



# Thomas Tribune



Volume 4 Issue 2  
December 2009



Tim, Sherry, & Kyle Thomas

## Ministry Update

As we enter the holiday season, with its feasts, gifts, parties, and pageants, is appropriate to stop and reflect on all on the that Lord has done for us, remembering the greatest give all—Jesus Christ.

***Galatians 4:4-7 But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children. Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. You are no longer slaves. You are God's children, and you will be given what he has promised.***

Because of His gift of Jesus Christ we can receive the gift of salvation. As we spend time with our family and friends, let us strive to keep Christ at the center of this season, knowing that He is the source of all we have.

***James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights in the heavens.***

It is hard believe that we are in our fourth year as the Awana missionaries for southern Wisconsin. It has gone by so quickly. I usually use this space of the Tribune to let you now what has been going on with us. This time, I decided to do something a little different and let you know about some of the blessings that leaders have shared with us. Thank you for prayer and financial support that allows us to minister here.

**Tonight a first time Sparky accepted Christ!**

I attended the Proclaim conference in Madison on Saturday and wanted to say thank you to all who helped make it possible. This is my first year as a leader and it was a great day of learning and encouragement towards my work with Awana. God bless!

Seeing a child (Sparky) come the whole year and tell me she's "just here to socialize" and then at the Awards ceremony she decided she wanted to tell me John 3:16 and was wanting to read the Bible. Life threw her a curve ball in the middle of the year (family divorce) and she decided to seek God in that crisis. She also started to bring her older brother. If that is the only reason we had club this year it was worth it.

Thank you for working so hard on the AwanaGames. You made it more fun with music. I really like the way you shared the gospel too.

[Because of Awana] many non-churched families are participating on Wednesday – Awana, youth group, and men's & ladies' ministries.

You have seen our club and we are pretty small. For a few weeks after, I really struggled with the idea, being as we are a small church and I didn't have a lot of leaders to begin with. I sat down and laid out how our club should be structured and how many people it would take to run the "ideal" club, just assuming that we don't get any new kids this coming year. I was very disappointed I realized how wrong our club has been run for so many years. We needed six more lead-

ers just to run an efficient club. After much prayer, I appointed two directors to start. One Cubbies/Sparks director and one T&T/Trek director. As a testimony to how awesome of a God we serve, within six weeks, the Lord provided six leaders and two helpers!! What really amazed me is that being a small church of about 70-75 people we are currently up to 20 staff members working in Awana for this upcoming year!

Our summer Awana outreach is getting ready to start on July 11th. What my directors decided to do was for 4 dates in July and August, we were going to go to elementary schools and parks within walking distance of the church and set up an Awana square in the field and just start playing games. We were going to encourage some of the kids that currently attend the club to come with us to play games. Then as kids came to see what was going on, invite them to play with us and let them know about the Awana club we run during the school year.

It [Awana] is going further than just to the kids. Their families are being changed and even wanting to serve!

[Our clubs have grown to the size where we are moving the Cubbies to another building--The Lord is really working with us. Our program is really exciting with many new ideas. Thanks...

It is a great joy to see lives changed for the better through the year.

## Family Update

Kyle (18) graduated from high school in June and is now in college at Nicolet Bible Institute at Silver Birch Ranch in White Lake, WI. In addition to their biblical studies each student also works at the camp; cleaning and maintaining the buildings and grounds, and helping work the many camp venues during retreats which run all winter. During the summer he will serve as camp staff. There are twenty-one students enrolled this year (Kyle is right in the



ing and is working for a local firm. Wendy has moved from X-ray to CT Scan and is enjoying learning a new skill. Evan turned one year old on Oct. 28th and has

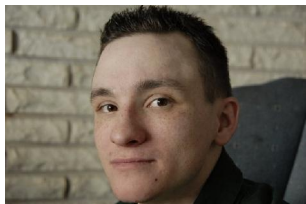


just started walking. We enjoy getting together with them often on Skype. The three of them were able to come visit us last May and we enjoyed showing them Chicago, which included (of



middle in the green striped shirt.) He is home from Thanksgiving until Christmas but has to be back at school on December 26.

Steve (23) is here with us after his term at NBI. He is very involved in Awana and youth ministry at our church and helps us in our ministry.



Right now he is helping a new Awana church right here in Johnson Creek, get their club up and running. He works at Dominoes in Watertown and just recently found an additional job as a night auditor at a Watertown hotel.

Wendy (26), Ryan, and Evan are still in Seattle. Ryan graduated from college with a degree in civil engineer-



course) a trip to Wrigley field for a Cubs game.

David (28) is the only one still in Florida. He lives near the Atlantic Ocean just north of Daytona Beach. He works as an engineer for a firm that puts protective coatings on fan and turbine blades. It is really a lot more technical than it sounds.



In addition to her missionary duties, Sherry is teaching another year at Victory Christian High School in Neosho. This year she is teaching Algebra, English, Bible, Chemistry, and Sign Language. She really enjoys teaching but it is challenging working two jobs. It has been good to have her traveling with me more this year visiting clubs and churches.

Summers in Wisconsin are much shorter than they were in Florida and I spent my second one in a row on crutches. I was behaving like a teenager at Honors' Camp at Camp Awana in June and broke my ankle. Thankfully it is all healed now and is slowly getting back to normal, thanks to a plate and seven screws. I just recently returned from eight days at Awana headquarters where we received training on support raising techniques.



Another highlight for us this year was going to North Carolina for Summit (national high school event).



This year Kyle, Sherry, and I received our Citation Awards. From Art Rorheim and Richard Yandle. This proves that you are never too old to memorize scripture. While there, we were able to visit with my brother, Bob and Sherry's brother, Randy.

**The Thomases are missionaries with Awana (Streamwood, IL), serving in southern Wisconsin. Address: 750 Summerset Dr., Johnson Creek, WI 53038 Phone: (920)699-1977. Sending Church: Deltona Alliance Church, Deltona, Florida**