

Alaska Awana Newsletter

June 2010

MDJ

Modern Day Joseph: Whom do you want your kids & grandkids to emulate? Our cultural norm or a biblical example of a godly life? Joseph is an example in Scripture and is a model and goal for which to aim. We have been sharing this initiative and literature from Fairbanks to Kenai as we challenge pastors, commanders, leaders, and kids, speaking and updating in many communities. Big Lake, Wasilla, North Pole, Delta Junction, Eagle River, and Anchorage have all been on the agenda in recent months. www.awana.org/moderndayjoseph

Training Conferences

Awana is celebrating its 60th year in 2010. Via prayer and technology we are planning to expand the annual conference regularly held in Anchorage. We expect to triple the conference location opportunities this fall with satellite and locally supplemented trainings in two additional areas. www.awana.org/training

Commander College

The dates are January 27-30, 2011. The location and logistics arrangements are ongoing to maximize convenience and minimize cost. Pastors, commanders, youth and children coordinators all will come to understand the five different hats (roles) they oversee in their positions as they relate to Awana and their church. Those roles: Shepherd, Leader, Communicator, Advocate, and Administrator are all addressed and expanded upon with a variety of teaching techniques. www.awana.org/training

Church visits

We have had great opportunity to visit, teach, share, evaluate, update, and train in many churches. We relish the opportunity to be with churches, youth, and kids. Whether sharing the Gospel with a whole congregation or signing off missionary sections on club night, the Lord continues to allow us these privileges.

Events

Since the new year our event season has included: 24-7 (Middle & High School) Extravaganza in Eagle River, Bible Quiz in the Interior, Sparks-A-Rama and AwanaGames in Anchorage, Sparks-A-Rama and AwanaGames in Interior. In April we will wind down the event season with Bible Quiz in Anchorage/ER/Mat-Su. We anticipate the Lord allowing us to begin holding events on the Kenai Peninsula next year. We have adults tell us often how participating in Quizzing and Games (formerly Olympics) solidified great memories enhancing their Awana experience.

Decisions & Awards

Reports from commanders and pastors from some of the 50 churches around the state notify us with salvation decisions, baptisms, and upcoming awards that are soon to be distributed to kids, leaders, and parents. Keep the reports coming! Our prayer is that, "All youth and children around the world will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

New and renewing churches

There are always churches considering either starting or expanding their Awana clubs and 24-7 youth ministries. We are challenged and blessed with opportunities all over this great state to introduce and or train leaders and churches. Currently there are 50 churches using Awana with approximately 3800 kids and 800 leaders. We consider them our flock to shepherd in multiple capacities as they choose.

www.awana.findlocation.com

Support level: prayer, financial, and other

Currently, six churches, one business, and several individuals financially support us monthly. We are at approximately 55% of our support level. Prayer, letters, media, and food showers, are various methods that clubs, youth groups, and entire churches lift us up to the Lord. This humbles and encourages us. We are committed to being a better resource to all churches and their youth and children's leaders.

Dan and Geraldine Bylsma
Awana Missionaries for Alaska