

Off to a good start in 2011

Thank you for being a Ministry Partner

Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you for standing with us in prayer, we are off to a good start in 2011.

In the past month we have had two new clubs start, and two others contact us for more information. We have had some great club visits, and had the opportunity to present the gospel to hundreds of kids. God is Good!!

Commander College 101 is one of my favorite training conferences. We offer specialized training for commanders over 2 & 1/2 days of fun and fellowship. It is a great way to get to know commanders, for them to get to know each other, and for us to learn together. This time we had a small group of 12 commanders and we met in snowy Syracuse, NY January 14-16. Although our numbers were small we still had great fellowship, and shared together how God could use the ministry of Awana to touch many lives. If you know a Commander who has not been to Commander College please encourage him/ her to attend our next conference. (June 2011)

Special year end blessing as we closed out the year in 2010 you may remember that we had some vehicle problems. That is an understatement. Our van transmission went out just before conference, then there was an electrical problem that affected the transmission, and before we knew it we were racking up some major repair bills. **But God is Good;** and we received a special unexpected year end gift from two of our supporters. These gifts were both directed toward our vehicle expenses and were sufficient to cover the bills we had. **Praise the Lord.**

It is encouraging to see how Awana is impacting so many lives. More than just the kids (although they are important) we see adults lives being touched. As parents begin to see the necessity of working with their children. When Church leaders catch a vision for ministry that is outward focused they see how Awana can be used to build up their total ministry.

In the past few weeks I've met with several pastors who genuinely value children's ministry. It is great to know that you serve in a ministry that others see as valuable.



Be sure to check out our updated website:

www.awananypenn.org



A few months ago someone asked me if I was “**the Awana salesman?**” When I said that I was the Awana Missionary the person I was talking to stopped and looked at me and said “How are you a Missionary?” I wish I could say that this was a rare question, but in fact I get this a lot. Many people see missionaries as people who live exotic lives in far away places. I think it surprises them to know that in fact we (missionaries) serve right here alongside them. One way I like to explain it is to think of it this way. I am a missionary, called by God to reach the next generation. The best tool for that job is Awana, and so I am an Awana Missionary. **My calling is to be a missionary**, reaching out to children with the message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Awana is simply the tool I use to fulfil my Missionary calling.

I want to thank you for being a ministry partner, thank you for praying, encouraging, and caring for us. **Together we’re bringing in “Fruit for the Master”!!**

Current Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for thousands of kids who attend clubs in the NYPENN area, that they will hear and respond to the life changing Gospel message.
1. Please pray for the many churches we serve who are without pastors right now. Pray for strong church leaders who will carry on the ministry in these tough times.
3. Please pray for safety as we travel throughout NY & PA visiting churches and Awana clubs. We typically drive about 40,000 mi/yr, and there are many hazards along the way.
4. Please pray for direction for Dorinda and I as we deal with some health issues (Bob), and also some issues with our house? We need to make some major repairs. (roof & foundation drains)



Serving together with you,

The Bennetts

Bob and Dorinda Awana Missionaries



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