual. We had a total of 90 teams that participated in our region. What a joy to see the smiles and enthusiastic spirit in these kids competing in the AwanaGames. At the Midwest Regional Youth Day, a volleyball tournament and pizza fellowship was introduced on Friday night before the Saturday activities. There were approximately 100 youth that attended on Friday night. It was a great time of food and fellowship. On Saturday, there were 30 JV and 24 Journey Quiz teams and 11 JV and 9 Journey AwanaGames teams with about 300 youth in attendance. Praise God for the growth of this event. What a joy to see teenagers that are excited about their walk with Christ!

In May and November we attended our Regional Conferences in Chicago and Little Rock. We are very excited about the new field structure for the Awana Missionary and the opportunities this will create in reaching more kids with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Awana Scholarship Camp was a blessing this year. There were 231 campers with 57 supporting staff. Our area was represented by 124 of those campers. The theme was Spiritual Warfare with Ephesians 6:12 as the key verse. The highlight of camp was seeing many youth make decisions to draw closer to God in their Christian walk. Even though this was the last year of "Awana Scholarship Camp", we are pleased to know that Red River Valley Camp will continue each summer to disciple youth that are involved with the Awana ministry in their local churches.

We are always excited to see the churches in our area participate in the Children's Ministry Conferences. We had around 575 leaders attend one of the three conferences with about 35% of the churches represented. Please pray with us in how we can be more creative to promote our future conferences so more leaders will be involved.

The biggest blessing we had all year was seeing our 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Brianna, accept Christ as her personal Savior. What a joy to know that she understands the meaning of being a Christian and what Jesus Christ did for her on the cross. We thank God for allowing her to be part of our family and giving us the responsibility to teach and train this young life in the Word.

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 87% 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