

# Central/Western Kansas and Northwest Oklahoma

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## Fall 2004 Praise & Prayer

### PRAISE THE LORD

We serve a God whose timing, plans and location are always perfect! God has shown Himself to our family in so many ways as we have been obedient to His calling into full-time missionary service with



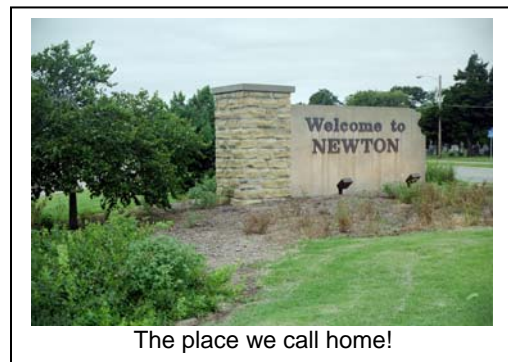
Katie, Megan, Kris, Mike, Ben and Emily

Awana Clubs International and His leading us to relocate to a different area of the country. Two years ago we had no idea that we would be entering the mission field and, as early as six months ago, we had no idea that we would be leaving Southern Ohio where we have always lived. However, through the mighty workings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we experienced firsthand God's confirmation that we are exactly where we should be, doing exactly what He wants us to do.

For the many of you whom we have yet had the opportunity to meet, we are the new Awana missionaries to the Central/Western Kansas and Northwest Oklahoma territory. We arrived by the trucks full on August 15.

We had seven weeks to leave our jobs, church, family and friends, find a place to live, get our house ready to sell and put it on the market, and arrive in time for the kids to start school on August 19. Only a great and sovereign God could orchestrate all of those details to actually make it happen. We are very thankful that our four children have adjusted well to their new surroundings.

Prior to becoming missionaries, we served for the past 15 years in our local Awana club in Commercial Point, Ohio. Mike was the commander and Kris was the club secretary. As Mike travels the roads of Kansas every week, it has been a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure to many different clubs full of passionate and spiritual-thirsty children. Kris has the privilege of serving as a Sparks leader on Wednesdays at Grace Community



The place we call home!



Church in Newton, Kansas. When Kris first began to work in Awana 15 years ago, she served as a Sparks leader and then as the Sparks Director before becoming the club secretary. She considers it a gift from God to be able to work once again with Sparkies for it is an age group that is very dear to her heart. With Kris remaining "homebound" on Wednesdays, our children have the opportunity to participate in their own Awana club. Katie is in Sparks, Megan is in T&T and Ben and Emily are in JV.

### **Supporting New and Existing Awana Clubs**

August, September and October were off with a bang as existing clubs began their Awana year and eight churches began new clubs. We led five basic trainings and met with several churches to help them with their initial registration and orders. We had the privilege of visiting the first club night or open house of many of the new clubs. It is awesome to see the work of the Lord spread. Enthusiasm for the potential impact Awana can have in the local community is contagious. Mike assisted with laying six game floors, not to mention the many game floors that were laid by faithful ministry team members. Mike has helped with pulpit supply on three occasions and has had several meetings with pastors. Every Wednesday night in September and October, Mike made club visits to various Awana clubs in our territory.

### **Fall Awana Leadership Conference**

On October 16, Dave Pearson from Awana Clubs International encouraged and challenged approximately 200 workers who attended our Leadership Training Conference in Wichita to seize the "**Window of Opportunity**" to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ. Dave stressed that **children are important to Christ** and we, as leaders, can make **a difference in the life a child**. He challenged those in attendance with the question, "**Why are you working in Awana?**" We pray those working in Awana are doing so because God has led them to serve in Awana and that they have a passion for all children and youth to come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sharing Awana with Children's Ministry Workers**

On November 6, we set up a booth for a Kidz' Clinic in Wichita, which was a conference for those in children's ministry. Mike also led a workshop during the conference explaining what Awana is all about. It was also a great opportunity to do some networking, introduce Awana to children's ministry workers and to familiarize us with the other children's ministries that are helping strengthen churches in reaching our youth.

We praise the Lord for the full fall that we have had the opportunity to experience and for all of the wonderful people we have had the privilege of meeting throughout our territory. We look forward to making many more friends over the upcoming months as we continue our travels across Central/Western Kansas and NW Oklahoma.



***"Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed." II Timothy 2:15***

## PRAY WITH US

Please pray as we endeavor to find people who choose to partner with us in the ministry of reaching children and youth for Christ by helping meet our financial support needs.

Please pray as we schedule club, church and pastor visits to as many Awana clubs as possible.

We continue to present Awana to interested churches across our area. Please pray as we help churches start new clubs.

Please pray for safety as we discover and travel the highways, byways, and even some "dirt ways" in Kansas and Oklahoma.

### **Where we have been.....**

#### August/September

15 – Arrived in Kansas  
22 – Harvest Community, Wichita  
5 – Grace Community, Newton  
8 – Central Christian, Wichita  
9 – Harvest Community, Wichita  
11 – Agape So. Baptist, Hays  
13 – Meridian Baptist, Wichita  
14 – Harvest Community, Wichita  
15 – Harvest Community, Wichita  
18 – First Baptist, Cedar Vale  
21 – Messiah Baptist, Wichita  
22 – Faith Fellowship Bible, Burdett  
28 – Central Christian, Wichita  
29 – First Baptist, Cedar Vale  
29 – Meridian Baptist, Wichita

#### October

5 – Smith Center Evang. Free, Smith Center  
5 – The Baptist Church, Concordia  
6 – Calvary Baptist Church, Derby  
10 – Faith Fellowship, Burdett  
11 – Westview Baptist, Wichita  
13 – Faith Bible, Valley Center  
16 – Leadership Conference, Wichita  
20 – Calvary Baptist, Stafford  
24 – First Baptist, Salina  
27 – Westview Baptist, Wichita  
31 – First Baptist, Cedar Vale

### **Where we are going.....**

#### November

3 – Village Bible, Salina  
6 – Kidz' Clinic, Wichita  
7 – First Baptist, Lorraine  
10 – Mulvane Christian, Mulvane  
13-18 – Awana Headquarters,  
Regional Missionary Conference  
20 – Evangelical Free, Winfield  
25 – Happy Thanksgiving!

#### December

1 – East Evangelical Free, Wichita  
4 – Area Basic Training, Wichita  
8 – West Evangelical Free, Wichita  
15 – First Baptist, Lorraine  
25 – Merry Christmas!

