



The Patrick Press

Special Commander College Edition

It hardly seems possible that another year is coming to a close. In fact it seems like only yesterday we were planning our Commander College for 2008. Now here we are doing it all again but for 2009. This year we had a total of nineteen commanders and co-commanders attend along with our ministry team, and we had a great time fellowshiping together as well as learning some practical ways to improve in our role as commander. Of course we will never be able to have a repeat of this year, after all how often does it snow in Montgomery, AL? But, we are looking forward to another great group of commanders who will be blessed and encouraged as they return to their clubs with a new vision and passion to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

During CC101 last year our oldest son, Andrew, had to be admitted to the hospital in Birmingham. As soon as we were finished with the training, we went to check on him. On Monday I was in the elevator when a gentleman entered with me. I knew that I should know who he was, and before I could figure it out he came right up to me and told me he was a pastor of one of our churches. He also went on to say that his commander, who had attended CC101, returned to the church that previous Sunday night and shared with the congregation what an uplifting experience it had been. He thanked me for hosting the training and said that he already knew that things were going to be different in his club and church. His commander had returned with zeal and practical tools, and this pastor could not contain his enthusiasm.

Commander College for 2009 will be conducted in Montgomery, AL at the Holiday Inn Express at exit 11

on I-85. We will be limiting the class to 24 participants, but it is my hope that response will be such that it will necessitate another session later in the year. If you are the commander for your club, I would strongly encourage you to attend. If you are not the commander for your club, encourage your commander to attend. You may even want to help them out with the finances as an encouragement to them.

The training for CC101 includes information about the five roles of a commander: Advocate, Leader, Shepherd, Communicator and Administrator. Most commanders are good in one or two of these areas, but to get the most from their club, they need to be effective in all areas. Our goal is to equip them to come home with better skills in all these areas, thus improving the overall Awana Club.

Awana's prayer is, "that all children and youth throughout the world would come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ." Today in Alabama, only about 1 in 50 kids between the ages of 4 and 14 are involved with an Awana Club, and a little less than 17.5% go to an evangelical church of any kind. What would your reaction be if the number of kids that are coming to your club tripled? Would that increase in clubbers create a difficulty for you and your church ... or would that be a blessing? Think about this: Did God love you so much that we gave His only begotten Son to be nailed on a cross to pay the price for you to have eternal life so that you could keep it to yourself. I don't think so. He commanded us all to go and share that good news with everyone we come in contact with. Is this your passion? Is it why your commander is involved in Awana? One of the primary roles of a Commander is to be an Advocate for the Gospel. In

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fact this is the first thing that we cover in CC101, and from there it only gets better.

Here are some testimonies from people who have attended CC101:

"I had no idea what I was going to gain from CC101, but I did know I needed something. I was our club's second commander and never had formal training. I only continued to do what our first commander started. CC 101 was beyond anything I expected. It gave me the instruction of taking **B**iblical truth, **A**pplying it to my club, giving me the **S**pecifics of how to do it, **E**quipping me with the right tools, and using **D**iscipleship to being committed to my Awana workers. I came home with a renewed fire for my ministry and a new scope for the next Awana year."

Awana Commander—Birmingham, AL

Commander College is a great experience. I recommend it for everyone! Lots of good information and ideas to take back to your club. It was motivating and challenging but more than that it was a solid reminder to keep the main thing the main thing — to reach boys and girls with the message of Christ and train them to serve Him! You will be blessed by attending this conference for Awana Commanders.

Awana Commander—Montgomery, AL

I am so glad that I went to the Awana Commander College last January! I was a brand new commander and wanted to learn everything I could to help me in do a good job for my Awana ministry at my church. I really needed to connect with other commanders and learn what other clubs were doing. It also helped me to bring some of my concerns about my own program and to find answers that I couldn't find anywhere else! One of the most important things I learned was that I needed to have a vision

for our Awana ministry. I needed what this Commander College offered: concrete and practical equipping! All commanders, new and old, need to attend it. It was worth every minute!

Awana Commander in Birmingham AL

"I have just begun to process all the superb information that is so relevant to exactly where I am as a commander. There was no topic that I thought was a waste of time!"

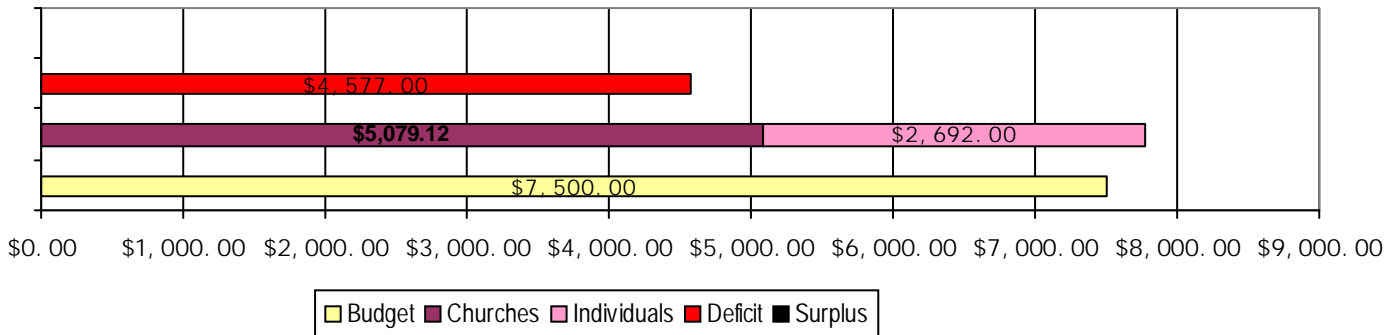
"I was able to bring the fire back to the church and start adding to the flame there, talking to parents, leaders, clubbers and the pastor about the great example and teaching I received at Commander College. Flames burn better with more fuel. I have a vision of how much more effective our church can be in serving Christ."

"The wealth of information and practical help was something I didn't realize I desperately needed. I also loved being able to network with other leaders."

My personal opinion is that Commander College is the best training that Awana has ever created. I wish that I had been able to attend this training as a commander myself. It would have made me a much better commander and would have strengthened my passion to see boys and girls evangelized and discipled for Christ. In fact as a missionary, CC101 encouraged me to keep on doing what God has called me to. Through the group of commanders that attended last year my spirit was renewed and I am looking forward to another group this year that will be even better.

Commander College 101
January 15-18, 2009
Montgomery Alabama

Our Financial Picture



Projected Average Monthly Budget	\$ 7500.00		
Oct Giving (Churches)	\$ 5079.12	# Churches	38
(Individuals)	\$ 2692.00	# Individuals	42
Oct Overage	\$ 271.12		
Balance in Ministry Account	\$ 4577.00		



Patrick Prayer Page



Our Monthly Praise and Prayer

Blessings

- ⇒ For the safety and health of our four children and the blessing they are to us
- ⇒ For leaders who are burdened to train warriors for Christ in today's society.
- ⇒ For the opportunities that God provides us to minister to His people. May we always be faithful in doing our very best for Him.
- ⇒ For God's provision and blessing in our lives..
- ⇒ For the new ministry partners who support us in prayer and have by faith committed to support us financially.
- ⇒ For those that have are in the process of joining and those who are praying about joining us on our ministry team.
- ⇒ For the nearly 300 churches using Awana in the DixieShores Territory.
- ⇒ For the new supporters over the summer and conference seasons.

Prayers

- ⇒ That God would be glorified through our lives, and that we would rest in Him for every provision in our lives
- ⇒ For even more ministry team members to help us in ministering to the nearly 300 churches in the Dixie Shores Territory. We especially need additional help in the Central and Northern areas.
- ⇒ That God would continue to lead those to partner with us in faith to bring our support level to 100% and that He would use the leaders of the territory to eliminate the debt through a one time love offering this fall.
- ⇒ That we would pass along a heritage of faith to our children through trusting God for every need.
- ⇒ For God's provision of a reliable vehicle for the family.
- ⇒ For healing and comfort for ministry team wife who has just learned she has cancer.
- ⇒ That God would prepare our hearts and the hearts of commanders who will be attending Commander College to impact our communities and the world for Christ.



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But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:57-58



DixieShores Awana Missionary Calendar

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Nov 23 Presentation, Hartford, AL
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day with family
- Dec 15 Early Registration Deadline for CC101
- Dec 24-Jan 1 Awana Offices Closed

2009

- Jan 1 Registration Deadline for CC101
- Jan 15-18 Commander College 101, Montgomery, AL
- Jan 22 Spring Events Training, Sylacauga, AL
- Jan 24 Spring Events Training, All FL Locations
- Feb 7 Registration for Spring Events Due
- Feb 21 Bible Quiz, Lynn Haven, FL
- Feb 28 Bible Quiz, Pensacola, FL
- Mar 7 AwanaGames, Lynn Haven, FL
- Mar 14 AwanaGames, Niceville, FL
- Mar 21 AwanaGames, Pensacola, FL
- Mar 28 Bible Quiz, Sylacauga, AL
- Apr 18 24/7 Jam, Crestview, FL

Please remember to call early to schedule club visits.

