



For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:17

Jeff and Shelly Kessler | February - April 2023

It has been encouraging to hear the stories from Awana leaders and pastors of how God is working in lives. We see God's hand of blessing with changed lives against all odds as churches reach more and more children with the gospel.

Ministry & Equipping Highlights

- Lolo Community Church celebrated ten children receiving Christ as Savior.
- One church reported 40% of their Awana clubbers are from unchurched families.
- The outreach to unsaved parents is real!! One Mom (who would not touch the Bible at the beginning of the year) was busy helping her daughter learn her verses so she could earn a Bible camp scholarship.
- It is a great privilege to share the Gospel at Bible Quizzes, Awana Games, Grands Prix, and award celebrations.
- One pastor was telling how his leaders are committed not only to teaching their clubbers but to disciple them throughout the week also.
- Hearing clubbers recite verses & Bible knowledge at the Bible Quizzes is so gratifying.
- Another leader was telling how their Journey kids were busy working with the Cubbies and Sparks in their club before they dug into their own Journey Bible Study.



Thank you so much for helping us carry the fire of faith to the next generation!



Faithful Warrior Highlights

Frank Eckes, a faithful warrior, Belgrade Alliance Church began its Awana ministry in the Fall of 1975, with Frank as the club commander. Frank has been a big part of the Awana ministry, not only in his church, but all across Montana and Wyoming. He has served as commander, director, leader and listener in Belgrade, as well as on the ministry team of three Awana missionaries and as director of Big Sky Scholarship Camp. In 2008, he listened to God's voice and began memorizing the verses with the kids. Each year, he memorizes a new verse of Scripture for every year of his age. 92 this year, and he's already started on the new set of 93 for next year. He continues in ministry today, listening to Sparkies say their verses, one of whom is one of our grandsons! We pray God's continued blessings on you, Frank!

Family Update

- We are truly blessed and enjoy family time together celebrating birthdays, holidays, and impromptu afternoons/evenings together.
- So fun to watch and hear grandkids learning God's Word in both verse and song.

Praise and Prayer Requests

- Encouraged by fantastic leaders committed to engaging with their Awana kids and teaching them the Word and the love of God.
- For the churches that are thinking of adding Awana to their church ministries.
- For those churches that have asked for training for their leaders.
- A couple of churches added Trek & Journey to their club ministry.
- For the planning of and facilitation of the Connect meetings coming up this summer.
- For Jeff's mobility.



Ministry Goals

- Share the Gospel with boys & girls.
- Provide encouragement and solutions to churches who are navigating through ministry challenges.
- Equipping and inspiring leaders as they prepare and focus on spreading the Gospel to the children in their communities.
- Challenging churches with a call to action, making child discipleship a priority.
- We want to grow in our understanding of current trends and keep ourselves fresh and relevant as we minister to churches & leaders.



From the Awana Global Headquarters

The greatest day in history was when Jesus defeated sin and death and provided salvation for mankind, tearing the temple curtain in two and creating a way for us to be with our Father.

As you disciple the children within your scope of influence this month, clear the path from distractions and create space for them to commune with God through scripture, prayer, and song!

Melanie Hester | Director of Discipleship Engagement

Awana is a global nonprofit organization, fueled by the generous support of individuals, churches, and organizations as well as resource sales to accomplish our mission of equipping leaders to reach kids with the gospel and engage them in lifelong discipleship.

**Partner with us in
reaching more children!**



missionary.awana.org/jeff-kessler