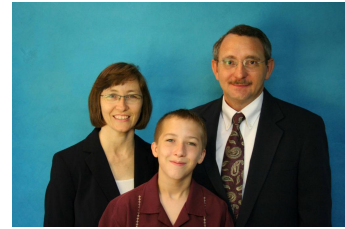


# Thomas Tribune

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Tim, Sherry, & Kyle Thomas

## Another Milestone Reached

We were back at Awana Headquarters from January 14th through the 24th for Missionary Candidate School—Phase 2. During these 10 days we received instruction on how to 'Teach Like Jesus', 'Lead Like Jesus', working with volunteers, ministering to churches, cross-cultural ministries, problem solving, and so much more.



**L-R Jack Eggar, President & CEO of Awana Clubs International; Tim; Art Rorheim, Founder & President Emeritus; Sherry; Brian Rhodes, Executive Director of U.S. Ministries**

With us in class were Arlyn & Marcie Nies, veteran missionaries from North Dakota; and fellow newcomers; Joel & Virginia Cook, from northern California; Tim & Jenny Bailey from Georgia; and Steve

& Karen Hydanus, from southern California (see photo below). It was great to meet Steve and Karen

and to re-unite with the Bailey's and Cook's, who were in our Phase 1 training in January of 2006. We also had the opportunity to meet and share our experiences with the newest batch of missionaries who were also at Headquarters beginning their Phase 1 training. The class was full with 10 couples and 3 individuals. At the completion of the training we attended our graduation ceremony, where we received our new Awana Missionary blazer complete with our missionary patch. Jack spoke on being a servant to the churches and then Art gave

each new missionary couple a personal challenge to stay true to our calling and dependent on the Lord.

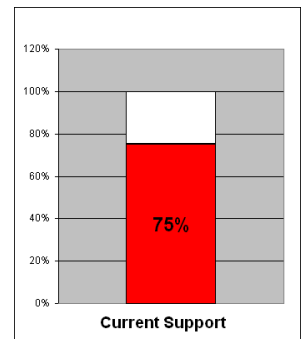


**Tim & Sherry receive a personal challenge from Art.**



## Support Continuing to Come In

We praise God for the 3 new churches and several individuals who have now taken us on for regularly scheduled support. This brings our support level to almost 75% and permits us to draw a full salary and benefits. We thank God for each one of you.



## Snowbound

Winter finally arrived in southern Wisconsin last month. After some very cold temperatures in October and snow at Halloween and then a little more at Thanksgiving, temperatures rose and we had a very mild December. Temperatures were in the 40's most of the month and there was no snow for Christmas, when David and Stephen came to visit. Then January arrived.

To put things in perspective, Madison's average annual snowfall is about 48 inches; from January 24 to February 28 over 43 inches of snow fell.

Much of this snow fell over the weekend of February 23-25, prompting most churches in southern Wisconsin to cancel their Sunday services. It also forced us to postpone our 24-7 Expo which was scheduled for the 24th. Fifteen

inches of snow fell in Jefferson, 5 miles south of Johnson Creek. The wind was blowing so hard, it is hard to tell exactly how much snow fell at our house, but we had a 3 foot drift in our driveway Saturday morning and the friendly village snowplow deposited over 4 feet along the sides of the streets completely blocking us in and covering our mailbox. We spent the better part of the next 4 days digging out.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. I still remember the fall of 2004 in Florida; 3 hurricanes in 4 weeks, 10 days without power, and having to cut down, cut up, and haul away 8 pine trees.

So, we get a little snow here. We can take it.

## New Office Equipment Needed

We were grateful to receive the gift of the color laser printer last summer, but it is out of place amongst the other much older office equipment, in our office.

The copier we have is over 10 years old and we have told by Lanier that when it breaks, they will not have the parts to repair it. So a replacement copier will be needed soon.

We are also in need of a desktop computer that can serve a central repository for all of our files.

If you would like to help us raise the \$2400 we need to upgrade our office equipment please let us know and we will send you more information.

## First Annual 24-7 Expo

Over 150 junior and senior highers from nine church throughout Wisconsin came together—finally—on March 10th in our state's capital, Madison, for a day filled with Fine Arts, Bible Quizzing, and Games. The event had to be rescheduled from February 24th due to bad, really bad, weather.

There were 20 participants competing in fine arts categories as; vocal, piano, photography, drawing, sign language, public speaking, and wordless drama. Bible quiz and games included 6 Trek teams and 3 Journey teams. Our goal for next year is 30 fine arts participants and 8 Trek and 6 Journey teams for Bible quiz and games.

Trek is brand new for this year and replaces the previous junior high program, Junior Varsity. Journey is designed for high school students and debuted in 2004. The previous

high school program was known as Varsity. Together Trek and Journey make up the teen ministry arm of Awana. For more information on 24-7 ministries, please see their web site at <http://www.24-7ministries.net/>

This combined event was a first for Wisconsin. One Trek clubber said, "This is the best time she has had at church in years!" We agree! And hope that this Expo will spark additional interest in 24-7 Ministries amongst the churches here.

The 24-7 Expo is Wisconsin's version of the national event for Journey clubbers called Summit. This year about 1500 senior high students will 'ascend' upon Denver Colorado from March 30-April 3 for four days of fine arts, quizzing, games, and much, much more. If you would like additional information on Summit visit <http://www.24-7ministries.net/limits/summit>

## Home At Last

Our prayers were answered and our new home was finished before Christmas. We moved in on December 16th. Shortly after that our sons David and Stephen came to visit for Christmas. Our daughter Wendy and son-in-law Ryan were here over President's Day weekend. It was a wonderful being able to spend time with our children.

Nothing makes a house a home like family.



The Thomases are missionaries with Awana Clubs International (Streamwood, IL), serving in southern Wisconsin.

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