



The Patrick Press

Special Awana Ministry Conference Edition

Biblical Truth and the Family

Each year the President brings a State of the Union address to let us know how things are around the country. But I can't ever remember a President speaking to the problem of the moral degeneration in our society. Today's morals do not reflect the values that our country was built upon. What has happened?

A couple of years ago George Barna wrote a book entitled *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. From his research, he stated that the vast majority of children today really have no understanding of the Bible. He also said that social scientists have known for years that a child's moral foundation is usually determined by age nine. Barna's research has revealed the same thing in spiritual matters.

He went on to say that thirteen-year-olds today believe that they understand the Bible, and that the Bible teaches the following:

- ◆ *The devil doesn't exist – he is just a symbol of evil*
- ◆ *People earn entry into heaven by doing enough good works*
- ◆ *People are born morally neutral and choose to become good or bad*
- ◆ *It makes no difference what religious book your read; they all express the same spiritual truths – In other words, the Bible, the Koran, the Book of Mormon all teach the same things*
- ◆ *There are no absolute standards for morals and ethics*
- ◆ *When Jesus lived on the earth, He committed sins.*

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

Awana Ministry Conferences

August 22, 2009
Village Church
Destin Florida

Early Bird Discounted Rate of \$25 ends Aug 13th

September 12, 2009
Calera Baptist Church
Calera Alabama

Early Bird Discounted Rate of \$25 ends Sep 3rd

Commander College 101

October 29—November 1, 2009
Holiday Inn Express
Boyd Cooper Parkway
Montgomery AL

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We have a grave problem, don't we? What is the answer? According to the Bible, parents need to take the lead in the spiritual well-being and training of their children. We also need churches that will partner with parents to support and assist them in training their children in Biblical knowledge.

Awana is passionate about the spiritual growth of families. For the past several years, Awana has been developing a ministry to parents and families called *Awana At Home*. This fall we will introduce this ministry at our Awana Ministry Conferences. Designed to help equip churches to partner with families, *Awana*

At Home seeks to challenge and help train parents as the primary spiritual influencers of their children. We believe that by following the original plan that God had in the beginning, and that He outlined in Deuteronomy of parents taking the primary role in teaching their children, God will bless our families as we raise up a generation of spiritual champions. Only then we will begin to see values and morals return to those upon which our nation was founded.

How can your church get involved? Come to an Awana Ministry Conference to learn more about how to introduce and implement *Awana at Home* in your church.

Commander College 101

Oct 29 - Nov 1, 2009



More than anyone in your church, the commander holds the key to a successful Awana ministry. That's why Commander College gives commanders specialized training to help you make your Awana ministry everything God intended it to be! Through Commander College 101, you can take your leadership and ministry to the next level in raising kids that know, love and serve Christ.

Read what some former participants have to say about it:

*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."





Patrick Prayer Page



Our Monthly Praise and Prayer

Blessings

- ⇒ For leaders who are burdened to train warriors for Christ in today's society.
- ⇒ 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.

Prayers

- ⇒ 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%.
- ⇒ For safety in travelling as we minister to churches
- ⇒ For the safety of our son, Daniel, who is working as a counselor at camp this summer.

Pray for the Awana Ministry Conferences

- ⇒ That workshop leaders would be used by God to encourage and train leaders to become ambassadors for Christ.
- ⇒ That leaders would come ready to receive what the Lord has for them.
- ⇒ That God would greatly use the keynote speakers as they share with leaders the message that God gives them.
- ⇒ For the facilities, that there wouldn't be any distractions for those attending.
- ⇒ For the host churches, that God would bless them through their ministries.
- ⇒ That leaders would go back to club eager and ready to effectively share the gospel with clubbers and parents.
- ⇒ That many boys and girls would come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of the ministry of the gospel and the example and encouragement of their Awana leaders.

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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

JULY 2009

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			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	

AUGUST 2009

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						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					

SEPTEMBER 2009

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		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			

- Jul 11 Basic Training Orientation, Panama City
- Jul 14-15 Pastor Visits, Phenix City Area
- Jul 18 Basic Training Orientation, Graceville
- Jul 19 Presentation, Tuscaloosa
- Jul 25 Basic Training Orientation, Springville
- Jul 25 Basic Training Orientation, Panama City
- Aug 1 Basic Training Orientation, Tuscaloosa
- Aug 1 Basic Training Orientation, Panama City
- Aug 7-9 Awana Ministry Conference, Louisiana
- Aug 8 Basic Training Orientation, Pensacola
- Aug 15 Basic Training Orientation, Destin
- Aug 22 Awana Ministry Conference, Destin
- Sep 7 Labor Day
- Sep 12 Awana Ministry Conference, Calera
- Oct 15-18 Ministry Team Retreat
- Oct 29 -
Nov 1 Commander College 101, Montgomery

Please remember to call early to schedule club visits.

