

Missionaries: Jeff & Shelly Kessler • Montana & N. Wyoming Territory

**MAKEOVER
EDITION**

Maybe it's a wedding, or an open House' for a graduation, or just a bunch of company coming—but you look around your house; you look at it critically, as if for the first time—through a stranger's eyes. Whoa! We've got to do something! Maybe a new couch and chair (the old one is stained, torn and sagging). Oh yeah, now we need some new carpet—the new furniture really shows up that old stuff. Those walls could really do with a new coat of paint and we had better do it before the new carpet goes in. Ever been there? It doesn't seem so long ago that it was all fresh and clean, but time and the wear and tear of day to day living sure do leave their mark.

Awana clubs suffer a similar wear and tear through the years, and much like looking at an old couch, we get used to the way things are. We aren't mindful that our club has gotten a bit loose and dilapidated. Discipline is lax and handbook standards are softened. Because it requires work and time, creative features to excite and attract the kids are neglected. Our motto becomes, "As long as it's functioning, let's not put the effort into keeping it sharp." Picture the service truck that, 20 years ago, was brand new with fancy advertising splashed on the side, but now is faded, beat up, and says to customers, "I'm tired, I don't care, but I'm still in business."

This summer we'd like to suggest you do an Awana club makeover. Just like a 'spruced up' house, it will breathe new life into your club, rejuvenating your leaders and re-energizing the kids! We know it may make you tired just to think about it; like covering or moving furniture for a paint job or new carpet. But once we get started, the thrill of seeing a new image emerge soon turns dread into enthusiasm. Check out our makeover suggestions in the newsletter and add some freshness and renewed life to your club!

Does Your Club Need A Makeover?

- Is your club more than seven years old?
- Is your attendance down?
- Do kids attend sporadically?
- Are fewer kids finishing handbooks?
- Are kids passing a partial section at a time?
- Are fewer kids wearing uniforms?
- Do you play the same games each week?
- Are the kids more unruly?
- Do your leaders dread going to club?
- Is it harder to get and keep leaders?
- Do leaders just go through the motions versus being on a mission?
- Has it been a while since you had a contest or theme night?
- Is the paint on the wall over 10 years old?
- Do kids show little interest in spiritual things?
- Are the kids making fewer spiritual decisions?

If you answered "yes" to five or more of these questions, you will be amazed at the life a makeover will give your club.



Proclaim

Awana Ministry Conference 2009

They're ready to hear ... Are you ready to share?

September 12, 2009

Faith Evangelical Church
3145 Sweetwater
Billings

September 19, 2009

Clark Fork City Church
2811 Latimer St
Missoula

Location
Change

Makeover Design Plan

21 design points that have a distinguished record of building excellence and excitement into the life of a club.

Direction

§ Vision – Spend time praying to discern God’s desire for your club ministry. Set goals to help you accomplish His purpose.

Organization

- § Plan – Plan the club year during the summer. Create a calendar with theme nights, special events and devotion schedules.
- § Distinction – Clubs function most efficiently when run separately. If at all possible have a separate schedule and place for the Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks, T&T, Trek and Journey.
- § Pre-session – Have some type of organized activity planned while the kids are arriving before club.
- § Responsibilities – Assign leaders specific job responsibilities throughout the entire club time.

Training

- § Basic Training – Have your leaders go through the BT every five years. It will give them a fresh vision for their ministry and remind them of the principles that made your club great in the early years.
- § The Gospel - Make sure your leaders know what the gospel is and how to present it.
- § Awana Conference – These are guaranteed to energize your leaders. Commit now to attend an Awana Conference and strive to take at least 70% of your leaders with you.

Appearance

- § Paint – Look at your walls. Are they overdue for a fresh coat of paint?
- § Eye Wash – Create an exciting atmosphere with signs, banners, display cases and bulletin boards.
- § Uniforms – Identity apparel is trendy. We sport our favorite team’s colors, communicating our passion by what we wear. Your Awana uniform lets the kids know that you are proud to be an Awana leader, and that it’s important for them to be involved too. Make sure all of the leadership have an Awana uniform; it will motivate the kids, give a nice appearance to the club and say something about the operation.

Appeal

- § Theme Nights – Plan special theme nights each week or at least once a month – they are great boredom busters.
- § Opening Celebration – A sharp, festive and disciplined Opening Ceremony teaches respect and sets the tone for the entire evening.
- § Variety – Play a variety of games each week and from week to week. Never play the same games week after week.
- § Regional Events – Use Bible Quiz and the AwanaGames to create extra excitement for the kids, promote pride and loyalty in the club, and rally the church’s interest. Create special team shirts to emphasize the significance of being on the team.

Discipline

§ Have a Plan – With the number of needy kids that come, discipline issues are inevitable. Have a plan for dealing with them and implement it. Become proficient with the 5 count and know how you will execute the 3 count. It is imperative that your club be well disciplined.

Motivation

- § Contests – Plan several contests throughout the year to encourage visitors and achievement.
- § Uniforms – Kids like the idea of being part of a sports team and love to wear their shirt. Promote the same type of attitude with the uniform at Awana; it won’t happen automatically, you must promote it. The camaraderie it creates will be breath-taking.
- § Awards – Awards are only as special as you make them. Make a big deal out of their achievements to enhance the power of the incentive.

Spiritual Development

- § Leaders:
 - A Burden – Pray for a burden for the kids. Encourage your leaders to do the same.
 - Prayer Team – Develop a team of prayer warriors to empower your leaders and assure spiritual fruit from your club year. Another idea is to encourage leaders to gather in pre-club prayer huddles.
 - Spiritual Disciplines – Remind leaders to be in the Word and on their knees. Promote Scripture memory with the TruthScripts program.
 - Leader Meetings – Leader Prayer and Planning meetings foster a “team” mentality and are vital to the success of your club ministry.
 - Child Welfare – Assure the wellbeing of the kids, have a child protection policy in place.
- § The Kids:
 - Handbook Standards - Follow handbook recitation standards to maximize the kids retention and stimulate their mental ability. It is God’s Word hidden in their hearts that helps keep them from sin. If they barely have the verse memorized or incorrectly memorized, it will not serve them well in the future. The Standard: Sections are to be recited in one sitting without looking at it, with no more than two helps. Most kids are capable of this.
 - Explain the Sections – Don’t just sign off sections, ask questions about the verse to see if they understand it.
 - Large Group Time Lessons – Plan devotional series that will speak to the spiritual needs of the kids. Develop your leader’s abilities by asking some of them to take a turn at presenting the devotions.

The Glory Days Was there a time in your club’s history of robust ministry? What’s changed? The basic principles of Awana haven’t changed, and neither has the fundamental makeup of kids. What has changed is the way you do club. Return to the way you did it in the Glory Days.



Citation Award Earners—2009

Award Earner	Parents	Church	City
Christa Clevidence	Mark & Rose	Belgrade Alliance Church	Belgrade
Constance Crawford	Matt & Tammy	Belgrade Alliance Church	Manhattan
Victoria Pennell	Gray & Diane	First Baptist Church	Lewistown
Gina Bjorge	Marvin & Laura	First Baptist Church	Polson
Hannah Casebolt	Monty & Jan	Livingston Bible Church	Livingston
Scott Olson	Guy & Tina	Livingston Bible Church	Livingston

Event Results 2009

Regional Bible Quizzes held were:

Jackson WY. - January 24, 2009

Miles City, MT—February 7, 2009

Billings, MT—February 28, 2009

Gillette, WY—March 21, 2009

Bible Quiz Finals

AREA FINALS March 15				
	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4
1 st	Glendive, Comm Bible 210	Laurel Baptist 220	Laurel Baptist 210	1 st Klspl, Central Bible 180
2 nd	Blgs, West Side Bapt #1 185	Calvary/Cornerstone 180	Glendive Comm Bible 190	2 nd Blgs, West Side Bapt 150
3 rd	Blgs, Fellowship Bapt 180	Klspl, Central Bible 170	Calvary/Cornerstone 185	3 rd Park City, Bapt 90
				4 th Glendive, Comm Bible 90
				Blgs, Fellowship Bapt 90

sparks-A-Rama

Awana Games

Jackson			
Circle #1 -	Lander, Evangelical Free	Circle #1 -	Jackson, First Baptist
Billings			
Circle #1 -	Shepherd Bible/	Circle #1 -	Park City Baptist
	Billings, Fellowship Baptist	Circle #2 -	Billings, Calvary/Cornerstone Comm
Miles City			
Circle #1 -	Miles City, Valley Drive Baptist	Circle #1 -	Glendive Alliance
Gillette			
Circle #1 -	Gillette, AVBC	Circle #1 -	Gillette, AVBC

SuperSaturday

Theme: "How Many have you brought to Jesus"

John 1:40-42a "One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Mark 2:3-5 "And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Speaker: Pastor John Fenlason

Hannaford St. Bible Church, Helena



	Quiz	Banner	Skits
1st	Lewistown, First Baptist	Thayne, Emmanuel Bible	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible
2nd	Great Falls, Valley Community Bible	Billings, Heights Baptist	Thayne, Emmanuel Bible
3rd	Thayne, Emmanuel Bible	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible	Avon Community
4th	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible - Team #1		

Winner of the Traveling Trophy: Emmanuel Bible Church, Thayne



	Quiz	Banner	Skits
1st	Billings, Heights Baptist - Team #1	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible	Billings, Blue Creek Baptist
2nd	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible - Team #1	Avon Community	Lewistown, First Baptist
3rd	Lewistown, First Baptist	Polson, First Baptist	Helena, Hannaford St. Bible

Winner of the Traveling Trophy: Heights Baptist Church, Billings

Mindset Makeover

“What can we do to make our club so exciting that the kids will line up outside the church doors and half-way around the block?”

Art Rorheim - Awana Co-Founder

Art Rorheim’s Mindset

“I want my Pals Club to be the most exciting thing in the lives of those boys.”

One Saturday while watching boys and girls line up outside a movie theater, Art asked himself, “Why can’t we make our Pals Club so exciting that boys will line up to come?” In weekly leaders’ “Prayer and Planning” meetings, Art shared this yearning. Gradually, a plan evolved to hold a Fairmont Fair.

How could they arouse curiosity to make boys want to come?

Art visited the principals of local schools. He asked if key clubbers would be permitted to wear announcement banners and distribute leaflets as students left school. Principals of three schools agreed.

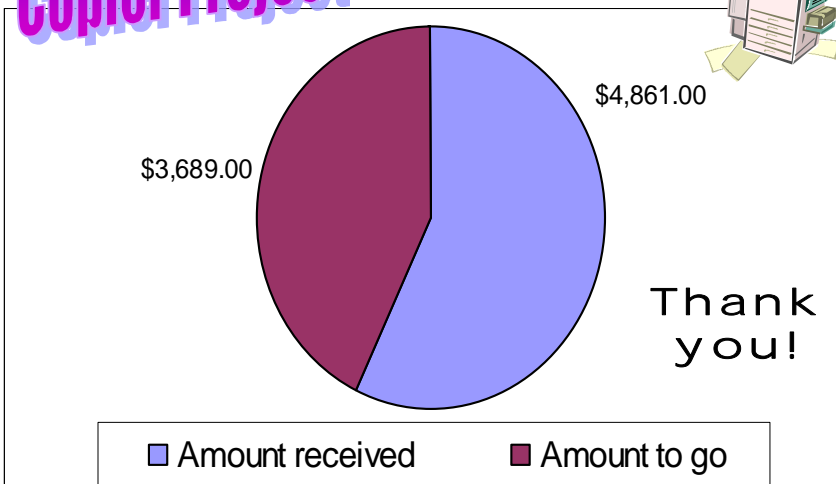
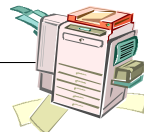
The next week, Sword clubbers marched around the schools with picket signs which read: “Coming-Big Fair!” No questions from inquirers were answered, as Art had instructed the Pals to remain silent. Curiosity of all the school kids began to mount.

The next week, the clubbers again marched. This week their signs advertised: “Big Fair for boys 8,9, and 10 years old.” Still, they would not respond to questions as they circled the school grounds like marchers around the city of Jericho.

The third week the signs announced: “Saturday Big Fairmont Fair.” Clubbers handed out printed invitations which told the time and place of the Fair. There was no significance to the word “Fairmont”. Art added it to “Fair” simply for alliteration and intrigue.



Copier Project



Revision Reminder
 Handbook revisions to be re-leased this summer:
 Sparks - WingRunner
 (formerly Hiker)
 T&T - Book 4

Awana Missionaries
 Jeff & Shelly Kessler
 PO Box 283
 Avon, MT 59713

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 1
 AVON, MT