

March, 2004

If You Invite Them, They Will Come

Here are some amazingly creative ideas for using Awana to reach out to your community.

- To get our church's name into the community, we **entered a float in the town's Labor Day parade**. It was only a truck pulling a trailer with bales of hay stacked on it. Clubbers from every group sat on the trailer while Cubbie Bear and Sparky walked alongside handing out candy. Next year we plan on having the clubbers sing the club theme songs as we pass through the town.
- Our Awana program headed up a church-wide **Ministry Fair** in the church parking lot. Each ministry hosted its own game booth and handed out its literature. The entire event was funded by donations from church members. At our Awana booths alone, we made over 600 contacts!
— *Sandy Singletary, Calvary Baptist Church, Midland, Michigan*
- While looking over the Awana clubber registration forms, we realized we had kids from 26 families who had no church home. To reach those families, we organized **F to the 5th**. For the five Sundays in February, 2004 we held February's Fun Fabulous Family Fellowships. We began with a delicious, hot breakfast, then had a family worship and music time followed by a short, fun devotion by our pastor. For the first two Sundays, everyone met together for family activities and a Bible study. For the final three Sundays, we broke into groups by age for Bible studies. Ten of the unchurched families attended, and we hope they find a permanent church home with us.
— *Elizabeth Rogers, Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church, Hideaway, Texas*
- To get the parents of our clubbers involved, we held a **Clubber's Recognition Sunday**. Clubbers received certificates for being in club and extra team points for being in Sunday school. They also got points if their parents were in church and bonus points if their parents went to Sunday school. More bonus points were awarded if the clubbers brought guests other than parents. After the service, we had a spaghetti dinner for everyone (so parents wouldn't have to get up early to prepare lunch). We gave the winning team a pizza party. We hope some of the parents who visited for this Sunday will start attending regularly.
— *Debbie Corkern, Bethel Baptist Church, Franklinton, Louisiana*

- Every year we host a **dinner and auction**. We advertise all over the community. A lot of people attend who don't normally attend church. All the items for auction are donated by businesses — even Disneyland® donates. Our **T&T** clubbers wait on tables for the dinner. We have different themes each year. This year it was western, and we gave prizes for biggest hat and best dressed cowboy and cowgirl. Last year we had a Hawaiian theme. The event is a major fund-raiser for our church.
— *Connie James, Yosemite Lake Community Church, Coarsegold, California*
- Instead of a Sunday school Christmas program, this past year we had an **Awana Christmas program**. We involved all the clubbers from **Cubbies**, **Sparks** and **T&T**. We had about 150 parents and family members attend. We gave the plan of salvation, and several people were saved.
— *Tina Johnson, Hartford, Michigan*
- We have **Mother-Daughter Teas and Father-Son Nights**. Usually, half of the parents are not from our church, but are drawn by the opportunity to spend time with their children. The teas are very fancy. We spend time doing crafts, serve a fancy dessert and have a woman speaker. For the Father-Son Nights, we make a model of some sort (car, airplane, catapult) and then race them. That is followed by ice-cream sundaes and a speaker. For both events, we take souvenir photos of the parents with their kids.
— *Denise Wiens, Bethany Mennonite Brethren Church, Fresno, California*

Council Time Creativity

- To illustrate how tough times make us stronger Christians, I brought my **oxy acetylene torch** and a piece of tool steel to club. With a file (representing Satan chipping at our weaknesses), I let the **T&T** boys file bits of metal off the steel. I then heated the steel until it was red hot and then hardened it by quenching it in a can of water. The boys tried to file bits off of it again, but could no longer do it.
- In **T&T Book One**, we learn that God gave us the Bible so we can learn about people from the past. I talked about this with my clubbers, then asked if they knew anything about the past history of Awana. After discussing it for a bit and letting them guess how long Awana had been around, I showed the [Adventures in History video](#) (available through Awana). The kids and leaders loved it. I finished by saying that we are creating history at our church by starting **T&T**, and that we will grow to be more like Christ as we work through the year.
— *Don and Liz Meadows*

- Every year in **Sparks**, one of the most effective lessons is the one I call **Our Friend the Ant**. I explain that our friend is at the entrance to his ant hill and ready to set out to look for food. Behind the hill is an anteater, looking for ants to eat for dinner. How can we protect our friend?
 - Hold the ant in our hand (you can't do this forever and will soon have to let him go)
 - Shoot the anteater (there will always be another one)
 - Move the ant (there are anteaters all over)
 - Put the ant in a box (he will be unhappy and want to get out)
 - Tell the ant to watch out (he can't understand people language)

The only solution is for one of us to become an ant and warn him about his danger. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us. He ... *made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:7-8)*. I've had kids trust Christ on three separate occasions because of this story.

— *Bethany Perseghetti, Dayton, Ohio*

- Once a year we play **Bible Progression** during Council Time. We ask members of our congregation to donate small prizes (art and craft supplies, toys, candy) and divide the stuff we get into three categories depending on size. Our leaders make up Bible- and handbook-related questions in three categories from easy to hard. All the clubbers begin at table one. If they answer the easy question, they can pick a prize and go to the next table. If they miss, they are given a small piece of candy and sent to the end of the line. The same thing happens at the next two tables except that when they win a prize at table three, they are finished. It's a great review, and gives the clubbers a sense of accomplishment and motivation to learn.

— *Sandy Studstill, Victory Baptist Church, Port St. John, Florida*

KidsSmile — Stand at Attention When You Pray!

A little girl in my **Cubbies** group asked us to pray for her daddy because he was sick. She asked if she could pray out loud. Of course, feeling warm and fuzzy, I let her. As she began, I was having trouble understanding what she was saying. Then the words began to make sense, "fwag ... nitey tates ... stands ... unna God ... invibible ... and jus for all." She was praying her own version of the Pledge of Allegiance. I'm sure God understood just fine and knew her heart.

— *Jaynie McClain*

[Send us](#) your KidsSmiles. Let us know what goofy things your Awana clubbers have said and done.

KidsPrint

Do you know what it means to endure? Try living on an ice floe for a few months with no TV, computer or video games. In fact, you don't even have a snowboard! Oh, and your sleeping bag is wet and your supper is seal meat AGAIN! Read about some men who did this!

We also have A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT — the winners of our **Cat Crazy Contest!**

All this and more in the [March KidsPrint!](#)

Because You Are So Wonderful ...

Most of you have probably had the opportunity to work with a clubber with special mental, emotional, behavioral or physical needs. [Tell us](#) about the challenges you have faced and what you have done to minister to these kids. We'll tell your stories in the next exciting edition of Awana Ideas!

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