Words from the Woods

AWANA INTERNATIONAL

Ministry Minutes

PRAISES

• For good health
• For good coworkers
• For new churches starting Awana
• For a good club year at Taipei International Church
• For a good discipleship and mentoring ministry
• For safety in travel

Serving the Lord is neither boring nor simple! We have found that God is always challenging us to do new things, to reach beyond ourselves and to rely more heavily upon His grace and power. We have just been part of a week long Missionary Training Conference held here in our beloved Taiwan. Jess Curabo and Eddie Hester, both foreign Regional Ministry Directors, Ed and I trained 6 new Awana coordinators for the Pacific Rim. Two of them were from Taiwan (Howard and Lois Ho). What a blessing and what a reminder of all that goes into doing ministry well. As always, the fellowship was wonderful. This year in Taiwan we have had 5 new churches sign up to do the Awana ministry. Howard has been busy doing presentations, trainings and club starts. We are excited to see Pastors finally beginning to see the need for Biblical children’s ministry. Hong Kong is also growing; 7 new churches have started there and Barbara Lam is doing a marvelous job. We will do our Fall trainings this August and September and will again train in Guam, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taipei.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Additional Board Members  1
Good Fall trainings  2
Health for Howard and Lois Ho  3
Successful Awana Clubs  4
Increased support for our ministry  5
God’s will for Hannah, Joel and Thomas  6
Salvation and discipleship of children  7

2006 has been a blessed year of ministry thus far. We had a good trip home at Christmastime and were able to help our daughter, Hannah, finish out her Kindergarten semester. We got to visit with Ed’s dad quite a bit, reorganize some things at the house, check on our rental house, take care of business and spend quality time with Joel and Thomas. We also visited with some of our supporters and were able to preach at several of our supporting churches. While we were home, we spent a joyful evening with some Christian friends. They did a mini “This is your life” for us, reminding us of the many lives God had allowed us to minister to and have a part in. Although we remembered the events, it was humbling to hear how their lives had been affected by our ministry. Such glimpses of God’s work through us are seldom seen. We are so thankful that He has enabled us to continue and has held us faithfully in His grace and power. This June 19 we celebrate 35 years of marriage. We are delighted to still be useful for the Lord’s work.

Personal profiles

Hannah, Joel and Thomas/Christmas 2006
I’d like to share with you some of the statements our club leaders published in our Club’s 2005-2006 Yearbook.

Commander Katy Boyden: “It is my greatest joy to see and hear the Awana kids reciting their Bible verses and keeping them in their hearts. Every child is a living witness that the Awana program works and works wonderfully.”

LIT Queen Namainja: “Working with the kids has been a wonderful, once in a lifetime chance. Awana has helped me change myself in my everyday life and how to live God’s plan for me.”

LIT June Chiang: “For me, Awana is a place to get to know more people, and also a place to have fun besides learning God’s Word. Awana has certainly been a very interesting and special experience for me.”

Here are some of the prayers the clubbers shared in the yearbook:

“Thank you for Awana and TIC. Please bless the children around the world who have needs. Thanks you for friends and family.”

“Thank you for giving me everything I need to live. Thank you also for guiding me through life with my dad and giving me the Bible so we can hear you.”

“Thank you for your holy words and your Bible.”

“Thank you for the things lots of people take for granted, like food and drink. Please help everyone who do not have enough of them.”

“We thank you for bringing us to Taipei American School (where we have Awana club), to recite Bible verses and to praise you.”