

# Awana Tell Ya



Southern Wisconsin website: [www.awanaswi.org](http://www.awanaswi.org)

March 2008



## Brand-New Day at Awana

New branding signifies our commitment to help churches and parents raise children and youth that know, love and serve Christ for life

### God's purpose for Awana

From our new Awana logo to new messaging that will permeate our communications and programs, our new brand will help you understand that we are much more than a weekly children's Bible memory club. Our new Awana brand summary statement succinctly explains the purpose that God has entrusted to us for the foreseeable future:

Awana helps churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ.

### Awana is a broad-based ministry

Scripture memory and weekly children's clubs are just one aspect of what we offer. We feature seven core benefits that will help churches and parents raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ for a lifetime:

- Fully integrated programs for ages 2 to 18
- The best evangelism tools to reach unsaved children, youth and families
- Teaching that builds an enduring biblical faith
- Resources that bring churches and parents together to disciple the next generation
- Initial and ongoing volunteer training
- Healthy mentor and peer relationships
- Irresistible fun for children, teens and adults alike!



The main change you may notice about our core features is the emphasis on Awana as a tool that brings churches and parents together to raise kids spiritually. "Being effective in transforming children and youth into spiritual champions is something that takes both the church and the parents of the kids working in partnership," said Awana President/CEO Jack Eggar.

### Grounded in the gospel

Our new branding does not change our chief mission as a ministry. Since our founding in 1950, the primary purpose of Awana has been reaching children and youth and their families with the gospel of Christ. That vision will never change. "Awana has always been and always will be first and foremost about helping the local church get the life-changing gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ out into the community," Jack Eggar said.

### Focused on clubs

And our dedication to weekly club programs has only grown stronger. In fact, we have adapted our former corporate Awana logo into our new Awana Clubs logo. **Awana Clubs** is the name of our new children's ministry division. It is devoted to overseeing our programs for boys and girls ages 2 to sixth grade. Our Awana Clubs ministry connects churches and parents through weekly programs and special events that introduce children to Christ and

See Page 3

## On Target Sessions

Sometimes our On Target Sessions are related to only specific groups in Awana. Rest assured, this round of On Target Sessions will be helpful for every Awana leader, regardless of their role. Please join us for these very important informational and training meetings. Topics of discussion include new products and programs, and Leadership Tips from the Master.

5/1 Baraboo  
5/17 Platteville

5/12 Janesville  
5/19 Sheboygan

5/15 Brookfield  
5/22 Verona

5/16 Racine

Please **RSVP** by email so that we know how to plan. In the past, we have traveled to locations and had no one show up for the meeting. So in these days of high fuel costs, if we don't have anyone RSVP for a location we will cancel that meeting. Please visit our website for location specifics (addresses, times, etc.) and maps.

## Budget Needs

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19*



As you may already know, we are faith-supported missionaries. This means that we rely on God to provide for our needs—both personally and for the ministry. Our financial support comes primarily through churches and individuals who support us on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. We are currently about 80% supported. But due to increased expenses, our ministry needs will be higher this year. A large part of this is due to the increased cost of fuel as we travel many miles every month. With the increased expenses, we will need additional support to help cover it. On a personal note, we as a family are facing some unplanned expenses right now. Some of these are new glasses, braces for Kyle, taxes, tires, etc. Please pray with us that God will provide for our every need.

We would also ask that you pray about how God would have you be involved. Perhaps some of you could take us on for regular support. There are also special projects that you can do: VBS offerings, Penny Contests, and even collecting money for gas cards to help us purchase fuel to use in our travels. Please contact us if you would like suggestions on how to help.

Thank you to the following for special projects and offerings in recent weeks:

- Spring Creek Church Sparks (Pewaukee) - \$500 (special offerings)
- Calvary Evangelical Free Church (Racine) - \$600 (Calvary Café fundraiser at Bible Quizzing) & \$300 (concession sales at AwanaGames™)
- Bethany Evangelical Free Church (Madison) - \$235 (change contest)
- Oxford Bible Church—\$250 (concession sales at AwanaGames™)
- Beloit Road Baptist Church (West Allis) - \$ 150 gas card ( special offering contest)

## Learn from Nehemiah:

One of my favorite Bible characters is Nehemiah. There are many lessons we can learn from him. I especially like reading about how he organized the people to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He didn't try to do it all himself— he had everyone do a part of the job. And together they accomplished what they set out to do, and in record time.

As we carry on the work of the Awana ministry here in Wisconsin, there are many things that need to be done. We have been encouraged by many people who pitch in and help with things like Basic Training, the fall Leadership Training Conference, Bible Quizzing, AwanaGames™, 24-7 Expo, and Sparks Camp. But there are still things that need to be done.

Some areas where help is needed:

- Personnel director for Quizzing & Games
- Bible Quizzing
  - Question writer
  - Judges
- Sparks Camp
  - Crafts helpers
  - Games leaders
  - Hike Leader
  - Climb Leader
  - Team Leader
  - Registration helpers
- Fine Arts Competition judges
- Fall Conference
  - Workshop teachers
  - Registration helpers
- Basic Training Teachers



Please contact us to volunteer for any of the positions above, or others that you may think of.  
timt@awana.org

## Song Time for Children

There is a growing trend in children's ministries today of using adult sized songs with children. While it is a good idea for children to learn the great hymns of the faith; many hymns, choruses, and worship songs use symbolic language that children just do not understand. Here are a few tips and ideas for your musical selection:

- Song time should take a child from thinking of themselves to thinking about God
- Song time should prepare their hearts to receive the Word
- Songs with too many words and uneven tempo are often not good worship songs. They may be great to listen to and worship as you listen, but difficult to sing in a corporate setting.
- Select songs that...
  - Are easy to sing; have a simple melody line
  - Use simple words, with some repetition
  - Teach Scriptural truths
  - Use words that are literal in meaning (not symbolic)
  - Are age appropriate in energy level. High energy songs may be fine for most elementary aged children, but may over stimulate or even frighten pre-school children.

Kids love to sing, and songs that reinforce God's truth go a long way toward instilling a Biblical worldview.

### Sparks Camp

Did you know that a child who completes all 3 of the Sparks books has memorized 166 Bible verses? Each year we host a one day Sparks Camp, specially planned just for those hard working Sparks who have earned the Sparkie Award. Last year we had 140 Sparks and 72 adults participate. Sparks Camp this year is:



When: Saturday, June 7, 2008

Registration Starts at 9:00 A.M.  
Camp ends at 4:00 P.M.

Where: Camp Awana,  
Fredonia

Registration forms are posted on the website:

[www.awanaswi.org](http://www.awanaswi.org)

We are looking for volunteers to help with this. It takes many people to make it happen. If you are able to help in any way – team leaders, games, crafts, nurse - please let us know so that we can assemble our team.

From Page 1

build a biblical foundation for faith.

Besides Awana Clubs, we currently have other main

brands: **24-7 Ministries** (the youth ministry of Awana) and **Rorheim Institute** (our adult training ministry). 24-7 Ministries equips leaders with strategic tools to build a healthy youth ministry that grounds students in a lasting biblical faith. Rorheim Institute provides adult training and advocacy that equip ministry leaders and parents to evangelize and disciple children and youth.



**Awana International** supplies programs and resources for evangelizing and discipling children and youth overseas.

**Milwaukee**  
**October 4, 2008**  
**Spring Creek Church**

**BEE:**  
**A SERVANT**



Awana® Ministry Conference 2008 - Bee there.

**Madison**  
**October 18, 2008**  
**High Point Church**

Tim & Sherry Thomas • 750 Summerset Dr • Johnson Creek, WI • 53038  
website: [www.awanaswi.org](http://www.awanaswi.org) • email: [timt@awana.org](mailto:timt@awana.org)

**PLEASE** make sure all of your leaders get a copy of this newsletter, or post it where it can be seen.