



Final Results of the 2008 Bible Quizzes are on the Website

You can view team and individual results for the four 2008 Bible Quiz events at the Central and Western Kansas website.

Also available:

- Auto e-mail updates
- Current territory news
- Ministry calendar with links to view rule books, forms, etc.
- Awana church finder
- Access to current and past newsletters
- Resource page with links to information on AwanaGames™, Sparks-a-Rama, Quiz-zing, Grand Prix, including final results for each event.

Visit

www.wksawana.org
today!

Opportunity for your Club to Support our Ministry—Forever Stamps

Are you looking for creative ways to get your clubbers involved in giving to the ministry of Awana here in Kansas? How about running a Forever Stamp contest (hey that sounds like a potential council time theme, huh?) in your club? For more details, see page 4 of this newsletter.

Praise and Prayer

We praise Him for....

.....the **nine new club** starts this year. We have been hearing exciting reports about how God is using Awana in their churches to reach kids and their families for Christ.

...the **125 churches** that we are privileged to serve in Central/Western Kansas.

...a great **Bible Quiz** year in 2008. Over **200 T&T clubbers** competed in the four Bible Quiz events held in Derby, Salina, Hoxie and Liberal. We were able to present the gospel message at each one of these events.

...an instructive two days of **financial support-raising** training that Kris and I received at Awana HQ in early December.

...the **three churches** that have contacted us about starting Awana this fall!

...the continued **blessing of meeting people** and making new friends as we serve churches, pastors and leaders **across our territory**.

....**travel safety** as we have driven **many miles** to visit clubs, attend events and participate in various conferences. We sincerely appreciate all of you who pray for our travel safety. It is **vital** to our ministry.

...allowing us so far this club year to make **23 club visits**, attend three Bible Quiz events, lay five **game circles**, make nine **pastor visits**, conduct two **club leadership** meetings/trainings, hold two fall **Awana ministry conferences**, and attend one regional **missionary conference**. Mike also

gave messages at six **Sunday services**, spoke at two chapel services and presented Awana to **three churches**.

...the **33 commanders** that attended **Commander College 101** in Overland Park on February 25-27.

...the many individuals and churches who **faithfully give** financially to our ministry and for the increase in monthly support over the past few months.

We ask prayer for...

...wisdom as we implement a new **financial support-raising plan** in the first six months of 2008. Pray for Mike as he travels to Ohio for a week of meetings with **potential donors** beginning March 16.

...those on our **volunteer ministry team** who are preparing for the upcoming AwanaGames™ and Sparks-a-Rama events in the coming weeks. Pray that many will attend and that the **gospel will touch the hearts** of family and friends who do not know Jesus as their Savior.

...our ministry to reach 100% of our needed monthly support. Our **current support** level is at 93% of the amount needed each month. Please pray that God will bring us **more individuals and churches** to partner with us both **financially and prayerfully**.

...**safety** as Mike travels to a regional missionary conference at Awana Headquarters in Chicago in May.

...planning that is underway to offer a **Commander College 101** training in the Wichita area July 17-19.

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” - Romans 3:28

2008 Events Calendar

Mar 29 **AwanaGames™ and Sparks-a-Rama**
Abe Hubert Middle School
Garden City, KS

Apr 5 **AwanaGames™ and Sparks-a-Rama**
Valley Center High School
Valley Center, KS

Jul 17-19 **Commander College 101**
West Evangelical Free Church
Wichita, KS

Aug 16 **Fall Awana Ministry Conference**
Garden Valley Church
Garden City, KS

Aug 23 **Fall Awana Ministry Conference**
Grace Community Church
Newton, KS

In late summer, we will be again offering several **Regional Basic Training** events. Please check the events calendar at www.wksawana.org regularly for updates on events and training throughout Central and Western Kansas.

You are also encouraged to subscribe to receive our automated e-mail service alerting you to important event updates and other important information. Go to www.wksawana.org for more information.

This and That.....

- ◆ We are excited to be offering an Awana **Commander College 101** training event in **Wichita** on July 17 through 19. An informational flyer will be mailed to all churches and commanders in early April.
- ◆ Dates and locations of both **fall conferences** are on our website (hit the "Calendar" link at the home page). **Keep checking back** over the summer for more information, including registration forms!
- ◆ The new 2008 **High Power Soccer** catalog is now available. This year's series is called, "The Proven Method" (last year's series was titled "Mission: Unstoppable"). If you would like more information on using High Powered Soccer as a summer ministry at your church, go to www.awana.org/highpower and fill out a request to receive a catalog and promotional DVD pack.
- ◆ Questions have come in to Awana about the **code in T&T Book 3, Discovery 8:7**. If you look at the top of page 148, the code is the alphabet starting with A across the page to Z. **The code starts over again in the middle of page 149**. Clubbers can look at the symbols on page 149 and find the matching one at the top of the page. Fill in the "crack the code" line with the correct letters. Then **unscramble the letters** to get the word CONGRATULATIONS.
- ◆ **T&T Trading Cards** are officially a hit with clubbers across our territory. An **all new set** of trading cards are available for the 2008/09 club year. For **more information** on how you can use this great tool, go to www.awana.org/ttcards.
- ◆ The Rorheim Institute's **Leadership Training Center** is now open in cyberspace. The online course of study, which **trains adults to disciple** children and youth, went live last fall. The Leadership Training Center's **certification** is intended to provide recognition for lay people within the church who strive toward **excellence in their ministry** to children and youth. For more information, go to <http://www.awana.org/ltc/>.
- ◆ The **improved T&T Handbooks** one and two introduced this club year are getting **rave reviews** from leaders, parents and clubbers. Awana will be introducing an improved **book three** this fall with book four to follow in fall 2009.
- ◆ The next **Commander College 201** session at Awana Headquarters in Streamwood, IL will take place July 31 - Aug 3. The session, which takes the theme **Ready to Fly**, is designed to build on concepts taught in Commander College 101 by taking the roles of a **commander** – advocate, communicator, shepherd, administrator and leader – to a **higher level of excellence**. Visit www.awana.org/commandercollege/ for more information.

Sparks Update Coming this Fall!

We are excited to tell you that the new Sparks update is right on schedule to begin in the 2008-2009 club year. Here is a summary of the changes:

A whole new theme. Sparks will now have a flight theme – changing from the current Skipper/Hiker/Climber ranks to HangGlider/WingRunner/SkyStormer. The entrance booklet will be *Flight 3:16*, a salvation piece centered on John 3:16. The three-year rollout starts the fall of 2008 with the release of the Hang Glider™ handbook.

A new scope and sequence. The three new Sparks books will be a chronological journey through the Bible featuring biographies of the people whom they meet along the way. The large group lesson books, the Who series, will include lessons about the Bible characters not covered in the handbook. Sparkies will get to meet a lot of people!

Regular memory sections. These will include the

“why” of what they’re learning. Sparkies continue to move through the handbooks at their own pace. (A pacing schedule is included in the FlightPlan leader’s guide.)

New characters. Sparky will be joined by three Sparks-aged children: Chloe, Jacob and Joel.

A new look and feel to extra credit. The extra credit will be called “Frequent Flyer” and is in a new, fun, four-color format – extra credit cards that fan out from an eyelet.

Changes in the award system. The vest will continue with the addition of an updated logo. The rank emblems will change, of course, and also will be designed so a child does not have to remove the previous emblem when receiving a new one. Everyone likes the jewels! They will continue, but will be placed in pilot wings instead of crowns.

Updated training materials. The role books will reflect the new program and will also include DVDs for both leaders and directors.

For more information: Go to www.awana.org/leader_resources/sparks/.

Kris’ Korner

A busy winter is coming to a close. Megan, our 7th grader, played basketball for the first time. It was very fun watching her games. They were much less stressful than the high school games. Ben, our 11th grader, played on the JV and Varsity basketball teams, and Emily, our 10th grader, took the stats for the girls’ basketball teams. In effect, we had something almost every night of the school week except for Wednesdays, which were reserved for Awana. Both boys’

and girls’ basketball teams made it to state. The boys lost in the first round, but the girls went on to win state—a first in the school’s history.

Emily, Katie, our 5th grader, and I had the experience of a lifetime. We were blessed with the opportunity to go on a mission trip with our church to Children’s Haven (a children’s orphanage) in Reynosa, Mexico, the first week of March. Emily and I did much physical labor (helping to build a cement block wall and painting an audi-

torium ceiling). Receiving instructions in Spanish was one of our biggest challenges considering neither of us speak Spanish! Katie helped sort items that we took to the colonias (poor areas in Reynosa), prepared crafts for the children, cleaned the dorms, and played with the children. She also gave her testimony and played a trumpet duet for the children’s home. One thing that stood out was that God’s love and Word are not bound by language barriers. We were humbled, stretched both spiritually and physically, and it was a blessing to serve in a small way.

Take It to Heart Expanding, Operating Under a New Name

A Scripture memory program that began as a one-year-only event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Awana in 2000 has endured and was re-launched last month as TruthScripts™. Peggy Leasure, Director of Operation for Rorheim Institute, which administers the program, sees great potential in building on the foundation laid by Take It to Heart. “With the introduction of a new program, it gives us an opportunity to impact the church as a whole and capture the attention of pastors to inspire their congregations to hide God’s Word in their hearts,” Peggy said.

Promotional materials for TruthScripts™ will present the program as a summer activity to build unity among congre-

gations as they work on a common goal over the summer months. The first year’s Bible passages will include Psalm 1 and Psalm 23, both fairly familiar passages consisting of six verses each. “Every year we will encourage churches to start with Psalm 1 or review it. The second passage will change every year,” Peggy said.

Your church should have received a mailing in February that introduced the new TruthScripts™ program. We hope that your church takes advantage of this great opportunity to challenge your adult members to study and memorize God’s Word. For more details about TruthScripts™, you can go to www.awana.org/truthscripts/.

Mike and Kris Reed
504 S. Quail Ct.
Newton, KS 67114
Office Phone/Fax: 316-283-0351
Mike's Cell: 316-259-8081
Email: miker@awana.org Web: www.wksawana.org

Awana Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

Awana desires to be an effective servant to you and your church, so they are asking commanders and leaders to give them feedback about their experience with Awana over the past year.

As in the past, Awana will be mailing a paper survey to randomly selected churches, but they are also doing an online version of the survey. The online survey will provide input from all levels of Awana church volunteers. The questions on the online survey are identical to the paper survey.

All Awana leaders are invited to take the online survey at <http://awana.annual.sgizmo.com/>. Your participation in this survey is critical to the continued improvement of the Awana ministry! This survey will close on April 15, 2008.

Forever Postage Stamp Project

Awana missionaries mail information to churches and commanders several times a year—we are no exception! Again this year, we are offering a way to allow area clubbers and leaders to support our ministry through a Postage Stamp Project. The response has been great, but we are running out of stamps! As you may have heard, the letter rate postage is going up by 1 cent on May 12. Because of this upcoming rate and the likelihood of more increases in the future, we are asking clubs to purchase Forever stamps for our ministry. They will be good after the postage increase even though you will pay only \$.41 now. We would like to extend our deep appreciation for all of you who generously support us in this way!

Financial Support of our Ministry

As you may know, we are 100% faith-supported through the contributions of churches and individuals. It is our responsibility to raise our support. Currently, our support level is at about 93% of our monthly need. For information on how you can begin supporting us with your financial gifts, please go to our website at www.wksawana.org and click on "Your Missionaries." As great as our financial needs are, nothing can replace the power of prayer. Please continue to lift our ministry up in your prayers as we answer the Lord's call to serve the 125 churches using Awana in our territory.

Has Mike visited your club yet?

There are still many churches that we have not had the opportunity to visit. If you are one of them, we would love to come see you!

We can also assist your club by doing a formal club evaluation. This can provide you with valuable ideas on ways to increase the effectiveness of your club as you reach boys and girls for Christ!

To schedule for the 2008/09 club year, contact Mike (email miker@awana.org or phone 316-283-0351).



Awana to Award Citation Plaque to Wichita Student Killed in Accident

Jenna Schoenwald was on track to complete the requirements for her Awana Citation Award this year. A high school senior, Jenna was active in her church and was senior class president at her Christian school. On February 16, Jenna's family was traveling from their Wichita, Kansas home to Colorado for a ski trip when they were involved in a three-car accident on Interstate 70 near Denver. Jenna, her father, Ken, and 13-year-old brother, Jace, were killed in the accident. Jenna's mother and twin sisters survived.

Jenna would have finished her Citation Award requirements this spring. She and her Awana leader, Ann Chatlain, had been working faithfully to complete the studies. "There is a big

hole in our hearts ... Jenna and Jace along with all the Schoenwalds were a big part of our lives," Ann related. "Jenna had worked so diligently. She was determined to have that Citation. What a girl!"

Kevin White, director of youth ministries, has announced that a Citation plaque will be awarded posthumously to Jenna and presented to the family. In addition, Jenna's name will be added to the Citation Award display at Bode Road.

To see an article about Jenna on Awana's Journey 24/7 website, please visit www.24-7ministries.net/about/schoenwald.htm.