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Dear Family and Friends,

Last May, after almost twenty-five years of serving God in Awana as volunteers, Sherry and I felt God leading us to apply to Awana Clubs International as full-time Awana Missionaries. The application process was taxing, including an 18-page doctrinal dissertation, over twenty personal reference verifications, and a psychological evaluation, followed by an interview at Awana Headquarters outside Chicago, IL in October. A week after returning home we received the news that we had been accepted as Awana missionary candidates.



In addition to “Reaching boys & girls with the gospel of Christ and training them to serve Him”, Awana Missionaries work alongside local churches to:

1. Heighten the priority of children’s ministry
2. Deepen the Biblical worldview of children and youth, and
3. Sharpen the teaching and shepherding skills of the adults that work with them

Throughout the last 18 months we can see how God has been preparing us for full-time service. In July of 2004 the Central Florida missionary resigned and we were asked by Awana to assume many of the responsibilities that are usually performed by a missionary. We worked with prospective churches through the process of inquiry, follow-up, presentation, registration, and training, leading up to starting a new club. Working with the volunteer ministry team, we were able to conduct all of the events typically scheduled in Central Florida. Our territory hosted three Leadership Conferences, two Regional Grand Prix, state-wide Junior Varsity Bible Quizzing and Games, state-wide Journey 24/7 Expo (Fine Arts Competition, Bible Quizzing, and Games), and Sparks-a-Rama and T&T Games. We know now that God put us in this situation to prepare us for full-time service.

The next thing on our calendar is training which will be held in Chicago from January 23 thru February 3, 2006. Since Awana missionaries are faith supported, we must raise our own support. Our first plateau is \$500 a month, which we need to raise from our current sphere of family, friends, and churches. We will soon be contacting many of you, asking you to partner with us first with prayer and, if possible, financially in order to reach this first goal. Our goal is to meet this objective by March 1st.

Please, pray for us as we continue to prepare to go. We will have jobs to quit, a house to sell, a major move, settling into a new place, and perhaps new jobs to work temporarily until we can raise the rest of our support. At this time we do not know where we are heading or when we will get there. We are trusting in God to send us to the place where we can be most effective.



May the Lord bless and keep you,

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