



Annual Report

2020 | RESILIENCE IN UNFORESEEN TIMES



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Now More Than Ever

A letter from our CEO

We knew 2020 would be a year when kids needed the reassuring presence and love of God's people more than ever, especially as the worldwide pandemic shut down many Awana clubs. Never have we faced a ministry crisis so global in scale—impacting how we minister to 4,770,000 children in 129 countries of the world. At first we were overwhelmed and driven to our knees. “How God? How do we minister now?” Every country was experiencing COVID-19 differently. One size, one approach to ministry

did not fit all. But we were also determined. We knew God wanted Awana to give children a front-row seat to what faith looks like during a global crisis—especially during a global pandemic! We knew God had not forgotten His children. Neither could we. Ministering to children in 2020 would require more resilience than ever before. We needed to find new ways to love children who were now living in a world turned upside down by disease. That's what God helped us do. →

God showed Awana how to be resilient. In obedience, we shifted gears and opened our hearts to the children of the world in ways we never had before.

Awana leaders, driven by the realities of a global pandemic, changed how they reached kids. They submitted themselves to great learning curves. When they couldn't hold clubs, and where technology was available, they Zoomed right into children's homes. They were determined to "be there" for kids—to calm their fears, to reassure them that God is in control; and to give them hope, the warmth of loving, caring adults, and the promises of God's Word.

In some places technology wasn't possible. In its absence Awana leaders visited kids' homes, distributed discipleship material (some of it written by hand) and brought God's love into their lives. In the United States, we drove cars and paraded by children's homes—honking our horns, shouting kids' names and holding up signs with their names boldly written with markers. We went to extremes to make sure children knew they were not forgotten.

This year, more than ever, Awana cared for the world's children.

We have learned anew what it means to be resilient. We have bent and flexed, but have not broken under the weight of a terrible global pandemic. We have refused to be discouraged because we know God has not abandoned us.

“We have bent and flexed, but have not broken under the weight of a terrible global pandemic.”

Our annual report for 2020 is the story of our primary partner, the local church, that wouldn't back down from a great threatening virus, but opened its heart even wider to the world's children in a time of great need. It is a story of the Gospel, unstopably proclaimed in a panicked world. It is the story of God's awesome sovereignty and His love for children.

For the future of the faith,



Valerie Bell | Awana CEO





In some countries, we saw that hunger had become a real problem. Because local Awana leaders couldn't run clubs, they used their resources to provide food for impoverished families with food insecurities. Some Awana leaders taught people how to grow "Faith Gardens" in their own yards so they would not go hungry should their nation's food supply disappear.



New Normal



The Effects of COVID-19 on Awana



Kevin White
Chief Operations Officer

The year ushered in more surprises and adjustments than most of us ever would have expected, and the same is true for Awana. As did much of the world, in March we made all necessary operational changes to continue to serve our church partners while we adjusted travel realities and shifted to a remote workforce. We saw incredible adaptability among our staff, both domestically and internationally, and have continued to serve our partners with excellence.

Unfortunately, the economic impact of church closures and temporary gathering limits had a significant impact on Awana. Roughly half of our traditional U.S. churches did not place orders, which sent ripple effects through the revenue model that helps fuel our work. Yet by God's grace, through careful fiscal management and the generosity of our donors, we're weathering the COVID-19 storm and are making adjustments to be even more efficient and effective for the sake of long-term ministry.

While we didn't anticipate COVID-19, we did anticipate many of the things that COVID-19 revealed to us—the importance of a flexible workforce, the need to remain lean in our operations, the value of digital engagement, and the blessing of our donor

partnerships. These are all aspects of the ministry that we've been working on improving over the past couple years and accelerated throughout 2020. As we turn our eyes and attention to 2021, we remain focused on key aspects of our multiyear operational vision. We continue to work at being incredibly efficient in our operations, stewarding our resources wisely, and putting as much energy as possible into our mission of equipping leaders to reach kids with the Gospel and engage them in lifelong discipleship. While COVID-19 had a significant impact on Awana and on local churches, we're positioning ourselves to not only weather the current storm, but prepare for any future challenges or crises that may arise.

“While we didn't anticipate COVID-19, we did anticipate many of the things that COVID-19 revealed to us. ...”

While this pandemic has wreaked havoc on so many organizations, businesses and ministries, we are feeling a particular blessing and resolve to ensure that this ministry continues for generations to come. After all, if there's one thing we've learned throughout 2020, it's that the world needs this redeeming, Gospel-centered, discipleship-focused ministry now more than ever.

The Most Important Conversation



For The Church Today



Matt Markins
President & Chief Strategy Officer



Do you remember life before cell phones?

We have all become so accustomed to being able to reach those we love anytime, anywhere.

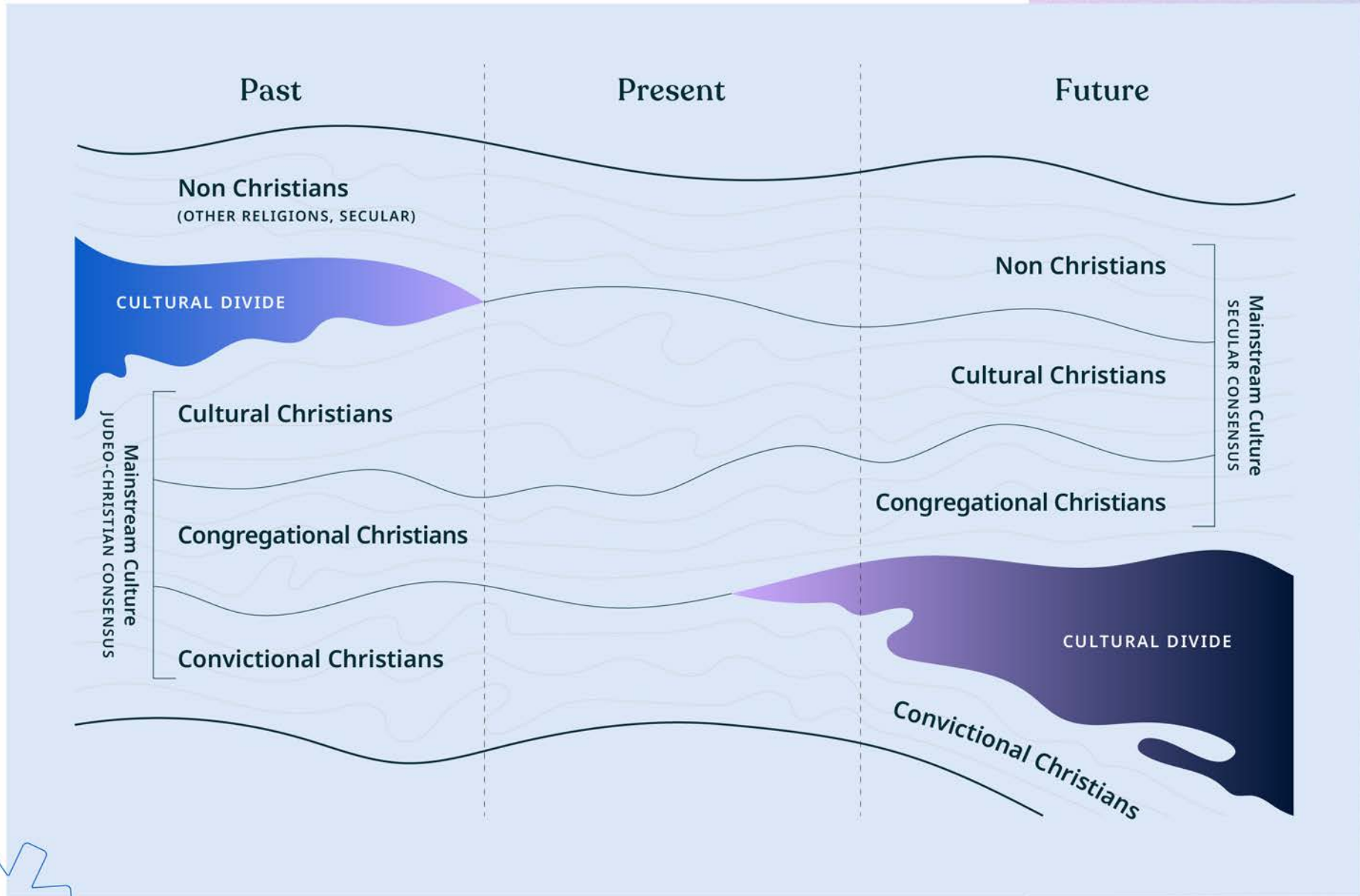
Yet, there was a time when we could pack up our belongings at work and disappear for two weeks of vacation. And no one could get a hold of us. Ahh, wasn't that glorious?!

There was a flip side to that coin though. Remember when we used to send our kids off to camp? The rowdy bus would pull away and that was it. They were gone. At night as you put your head down on the pillow you'd wonder, "Did Kelly remember to pack her toothbrush?" or "Oh! Did Jeremy bring his Bible? What about his swim trunks?!" The challenge of life in those

days is that we were simply left wondering, "Did I give them everything they needed?"

These days, Awana is asking a similar question.

Take a look at the chart accompanying this article (next page). You'll see three columns representing the past, the present and the future. It used to be that "Christians" stuck together in terms of our major worldview assumptions. (The Bible is our authority, God is creator, importance of church engagement, Jesus as Savior, traditional marriage, etc.). However, if you look at the present you'll notice that Cultural Christians (i.e., those who claim the faith "because I grew up going to church," but no longer attend) and Congregational Christians (i.e., those who are church members, but attend infrequently) are actually joining secular thinking, values, attitudes and beliefs. Why is this? →



Christians in the Age of Outrage: How to Bring our Best When the World is at its Worst, Ed Stetzer

In short, research shows that those who do not have a Christian worldview that's grounded in Scripture—even though they may call themselves “a Christian”—end up living a life virtually identical to those who claim to be secular in their worldview. Furthermore, researchers and anthropologists alike are saying the worldview gap between Convictional Christians (Bible-believing Christians) and the rest of society will continue to widen. This is alarming. So as Awana equips 62,000 churches globally, we are asking the Church this question:

Are we giving kids lesser things that will not travel with them into their adult lives?

At Awana, we think this is the most crucial conversation of our time. For more than 20 years, I've had the privilege of networking with children's ministry leaders and pastors all across the country (and around the world). I regret to share that although many church leaders are asking this question, they are coming to the conclusion their

children's ministry is spending far too much time on lesser things that do not influence long-term discipleship in the lives of children. Today's church leaders are asking additional questions like:

- * Are we preparing today's kids to be disciples in a very different future?
- * Are we giving kids a resilient faith that will bend and flex, but not break under the weight of culture?
- * Do we spend too much time and resources in our children's ministry on things that do not influence long-term discipleship in kids?

This is why we wrote the book *Resilient: Child Discipleship and the Fearless Future of the Church*. In *Resilient* we share what has made Awana fruitful as a disciple-making children's ministry for the past 70 years—as well as a discipleship plan for the next 70 years. I hope you will check out *Resilient* at resilientdisciples.com/book. We feel so passionately about this we will even send you a free copy if you ask. Simply email partnercare@awana.org, and we will get a copy into your hands.



What's Next?

If you are one of the 11,000 people who already has a copy of *Resilient* and are ready to take the conversation to the next level, let me invite you to the Child Discipleship Forum, September 16 - 17, 2021, in Nashville and online. During these days we will continue the child discipleship conversation in person and online. For more information, check out childdiscipleshipforum.com

Thank you for your ministry and advocacy for today's child. Your support of Awana and your involvement in discipling children is shaping the resilient future of the Church. We would even say that you are a part of making the greatest generation of disciples this world has ever seen.



Ed Stetzer
Billy Graham Center of
Shelton College

Valerie Bell
Awana

David Kinnaman
Barna Group



From the Field

United States

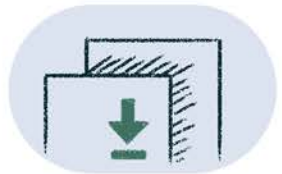
During this past year, the world was introduced to a year of unprecedented challenges.

We witnessed our closest partner, the local church, struggling as never before. Sadly, churches faltered. Many churches rose to face the crisis of our times and showed a young generation how to be resilient in a world that is in pain and desperate need of the hope of the Gospel.

Those churches, along with Awana, showed children, the future church, how to prepare for 2050 with a never-give-up-no-matter-what purpose.



In 2020, we had 42,000+ views on our live webinars.



There were over 21,000 unique visitors to the Awana Clubs* site to download free resources.



Joyfully Discipling Children

Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship is the home church of Dr. Tony Evans. They have been partners in child discipleship with Awana for 21 years. During the pandemic, they continued Awana by reaching out to children through Zoom and kicked off the year with a drive-through opening ceremony.

Parents and leaders at this highly welcoming, energized, upbeat opening of their Awana club were captured on video. Spontaneously and without prompting they explained what Awana means to their church and why they didn't let a pandemic stop them from discipling kids. →



Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship understands that today's child discipleship is the foundation for the future of the 2050 church. Here are some of the unscripted testimonies the camera captured:

"I'm working with five-year-olds. It's important to encourage children, at a young age, to be in the Word. Hopefully, they will grow up and do the same. It means the world to me. I've done it for years and I will continue to do it for years."
-Awana leader

"It's just a great way for my kids to learn the Word." -Awana parent

"We've been involved in Awana for a long time. Awana helps our kids, not only learn the Bible but develop a love for the Bible."
-Awana parent

"After watching so many kids come through Awana for 30 years, I've seen them grow up to become young men and women of Christ." -Awana leader

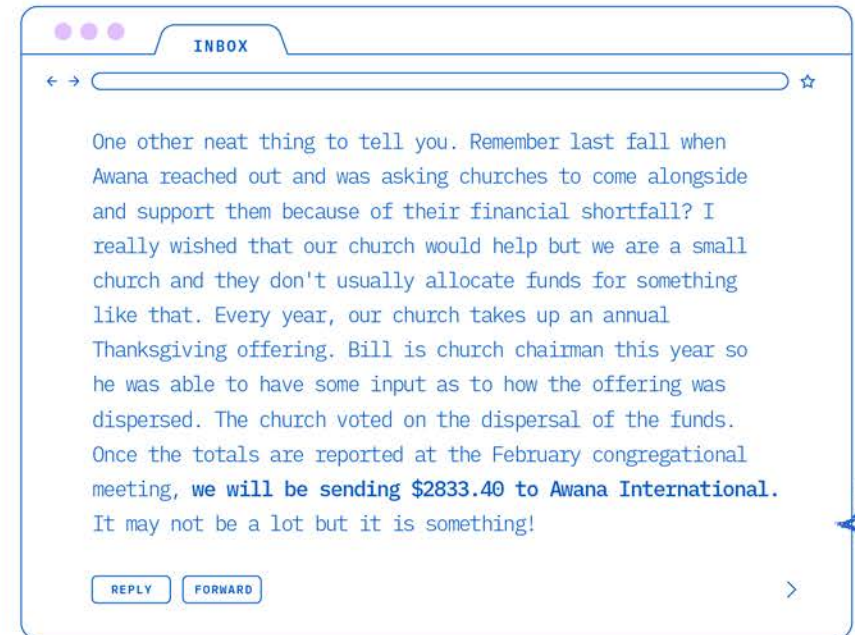
You can watch this opening ceremony by following the link below:

[Watch highlight video](#) →



Every Dollar Matters

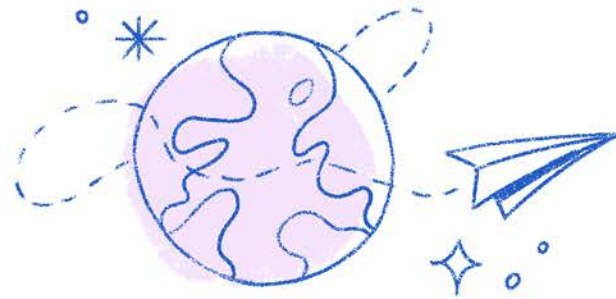
The following is an excerpt from an email we received from Bill and Deb Dickey. They are Awana ministry directors at the Concord Evangelical Free Church, in a small town in northeast Nebraska, population 160. **Here is some good news in their own words:**



We are so touched by Concord Evangelical Church and their ministry to Awana during their own year of significant challenges. Every dollar was precious to them, and it ministered to us deeply.

We thank all of our church partners who were tenacious in giving children a front-row seat to faith this year. And for those churches, like Concord Evangelical Church, that helped us shoulder the financial hit to Awana brought about by COVID-19, even though they were experiencing their own challenges—we are extremely thankful for your generous care.

Partnering in the Great Commission



In 2020, Boca Raton Community Church chose a pathway of tenacious ministry to children that was unstoppable. But that's not new for them because they have a heart big enough to embrace the children of the entire world.

Awana is one of their major mission programs, and they have partnered with Awana with a six-figure commitment for over a decade. But their investment to the mission of Awana runs much deeper than a financial commitment, as vital as that is.

The unique relationship of Awana and Boca Raton Community Church began unexpectedly 11 years ago. James, the son of Pastor Bill Mitchell and his wife, Elizabeth, endured years of congenital heart disease, open heart surgeries, and eventually a heart transplant. But at 13 years old, his heart failed.

Because James loved Awana—he had received his coveted Timothy Award and had been an Awana leader-in-training—in his memory Bill and Elizabeth committed to help launch the Awana Leader-Based Model in India. Later, they became innovators in international outreach for Awana. The global ministry of Awana was starting to explode, growing from

1 million children to nearly 5 million in a decade. But the global ministry needed help in training and equipping the wonderful national leaders who were responding to the call to make child disciples.

WorldLead was Boca Raton Community Church's answer to our training challenge. WorldLead developed first-class curriculum, forged relationships around the world, and equipped adult leaders to recruit more adult disciples. Their impact is strategic, global and continuous.

Much of the international growth of Awana is due to the resilient partnership between Awana and Boca Raton Community Church. Together with Awana leadership, WorldLead has helped to mentor, inspire and lead dozens of Awana regional leaders and hundreds of national leaders as well.

In 2020, WorldLead continued teaching, training and mentoring our national and international leaders throughout the pandemic and around the world. The monthly Zoom trainings across five continents have been inventive, rewarding and successful.

Boca Raton Community Church is one unstoppable church partner.

Their Awana club has been open since last August. With a nurse at the door taking temperatures, masks and social distancing in place, they are serving 150 kids every week. They even have a waiting list of children wanting to attend.

It's no surprise this church is unstoppable.



Resilient Through the Wreckage

At the beginning of this past year, Grace Baptist Church in the East Brainerd area of Chattanooga, Tennessee, transitioned leadership under a new pastor. Shortly after that transition, COVID-19 struck. In April (on Easter Sunday 2020), a tornado swept through their town and demolished the church. There was literally nothing left of their campus but rubble. Right now, they are meeting in various spaces that other churches in town are allowing them to use. Needless to say, this church has had a hard time.

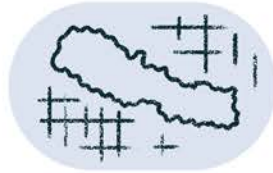
Despite the hardships, they are still gathering for worship, running a school and serving kids in their community through Awana at facilities other than their own. They are *the* definition of resilient. They had every excuse in the world to avoid launching their Awana ministry this year, but they did it anyway.

From the Field

International

There has never been a year in the 70-year history of Awana when our ministry was so significantly challenged. In many countries Awana clubs were closed because of government lockdowns. People experiencing food and financial insecurity, as well as cataclysmic natural events, had the added devastation of a new, life-threatening virus, which the world had never seen and for which there was no cure—COVID-19.

Awana leaders all over the world showed amazing resilience and resolve to provide children a front-row seat to what faith looks like, despite of—and especially because of—a global pandemic. As a result, Awana was more than a club. It was a loving, caring presence in children's lives that saw them through a difficult situation. Here are some of our stories. They include discouragement, questions to God and frustration; but, they are also a testimony to God's goodness to Awana, even in this year of pandemic and loss.



Many kids were reached in 2020 through Nepal's new virtual Vacation Bible School.



4 new countries started reaching children through Awana trainings and materials in 2020.



Vietnam's Forgotten Children

"We were dismayed to learn how many Hmong children living in the mountains have become orphans. Their parents have disappeared across the Chinese border to find work and food, leaving their children alone and abandoned ... left behind. Churches with Awana clubs have taken the orphans under their care. The government, instead of taking responsibility for these poor children,

argues that because the children are believers, the Church should take care of them. The Hmong churches are poor and without resources, but they have compassionate hearts for these children and they are caring for them."

Janice and Quang Nguyen
September 2020

Handwritten Discipleship

Yetsabeth Morillo | Venezuela
July 2020

Instead of becoming discouraged, my team and I have been challenged to continue to disciple our children in any way necessary.

The news from much of Venezuela is disheartening. Everything has been affected, including communications. The high cost of phone and internet service has been a limiting factor. Many of our children do not have internet access or smartphones. Teachers do not have computers. It is very expensive to print resources. All of this has been a great challenge.

I, myself, have taken on the challenge of making sure each child receives the discipleship resources at their home every week.

For this reason, I transcribe the weekly resources and then visit the families to deliver them. In this way, the children are able to continue studying the Bible.



Zimbabwe Goes On

Luxmore Mandevani | December 2020

Despite the fact that the Coronavirus was claiming lives of people in Harare, God was not locked down! He was working and showing His faithfulness. An Awana Seed Planters' Training was conducted October 2020 in Harare. Forty-four teachers from 22 churches were trained. All 22 churches are running the Awana program and they are ministering to 880 children in Harare. It was reported that 220 additional leaders were trained by those who were trained at this October event.

Note: We are especially encouraged by the recent ministry opportunities in Zimbabwe. The Ministry of Education has given us 7,000 primary schools and their teachers to be trained by Awana to use our discipleship material in the classroom, with a potential of reaching more than 3.5 million children! The Zimbabwe government has recently additionally lined up 100 high schools to be trained by Awana, as well.

This amazing invitation is being supported by a generous grant from Compassion International, one of our global ministry partners. We are so grateful! God's plans are awesome!



The Cashew Project

Preman Appanthurai | Sri Lanka

December 2020

As we began 2020, Sri Lanka was still recovering from the church bombings on Resurrection Sunday in 2019. It took many months for us to return to normal, and many of our trainings were postponed.

And then COVID-19 changed everything. The Sri Lankan government decided the Coronavirus was going to be very dangerous and asked us not to travel. In March, a police curfew was put in place, and that was followed by a 100% lockdown. When these lockdowns were lifted, food in grocery stores became scarce. Many Sri Lankans experienced food insecurity.

I encouraged our people to plant FAITH gardens (Food Always In The House gardens).

Honestly, all of this got to me since I am a field-based person and the lockdowns

shut that down. Our training and clubs were shut down. I asked the Lord to show me how to serve Him in this kind of situation and how to use my time wisely.

Six months later ...

We didn't know what to do in March 2020 when we went to a 100% lockdown for more than two weeks. As we prayed, God led us to start this project as a pilot project. We were able to learn from a few experts and are now producing cashews. The program has been 100% successful.

We have great demand and are planning to increase our sales by 300-500%.



Awana Pivots to Online

Pivot. It certainly was the word—and action—of 2020.

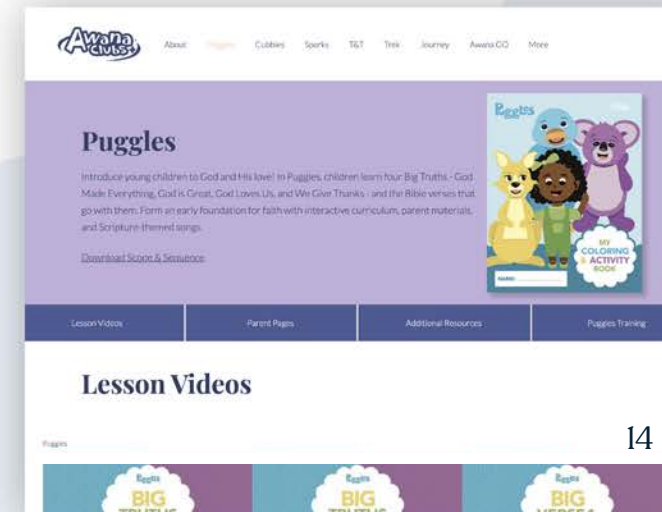
Although we didn't anticipate COVID-19, we did anticipate what the pandemic has revealed: the need to deliver child discipleship training, Awana curriculum and supplemental resources in a digital format. As churches closed and clubs stopped meeting in person, we went into overdrive with our projects to serve leaders and caregivers with online resources.

Awana Training Moves Online

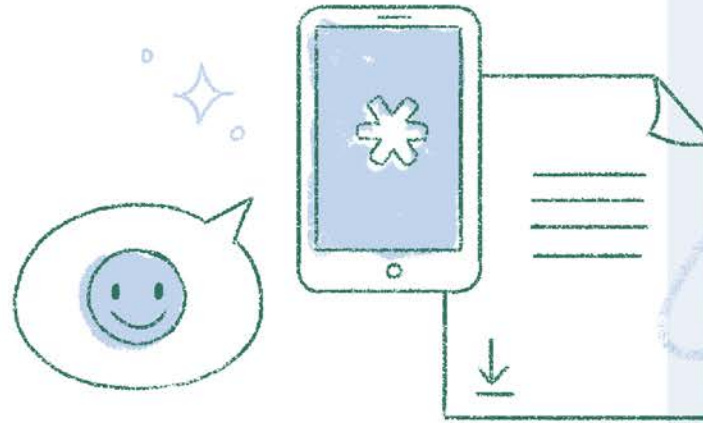
Traditionally, Awana leader training has taken place exclusively in person. Without the ability to meet face to face this past year, we pivoted all of our training online. That included Awana Ministry Conferences, free webinars and even missionary candidate school. Since May, more than 50,000 U.S. Awana leaders have been trained via Zoom,

Facebook and other online platforms. As COVID-19 restrictions changed throughout our communities, leaders and families found themselves in a variety of situations. Whether clubs were meeting in person or online, using a hybrid model or turning the teaching over to parents, it was clear that some new discipleship tools were needed—and fast!

In August, as the ministry year began, we launched Awana Clubs* ([Awanaplus.com](https://www.Awanaplus.com)). The free, digital toolbox for churches and families is an amazing resource! It includes video handbook lessons that are crowdsourced from leaders across the U.S., parent pages, Scripture audio files, *COVID-19 Playbook*, and more. All of it is viewable on a computer or mobile device.



Brite Curriculum and Brite Families



For decades, Awana has been predominantly known as a midweek experience for children and students. But our vision and mission to help the Church reach and disciple kids is not bound to only a day of the week. Long before the outbreak of COVID-19, we were developing Brite, a digital weekend curriculum to help churches make resilient disciples. As our teams worked to create a beautiful, easy-to-use, online curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12, only God knew the importance of Brite and the impact it would have this ministry year.

For churches lacking the capacity or resources to offer a traditional weekend children's ministry, Brite Elementary and Brite Students made it possible for them to continue the discipleship of kids in their care. Highly adaptable and biblically sound, Brite combines engaging kid-led videos, Bible lessons, discussion questions, printable activities, podcasts and more. Brite is sold using an affordable subscription-based model; new lessons are available for subscribers each month. (In 2021 we will offer Brite lessons each week of the year, 52 lessons in all.) Already there are more than 250 subscriptions, the majority of which have been purchased by Awana member churches. We continue to see a steady increase of subscriptions each month.

Shortly after the launch of Brite in August, Awana introduced the companion curriculum Brite Families. Since October, more than 50 families have been engaged in making resilient disciples through brief, but important, discipleship moments (15 minutes or less) at home or on the go, using only their computer, phone or tablet. Also available through a monthly subscription, each lesson is packed with teaching materials, videos, discussion starters and family activities. All resources can be adapted to the age of the children in the family.

While the pandemic may have tried to put a stop to the spiritual growth of kids and families, Awana was poised to pivot and put into action the message of the book *Resilient*—providing church leaders and caregivers with the resources to make resilient disciples who will be equipped to lead the Church of 2050.

We invite you to take a look at Awana Clubs⁺, Brite and Brite Families.

awanaplus.com
britecurriculum.com
britecurriculum.com/families



This curriculum utilizes technology in ways that are very helpful to those of us in 21st century children's ministry. The teaching videos are biblically sound, relevant, and appealing to kids. The Lesson Tool provides easy access to the lesson on my phone, making prep convenient and easy.

Hala T., Hope Chapel, Austin, Texas

Thank you so much for the Awana Clubs⁺ page and all the resources you have made available to us during these unprecedented social distancing times. We are streaming your 10-minute videos into our Awana Zoom club night, and the children love them. We are also depending on your videos to prevent leader burnout because we are a team of only two leaders teaching both Sparks and T&T to our virtual Awana families. ... Attempting Awana this year seemed possible. Thank for helping us to share the Gospel virtually.

Maria F, Village Parkway Baptist Church,
San Antonio, Texas

By the Numbers

Kids Reached Globally in 2020

4,773,066

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!" | 1 Chronicles 16:31



Total Churches Served Globally in 2020

62,072

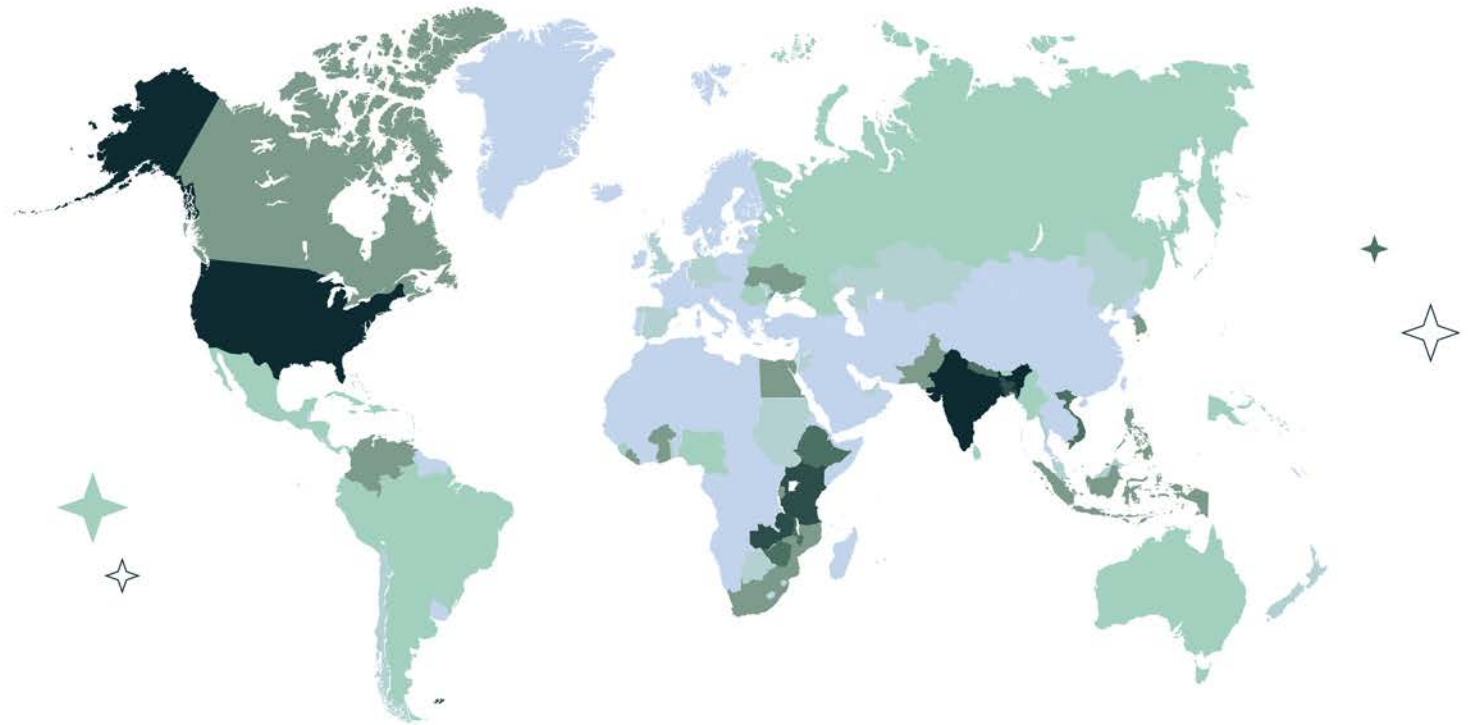
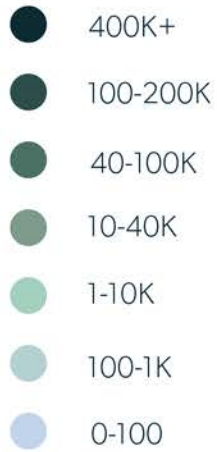


Total Leaders Equipped Globally in 2020

426,853*

*Due to the impact of COVID-19, our typical model for measuring equipped leaders has been impacted. We continue to hear incredible reports of leaders working all around the globe to continue to reach kids in the midst of these challenging times. We anticipate a fully updated number in 2021.

Children per Country



Global Stats

Total Countries

129

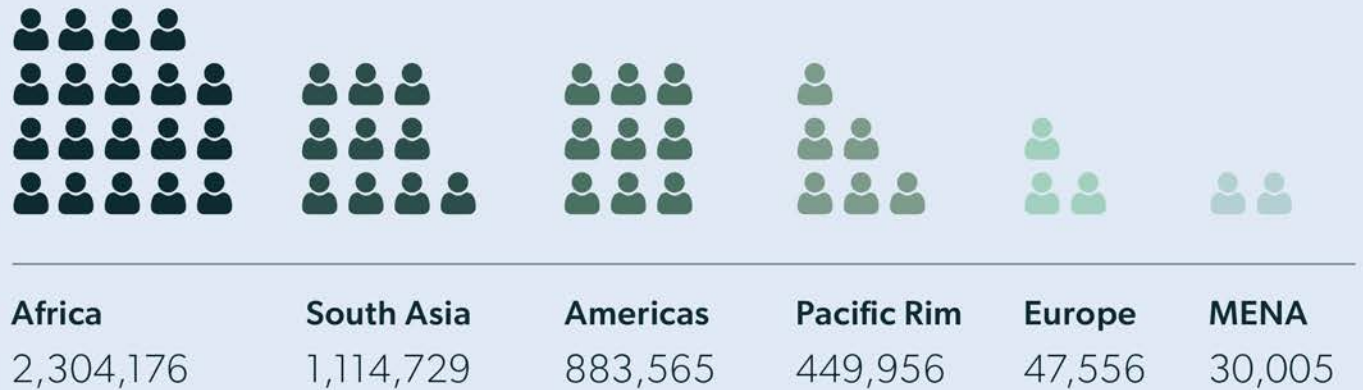
Children reached in the U.S.

583,250

Children reached Internationally

4,246,737

Children per Region



Around the World



129

TOTAL COUNTRIES

62,072

TOTAL CLUBS

4,773,066

TOTAL CHILDREN

| North America | Clubs | Children |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| United States | 6,827 | 455,864 |
| Canada | 480 | 31,680 |
| Total | 7,307 | 487,544 |

| Latin America | Clubs | Children |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Colombia | 575 | 33,488 |
| Paraguay | 479 | 21,257 |
| Peru | 373 | 15,553 |
| Honduras | 370 | 29,657 |
| Venezuela | 326 | 30,236 |
| Argentina | 311 | 13,114 |
| Guatemala | 225 | 13,712 |
| Mexico | 223 | 10,422 |
| Brazil | 183 | 10,064 |
| Bolivia | 141 | 5,591 |
| Panama | 121 | 5,668 |
| Nicaragua | 80 | 4,400 |
| Ecuador | 70 | 5,334 |
| Chile | 53 | 1,596 |
| Uruguay | 51 | 2,582 |
| El Salvador | 42 | 1,745 |
| Costa Rica | 33 | 1,982 |
| Total | 3,656 | 206,401 |

| Pacific Rim | Clubs | Children |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Restricted Countries | 3,752 | 115,822 |
| Philippines | 1,236 | 71,823 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,194 | 78,308 |
| Vietnam | 785 | 71,871 |
| Indonesia | 566 | 38,227 |
| Myanmar | 526 | 51,305 |
| South Korea | 340 | 18,134 |
| Cambodia | 331 | 13,272 |
| Hong Kong | 100 | 5,743 |
| Australia | 51 | 1,371 |
| Japan | 42 | 1,116 |
| Fiji Islands | 40 | 1,197 |
| Taiwan | 18 | 665 |
| Solomon Islands | 15 | 405 |
| Thailand | 12 | 1,065 |
| Malaysia | 9 | 499 |
| New Zealand | 8 | 226 |
| Singapore | 4 | 358 |
| Macau | 4 | 113 |
| Guam | 2 | 230 |
| Total | 9,035 | 471,750 |

| Africa | Clubs | Children |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Zimbabwe | 3,288 | 247,576 |
| Kenya | 3,126 | 325,117 |
| Tanzania | 2,412 | 286,870 |
| Zambia | 2,140 | 239,236 |
| Ghana | 1,536 | 128,901 |
| Nigeria | 1,473 | 189,762 |
| Ethiopia | 1,134 | 203,180 |
| Malawi | 1,119 | 90,567 |
| Uganda | 840 | 250,974 |
| Liberia | 704 | 84,672 |
| Burkina Faso | 556 | 54,601 |
| South Africa | 526 | 31,961 |
| Rwanda | 516 | 94,327 |
| Mozambique | 398 | 57,839 |
| Sierra Leone | 297 | 36,162 |
| Burundi | 236 | 33,125 |
| Eswatini | 145 | 9,709 |
| Dem. Rep. of Congo | 142 | 8,451 |
| South Sudan | 74 | 18,153 |
| Botswana | 63 | 3,727 |
| Togo | 38 | 3,152 |
| Cameroon | 32 | 1,325 |
| Mali | 27 | 3,852 |
| Madagascar | 14 | 1,138 |
| Sudan | 8 | 895 |
| Total | 20,844 | 2,405,272 |

| MENA | Clubs | Children |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|
| Egypt | 353 | 21,000 |
| Restricted Countries | 120 | 5,043 |
| Lebanon | 34 | 3,080 |
| United Arab Emirates | 11 | 583 |
| Jordan | 3 | 230 |
| Israel | 2 | 144 |
| Oman | 1 | 126 |
| Tunisia | 1 | 40 |
| Total | 525 | 30,246 |

| South Asia | Clubs | Children |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| India | 8,692 | 669,001 |
| Nepal | 3,810 | 95,977 |
| Bangladesh | 2,462 | 138,867 |
| Pakistan | 1,651 | 92,231 |
| Sri Lanka | 1,262 | 51,599 |
| Bhutan | 241 | 6,567 |
| Total | 18,118 | 1,054,242 |

| Europe & North Asia | Clubs | Children |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ukraine | 548 | 25,307 |
| Mongolia | 155 | 3,698 |
| Russia | 150 | 5,797 |
| Norway | 122 | 7,967 |
| Romania | 48 | 1,332 |
| Bulgaria | 28 | 620 |
| Belarus | 23 | 1,417 |
| Albania | 21 | 753 |
| Czech Republic | 19 | 355 |
| Latvia | 17 | 505 |
| Moldova | 16 | 501 |
| United Kingdom | 14 | 394 |
| Restricted Countries | 13 | 260 |
| France | 12 | 305 |
| U.S. Military (Europe) | 11 | 587 |
| Germany | 7 | 465 |
| Portugal | 7 | 244 |
| Spain | 4 | 135 |
| Kazakhstan | 3 | 195 |
| Ireland | 3 | 155 |
| Austria | 2 | 98 |
| Slovakia | 2 | 72 |
| Italy | 1 | 85 |
| Belgium | 1 | 55 |
| Netherlands | 1 | 31 |
| Croatia | 1 | 16 |
| Total | 1,229 | 51,349 |

| Caribbean | Clubs | Children |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Dominican Rep. | 575 | 35,600 |
| Cuba | 404 | 12,101 |
| Haiti | 202 | 11,492 |
| Puerto Rico | 52 | 1,080 |
| Jamaica | 40 | 1,413 |
| Belize | 28 | 1,304 |
| Antigua & Barbuda | 12 | 776 |
| Bahamas | 10 | 471 |
| Barbados | 9 | 277 |
| Dominica | 8 | 207 |
| Aruba | 7 | 764 |
| Neth. Antilles | 6 | 435 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 2 | 108 |
| Trinidad | 1 | 150 |
| Anguilla | 1 | 44 |
| Saint Kitts & Nevis | 1 | 40 |
| Total | 1,358 | 66,262 |

Financial Review

| Balance Sheet | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash and Investments | \$11,347,952 | \$11,319,555 |
| Inventory | \$3,793,690 | \$3,237,792 |
| Beneficial Interest in Trusts | \$782,186 | \$827,611 |
| Prepays and Other Assets | \$584,783 | \$592,703 |
| Land, Buildings & Equipment | \$1,047,069 | \$1,273,894 |
| Total Assets | \$17,555,680 | \$17,251,555 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$939,058 | \$754,930 |
| Accrued Expenses | \$809,911 | \$962,086 |
| Deferred Revenue | \$245,025 | \$459,063 |
| Note Payable | \$2,815,850 | - |
| Annuities and Trusts Payable | \$162,677 | \$170,606 |
| | \$4,972,521 | \$2,346,685 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | \$7,641,634 | \$10,006,639 |
| Temporarily Restricted | \$4,840,775 | \$4,797,481 |
| Permanently Restricted | \$100,750 | \$100,750 |
| | \$12,583,159 | \$14,904,870 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$17,555,680 | \$17,251,555 |
| Revenues and Expenses | 2020 | 2019 |
| Revenue Sources | | |
| Sales of Ministry Materials | \$16,323,988 | \$19,325,396 |
| Contributions | \$11,016,176 | \$11,038,571 |
| Registration and Event Fees | \$1,236,197 | \$1,575,805 |
| Other Income, Gains and Losses | (\$205,393) | \$1,811,742 |
| Total Revenues | \$28,370,968 | \$33,751,514 |
| Expenses | | |
| Program Activities | \$24,665,959 | \$24,781,473 |
| Management and General | \$3,249,860 | \$3,619,759 |
| Fundraising | \$2,776,860 | \$3,024,758 |
| Total Expenses | \$30,692,679 | \$31,425,990 |
| Change in Net Assets | (\$2,321,711) | \$2,325,524 |



Giving Highlights

This past fall, Awana felt the financial impact of COVID-19. Nearly 40% of Awana churches paused their midweek programs, challenging our income. When our leadership shared this strain with the Awana team, our employees prayed about how they could do more to help fund the mission during this crisis. COVID-19 would not diminish our dedication to raising up a generation of children who will love Jesus for the rest of their lives.



Missionary Generosity

Our missionaries in the United States answered this need by sacrificially pooling their funds. They transferred over \$350,000 from their accounts to help fund their brothers and sisters in Christ who serve our international missionaries and were at risk of deep budget cuts due to the pandemic.

Employee Giving

As stewards of this work, our employees prayed over our financial need and participated in an employee giving campaign. Now, 63% of our employees financially support Awana in some way. Specifically \$129,650 was raised for our COVID-19 relief fund by our own Awana team members.

Above and Beyond Partnership

\$2.2M



Along with the generosity of our donor partners, 758 families, churches and organizations answered our prayers to help us reach and **exceed** our goal.

During this financial crisis, our leaders knew sales could not sustain our ministry as originally projected. We invited you, our partners in ministry, to Stakeholder Meetings. As those who have stood by us year after year, we prayed we could turn to you to help us fund this work. Our leadership was transparent, sharing the impact the pandemic has had on our bottom line. Although we drastically cut expenses, we still

needed to raise \$2.2 million in crisis funding to help secure the ministry. We boldly asked our partners to come alongside us to ensure this work continues.

Through this ask, Awana received the largest single gift in our 70-year history. We are so thankful for this individual and her heart to see the ministry move forward. Why did she give such an extraordinary gift to Awana? God spoke to her heart, telling her, "You have what you need. I'm taking care of you. Invest the extra in the Kingdom." Awana received this gift with such a spirit of humility and blessing.

"Why I Give"

"Our church has been blessed by the Awana program for the past 12 years. As we saw the great value of it to nurture our future generations in a godly way, we thank God that we could be able to give our extra support financially to the Awana International ministry during this difficult time of pandemic. May God's name be praised!"

Bread of Life Church, Torrance, California

[GIVE TO A MISSIONARY >](#)

"I give to drive the sustainability of the ministry to reach future generations."

Sharon Sifnotis, director of Supply Chain & Logistics

"The reasons I give to Awana: Even though my financial contribution is small, every little bit helps in putting Jesus in children's lives. Children need Awana and their leaders more than ever. Every dollar and leader/volunteer make lifelong differences in children's lives. 'Decisions determine destiny' is our club and camp motto."

Marcelle Egley-Sparks, Awana Parent & Volunteer serving at Maranatha Chapel in San Diego, California

"I am a byproduct of the goal and purpose of Awana 'To reach kids, train leaders and change the world.' I was invested in by selfless leaders, encouraged in my walk and taught how to take joy in the things of God. Why wouldn't I want to be as much a part of what Awana does as I possibly can!?"

Joel Easling, Southwest Washington Awana missionary



A Family Tree, Full of Awana Legacy

We recently chatted with Karen, an Awana partner in Arizona, to hear how the Awana ministry has impacted her family for four generations. This is her story.

Awana has been a significant part of our family life for generations, beginning with Mom, myself—her only daughter—her four grandchildren and four of her great-grandchildren.

Mom's childhood was difficult, and her parents divorced when she was nine. She recalled doing laundry in a frightening basement. However, there were always a loving, caring aunt and uncle who had served in the mission field. Mom's uncle led her to the Lord. Coming to Christ at a young age, Mom understood the value of children's ministry.

As a young child, I would sit next to Mom when she would read the Bible. That was her quiet time, but I was

listening. In fifth grade, my parents attended separate churches, and life was difficult for me too. At the church Mom attended, she met Arne Abrahamson, an Awana missionary.

That marked the beginning of our family's Awana journey. I attended Vacation Bible School after 5th grade and accepted Jesus as my Savior. Arne encouraged me to come to Awana; but never being very athletic, I declined. The Bible memory and teaching drew me, but the fear of failure at games kept me away.

After I was married, our church had an Awana program. I volunteered as a leader for 13 years while our children participated. One year I was invited to teach a workshop at an Awana fall conference. There I met Arne Abrahamson again. My ministry director asked if he remembered me, but he said no. When I asked if he remembered my mother, he said, "Karen!!? I knew I'd get you in Awana sooner or later!"

When we relocated, our four children and I found a church 30 miles away with an Awana program, even though we did not attend there on Sundays. Within four years, our daughter was a Citation achiever, our son received a Timothy Award and our youngest son, an Excellence Award.

When we began attending what is now our home church, our two oldest were in high school. In order to become church members, we spent six weeks with husband and wife mentors. They often commented how much they enjoyed their time with our children because they learned Scripture, based on what our two had memorized in Awana!

Our oldest daughter is married with four children old enough to attend Awana. Before the virus, their oldest two had completed all three Sparks books; the third had completed two Cubbies books; the fourth had just started in Cubbies. Our oldest son is a small group leader in his church. He and his wife are often sought out by friends and young people for their biblical wisdom and guidance.

“She named Awana in her trust to further the work of the ministry she loved so much.”

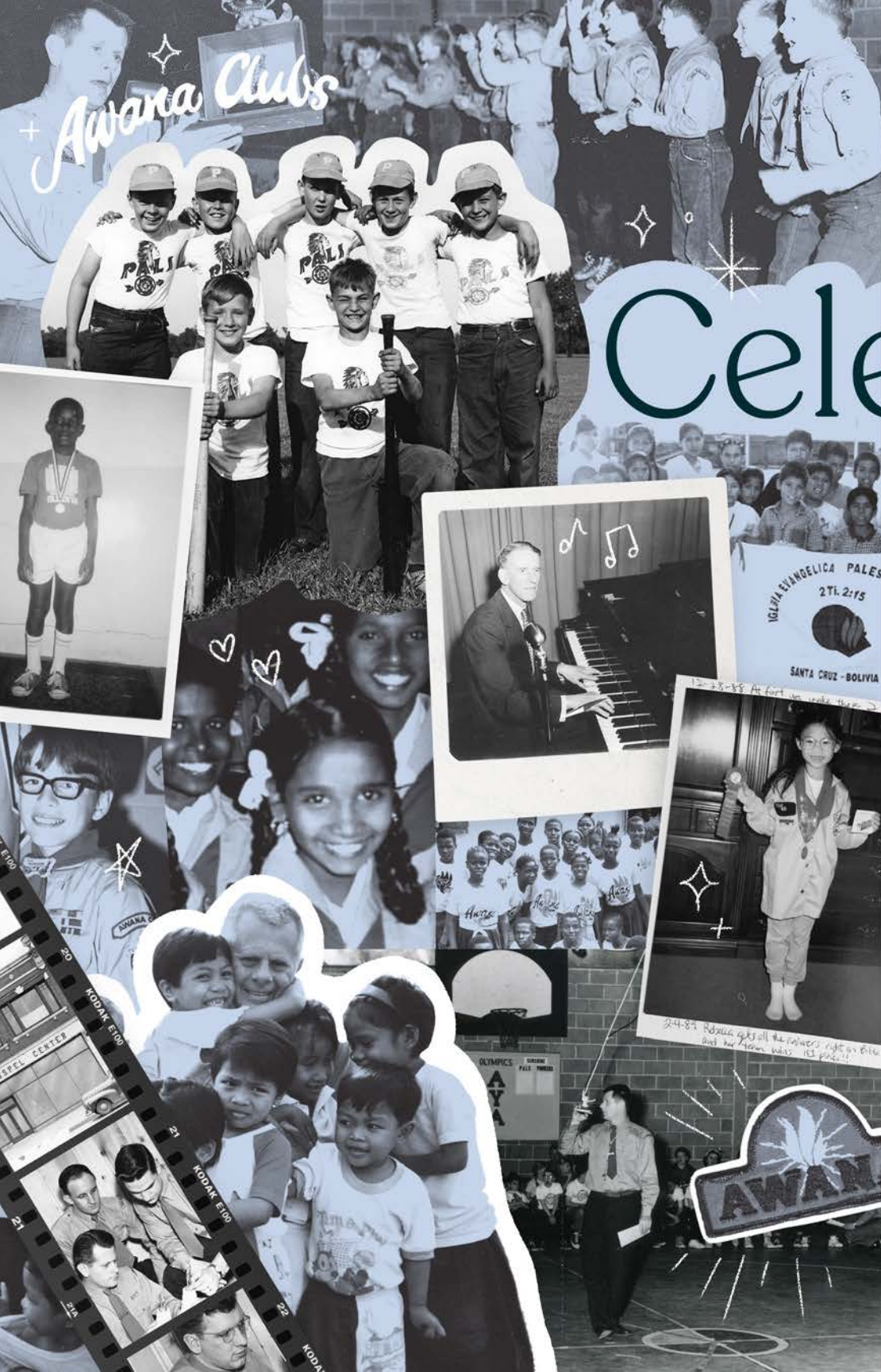
Mom went home to be with the Lord in November, leaving four adult grandchildren—all believers in Jesus' saving grace—and with 11 great-grandchildren. She named Awana in her trust to further the work of the ministry she loved so much. Thank you, Awana, for being an amazing part of our family story.



Florence, generous friend of the Awana ministry

Learn More at

awana.org/plannedgiving or call **1.866.292.6227**



Celebrating 70 Years

This year, Awana hit a truly remarkable milestone of 70 years of reaching children around the globe, equipping leaders, and bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Each week, more than 4.5 million children and youth, 470,000 volunteers and 260 field staff take part in Awana in over 60,000 churches around the world. Only through the generosity of time and resources from leaders and donors have we been able to reach this point. Take a trip down memory lane to see how Awana got to this 70-year mark. →



Northside Gospel Center, in Chicago, IL, the birthplace of Awana in the 1950s

1950s

Art Rorheim co-founded Awana alongside legendary child discipleship champion Lance Latham. Together they invented the game circle and weekly gatherings as a discipleship tool for kids in the community.



1970s

Awana expanded outside the United States. What God started in one local club in Bolivia has grown into our ministry discipling children across 129 countries.



1960s

Don Bunge and Leo and Edna Spencer became our first full-time missionaries. Since then God has called hundreds of missionaries to serve the local church to reach kids for Christ.



1980s

The first preschool curriculum was developed to broaden the ages of kids reached through their local church. Since then Cubbie Bear and Sparky have remained timeless, yet relevant, with the help of modern technology.

1990s

We launched into the World Wide Web. The Awana website has had many facelifts since then as it fulfills its purpose of equipping leaders around the world.



2000s

We seized the opportunity to equip the church for child discipleship in the new millennium by updating most of our curriculum! These books remain the primary resource that leaders use to dig into God's Word during club each week.



2010s

God opened the door for us to develop an array of tools to intentionally empower local church leaders to champion child discipleship and become the loving, caring adults in the life of a child.

Awana Leadership



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I thank my God in all my remembrance
of you, always in every prayer of mine
for you all making my prayer with joy,
because of your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

Thank You

You're Making an Eternal Difference

Your prayers and support have made it possible for so many children to find the hope of Jesus. As we continue to equip leaders around the world to disciple children and youth, will you support the ministry of Awana? Consider including Awana in your estate plan and ensure a lasting legacy for the organization and the fearless future of the Church.

awana.org/donate