



Oh, taste and see
that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man
who takes refuge
in Him!
Psalm 34:8

Jeff & Shelly Kessler | May - July 2023

It has been encouraging to hear churches come back to making resilient child disciples by restarting their Awana clubs. Some are planning to restart come fall and are working through challenges. We see God's hand of blessing with changed lives against all odds as churches reach more and more children with the gospel.

**Thank you so much for helping
us raise up the next generation
of resilient disciples!**

Ministry & Equipping Highlights

- As we visit with many churches in our area we get to see the excitement, dedication and energy of children's ministry leaders as they strive to reach the children in their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Seeing Awana impacting second and third generations as leaders disciple the children and grandchildren of prior clubbers.
- Scholarship Camp is happening right now. We thank God for the ministry opportunities with these campers as they strive to follow after God.
- Watching the next generation pick up the baton as they either work alongside the current leaders or in some cases, take over the leadership roles from retiring leaders.



Impact Stories

Pastor answering God's call to serve the people in his community in the simplest of ways - giving a stranger, an addict and his dog, a ride to the vet... result: first the man and his family attending church services and got saved, then many in his addiction group started coming to church, and then a city-wide Biblical counseling group for addicts with secular counselors asking what the pastor is using in his counseling sessions. Are we listening to God's prompting voice?

After an Awana presentation to a prospective church, a lady came up and told us her story of how Awana impacted her life. She had been raised in a 'Christian' home. When her daughter attended Awana she came home and told her mom that she got saved. This lady had no idea what 'saved' meant, so she had to go to that church to find out what this was all about. As a result she and her whole family came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.



Family Update

- Looking forward to a great family time when we all get together in August (25 of us!).
- We are expecting another grandchild in December. :)

Praise and Prayer Requests

- Possibly six or more new Awana ministries starting in our area this Fall.
- After nearly seven weeks of dealing with a bug/virus, Jeff is finally on the mend. Please pray for him as he rebuilds his core strength.
- Several great speaking opportunities for which God provided strength inspite of Jeff's weakened condition.
- We are encouraged by fantastic leaders committed to engaging with their Awana kids and teaching them the Word and the love of God.
- Scheduling training opportunities for new and current churches.
- For churches still looking for Awana leaders to evangelize children in their communities.

Ministry Goals

- Provide encouragement and solutions to churches who are navigating through ministry challenges.
- Equipping and inspiring leaders who will attend the Virtual Awana Ministry Conference on August 28.
- Challenging churches with a call to action, making child evangelism and discipleship a priority.



From the Awana Global Headquarters



Psalm 119:103-105 “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Does a certain taste or experience take you back to a memory from the reels of your life? For me, summer tastes like watermelon and feels like an afternoon bike ride or going to VBS. For the most part, this ministry season is slower for you; have you considered how you will use this time to rest and rejuvenate in the presence of Jesus? Once you’ve created a rhythm of renewal, we pray your summer will start to taste like the sweetness of Scripture and feel like an extended visit with an old friend because you’re sitting at the feet of Jesus.

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