

**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  
discipled 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

## **Joel & Veronica Culberson**

### **E. KS / W. MO Awana Missionaries**

### **2009 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.*

What a privilege it is to be 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 trained over 210 leaders at regional and local Orientation and Role Trainings. We continue to thank the churches that host these important trainings for new leaders. The biggest blessing was hearing about 500 known decisions for Christ in our area. We estimated that we had over 1700 salvations throughout our territory. Praise the Lord for these souls as well as the ones that were instrumental in leading them to Christ.

As our year progressed, we had 23 new Awana programs start in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. Two of those were churches that had dropped in the past and decided to restart the ministry. We had 20 churches that dropped Awana, due to church splits, lack of leadership and churches needing program changes. Even though we had more drops than what we would of liked to have seen, we know that God is in control and we pray that He will open up many doors in 2010. That puts the total number of churches we serve to 276.

The CARE Group ministry continues to be an effective tool of communication to meet the needs of the clubs. We have 15 groups across the region and are praying for more to start in 2010.

We praise God for allowing us to meet our goals at the Ministry Leader Conferences this past fall. We had 760 leaders attend one of our two conferences, with about 38% of the churches represented. Thank you for your prayers!

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 had many "quiz-outs" (*perfect scores*), which was a testimony to all of the hard work the clubbers, leaders and parents do during the club year. In the AwanaGames and Sparks-a-Rama competitions, we had a total of 88 teams that participated in our region. At the Midwest Regional YouthDay, we had our 4th annual volleyball tournament and pizza fellowship on Friday night before the Saturday activities. There were approximately 180 youth that attended the volleyball tournament. On Saturday, there were 17 Trek and 27 Journey Quiz teams and 8 Trek and 12 Journey AwanaGames teams with close to 300 youth in attendance. We continue to praise God for the growth of this event. What a joy to see teenagers that are excited about their walk with Christ!

In May, we attended our Regional Conference in Chicago. It was a great time of fellowship with the other missionaries as well as a time of renewal for our ministry.

Joel continues to volunteer each summer at Red River Valley Honors Camp in Arkansas as the High School Director. There were over 200 campers with 55 supporting staff. Our area was represented by 100 of those campers. He also volunteered at the national Summit competition in Greenville, North Carolina as a Bible Quizmaster and co-coordinator of AwanaGames.

The field structure change of the Awana missionaries continues to be a work in progress in our area. Joel is now the Lead Missionary for Kansas and Missouri and works with two other missionary couples. The Kansas/Missouri team works together so we can be more effective in helping churches reach more children and youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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 85% 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 our travel safety and our volunteer Ministry Team. 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.