

ED & KIM GOSSIEN

NORTHWEST AWANA MINISTRY

Thank You!

Thank you so much for praying for us and supporting our ministry financially.

The past few months have been full of wonderful opportunities to minister. The following is a recap of some of the ministry you've helped us accomplish.

January - We taught Commanders at Commander Colleges in Oregon, Alaska, and California. January is a big month of preparing for the T&T Bible Quizzes. We also began preparations for Summit, the High School National Competition for AwanaGames, Bible Quiz, and Fine Arts.

February - February is a busy month for clubber events. We held Bible Quizzes in Roseburg, Eugene, Coos Bay, Portland, and Salem. The State Finals were held in Salem, where the host church, Salem First Baptist became the state champions. We also started our first TruthSeekers club in Forest Grove, and presented Awana at Romanian churches in Portland and Seattle.

March - Summit was amazing! We were in charge of writing all the quiz questions. AwanaGames were held in Damascus, Beaverton, Eugene, Portland, Salem, and Coos Bay. Ed represented Awana at the Northwest Ministry Conference near Seattle. We presented Awana to churches in Portland and Aurora.

Throughout all of these months, we visited Awana clubs and spoke in churches on Sunday mornings. We have enjoyed many opportunities to encourage and equip Awana leaders. All of this because of your faithful support. Thank you so very much.



Our Granddaughter, Emmaline, loves doing Puggles with Gramma and Pappa. Right now we are learning that God made everything!

I have included a second page in this letter with three specific prayers concerns for the months ahead. God is doing amazing things right now through the Awana ministry. Sometimes ministry opportunities come so fast I can hardly keep up. But isn't that how God works? If we could see the end, we would be walking by sight. I think I'd rather walk by faith.

Thank you again for your commitment to the Awana ministry in the Northwest Region.

Because of Calvary,

Ed & Kim Gossien

“So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **for we walk by faith, not by sight.**” 2 Cor 5:6,7



Commander College graduates in Cannon Beach, Oregon.



The mural of the new Cubbies characters on the wall at one of our pilot clubs. They are testing the new Cubbies curriculum coming out this fall.



Top finishers at the T&T Bible Quiz in the Portland Area



My friend Arlyn introducing the Platinum Round of the High School National Bible Quiz Finals.

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PRAYER NEEDS FOR THE NORTHWEST AWANA MINISTRY



Commanders in Alaska

Cynthia, in the red coat, is a native Alaskan from Stebbins. Stebbins is a small village in the north, across the water from Nome. She currently attends Bible College and hopes to take Awana to the native villages after graduation. Many of the Eskimo villages are accessible only by bush plane. We have been praying, along with our Alaska Missionaries, Dan & Geraldine Bylsma, for a way to reach the native Alaskans. God seems to be answering through TruthSeekers and through Cynthia. (This picture was taken at Commander College in Anchorage in January. It was cold!)

Hitting The Mark - A New Way to Train

We are in the final stages of rolling out a new training system called Hitting the Mark. To summarize, we are moving from trying to train every leader in a new church ourselves, to equipping three key trainers from each church to then train their leaders. Instead of 3 hours with every leader, training will be 2 1/2 days with 3 key leaders. We will teach the basics of Awana and best practices for teaching adults. Trainers will teach back to us all that they have learned. Every new club in Oregon will train together August 15-17.



TruthSeekers - A New Ministry of Awana

This spring we introduced a new ministry called TruthSeekers. TruthSeekers is designed to help churches with little or no resources reach the kids in their communities. Like traditional Awana, TruthSeekers is focussed on the Gospel, is fun, and features Scripture memory as a foundational element. In TruthSeekers, every clubber learns the same verse each meeting. Their memory verse correlates to the large group time lesson being taught. Awards and uniforms are optional. Churches can add uniforms and an award system as they see fit. For less than \$100 a church can equip two large group time teachers and three small group leaders to minister to kids.

We have already started TruthSeekers at a church in Hillsboro. They are using TruthSeekers for Sunday School. It is working wonderfully for them.

Please pray for us as we introduce TruthSeekers to churches. Kim and I believe we will be able to help churches that have been unable to use the Awana ministry, yet have a heart for kids and families.

