



Colorado Update

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for all your efforts this year in reaching children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are so blessed to tell you about a few things that are changing the way children are reached through the Awana ministry.

The new T&T materials are helping some churches double and even triple the number of T&T clubbers in their ministry. The first year was a challenge to get going, but we have had so many pioneering churches that took on the Mission: Grace in Action challenge and were successful. Awana had 2000 plus people share their feedback with us as we prepared the next book, Mission: Evidence of Grace. This is an excellent long-term discipleship ministry focused on reaching the heart of every child and helping them become life-long disciples, and eventually disciplers, knowing, loving, and serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your input into the curriculum and your insights into transforming the ministry. Most of you leaders work week after week with the T&T clubbers and are seeing lives changed, Thank You!

We have also released the new Journey Advocates' curriculum. We had the privilege of working alongside Shawn McDowell and seeing his passion for apologetics. He has given us a tremendous book for helping our Journey youth not only defend their faith but also know why they believe what they believe. It is a goal of every Christian parent to see their children walking faithfully with the Lord daily, being discipled, and discipling others.

We also had a tremendous experience that is now making its way to Colorado. Michael Walsh and I had the opportunity to go to the [Returning Hearts Celebration](#) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be part of another life-changing ministry. We arrived a day early for training and to see the 2017 [Malachi Dad's](#) graduation. What a privilege to see each one of these men receive their certificate, then recite the [Malachi Dad's Pledge](#) in unison.

The next day we were part of the reuniting of 544 children with their fathers. These men sat on bleachers waiting for their children to be announced. The children ran across the field to join their dads, some tackling their dads to the ground. These men got to spend a day with their children enjoying carnival games, hot dogs, icy drinks, cotton candy and more. Large swimming pools were set up with 400 bluegill fish so the dads could take their children fishing. It was such a joy to see the fathers kneeling before their children, sharing about Jesus. These men are broken and have been redeemed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Oh, how sweet it was to listen to these men sing of their chains being gone and their redemption in Christ. That perspective is something most people wouldn't think of until they sit and watch it unfold.

[Named]

[Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1b ESV]



2017 Awana Ministry Conferences

At the end of the day the men had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus one more time before seeing their children head out the gates to home. Each child was given a balloon to release. With joy, tears, and the overwhelming experience of it all, it truly is more than I can explain here. Michael will be sharing at the Awana Ministry Conferences during his workshops and letting you see his passion for the Malachi Dad's ministry. How about joining us next year? It usually happens mid-May so let me know and I will keep you posted. Here are some [pictures we posted](#) of the event on our website, they will be toward the bottom of [this page](#).

We had a wonderful time hosting the 2017 Awana Journey Summit in Colorado Springs in April. The weather cooperated and we had plenty of outstanding volunteers serve. We always delight in seeing this high school competition, so many great students and leaders. What a powerful group of young people, living for Jesus and sharing Him with others.

We are in the middle of our training season for the new Awana clubs that will start up this fall, nine so far. The Awana Ministry Conferences are just around the corner: Colorado Springs – August 19th, Denver – September 9th, and Grand Junction – October 14th. We always love conference season because we get to see so many of you! Check out the awanacolorado.org website for more details about conference. Awana now is reaching more than 4,000,000 children [around the world](#) each week with the Gospel.



We had the opportunity to see all of our children and grandchildren in Wisconsin over the Independence Day holiday. What a wonderful few days together. A good time was had by all! We are blessed to be able to see our children walking with the Lord and serving Him where God has planted them.

Our oldest granddaughter, Julia, (in the blue shirt in the picture) will be going in for a cardiac catheterization on September 18th to test the pressure inside her heart. They will also look at her conduit to see how it is doing. Praise – the conduit which was only supposed to last four to five years has lasted over seven! Prayer – Julia is getting very close to her next open-heart surgery. This obviously brings concern to our family. Please pray for wisdom for her doctors, and peace for all of us, especially her parents, Joy and Tom.

We know you all are praying for us. We have had tremendous safety as we have traveled around Colorado and Wyoming. We are constantly amazed at how beautiful our territory is. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for us and the Awana ministry. We could not do this ministry without you. We appreciate every one of you and enjoy serving alongside you as we reach families for Christ and start them on the path of life-long discipleship.

In His Service,

Joe & Jill Cook

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