

Bob & Dorinda Bennett – 2009-10

A W A N A M I S S I O N A R I E S

THE BENNETT'S - MINISTRY

Bob & Dorinda Bennett are faith supported missionaries receiving zero financial aid from Awana Headquarters, and therefore, are fully dependent upon individuals and Awana churches to meet our needs. We have served as Awana Missionaries for 11 years.

We would love to minister with your church and upon invitation would do so most gladly. However, because of the large number of churches in our area and the many events and activities that take place, it is difficult and rare for us to just drop in on you. Our aim is to visit each of the churches in our area at least once every two years. We are here to serve you.

OUR AREA: UPSTATE EASTERN NEW YORK, NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,

NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN OUR AREA USING AWANA: 140

WHAT WE DO IN OUR MINISTRY WITH THE HELP OF OUR MINISTRY TEAMS:

1. We plan and conduct Leadership Training Conferences each fall.
2. We introduce Awana to Pastors, Churches and Church boards.
3. We conduct many Basic Training Seminars
4. We meet with our Awana Ministry Teams during the year.
5. We assist other Missionaries with their conferences.
6. We speak at year end Awana Banquets and Award Nights.
7. We offer Advanced Training to Churches that have Awana – Including Training for all Children and Youth Ministries
8. We speak in Awana Club Council Times.
9. We assist the Fullers as Event Specialists for several of the Outreach Events
10. Bob speaks in churches on Sundays to promote Children's Ministry
11. We are involved in Missionary Conferences during the year.
12. We do club evaluations at local Awana clubs
13. We speak at special events, theme nights, and Parent's Nights.
14. We promote Awana, Youth emphasis, and strive to motivate leaders.
15. We make and receive over 200 phone calls and receive over 1000 e-mails per month.
16. We are in the Awana office nearly day (and some evenings) writing letters making phone calls and doing all the necessary paperwork involved with ministry.
17. Bob does pulpit supply when his schedule allows.
18. We travel over 40,000 miles per year, visiting churches in NY and PA.
19. We are always ready and willing to serve and answer questions that Pastors, Commanders, Directors, and Leaders have concerning Awana.
20. We plan and conduct special meetings for Pastors, Commanders, and Directors. (PCD Meetings)
21. Our newest challenge and ministry opportunity is to conduct Commander College for the NYPENN area.



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Leisure Activities: Bob - hunting, woodworking, watching old westerns
Dorinda – Knitting, Crocheting, Reading, watching football

Prayer Requests: *Safety as we travel many miles a year *That we will see many saved
*That we protect our family time *That our support will increase
*That we'll be a blessing, help and encouragement to others

2009 Highlights:

In April, we both attended at Summit 09 in Greensboro, NC overseeing the Citation Ceremony and helping in Bible Quiz. There were 1500 high school teens from around the United States at the four day event. April 2010 – we will be in St. Charles, IL for Summit 10 and be overseeing the entire Citation Ceremony and staff.

We participated in 6 Awana Leadership Conferences: Three in New York and three in Pennsylvania with many pastors and leaders attending.

It has been exciting to see several new churches start Awana in the past year, knowing that many boys and girls were reached for Christ.

We received many encouraging cards, notes and letters during the year from pastors and Awana leaders. During the course of the year we saw many souls saved in churches and Awana Clubs.

We do praise Him for all His blessings, especially the individuals that serve on our Ministry Team who head up and work in many of our Awana events and activities. We enjoy the time we spend with them and are grateful for their expertise and enthusiasm as they assist with the various events in our area. They do a lot of the behind-the-scenes stuff that only a few see and are aware of.

Low Points:

1. Some churches are without a pastor and going through difficult times. Some pastors are facing discouragement.
2. We lost some support as a result of churches that decided not to run Awana this year, they were supporting churches and decided to drop their support as well.

Some of our Goals:

To see decisions made when the message is given at the area wide Outreach Events. To enlarge the Ministry Team – especially in the church care ministry.

OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT STATUS AS OF JUNE 2009

God has been very faithful to us through our churches and individuals. Also, over the past few months some churches and individuals have picked us up for support or increased our support. As a result, we are now only about \$200.00 per month short on our monthly support. Praise the Lord!

WHAT IS COVERED THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

Housing, Salary, Health Insurance, Mileage Reimbursement, Life Insurance, Umbrella Insurance Policy, Taxes, Travel Expenses, Communications (phone, fax, e-mail), Office Supplies, Postage, Equipment Purchases & Repairs, Printing, Promotion, Rentals, Gifts, Inventory Purchases, Supplies from Headquarters, 401-K, Salary for our Part-Time Office Assistant and other misc. Awana expenses. A portion of our support also goes towards our Awana Missionary Conferences. (10% of our support goes into a fund at Headquarters for administrative and field projects)

We receive zero financial support from Awana Headquarters this means that we are 100% faith supported and have to raise our support from churches and individuals as any other missionary would.

At the present time about 65% of the Awana churches in our area do not support us. Our prayer is that some of these churches would consider adding us on, if only for a small amount. Please pray with us concerning this if you would.

If each of the churches currently not supporting our ministry would provide just \$20.00 a month support it would add nearly \$2000.00 a month.

Why do we need additional support . . .

1. Because there is more work to be done, more kids to reach, and more ministry to be a part of !
2. Prices continue to increase - fuel, postage, utilities, insurance, all continue to rise.
3. Soon we will have a new Awana Missionary to serve in the Hudson Valley area, which means more than likely the churches will begin to support him.

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Why we are ministering in Awana: We believe that the Awana program is a great evangelistic tool that can enhance the total ministry of the local church and develop leadership in your church. Our aim is to serve you and to help make your Awana program productive. We will strive to equip your leaders to do the best job possible in reaching the youth of your community for the Lord.

Strategic Objectives:

Enduring Ministry – Balancing urgency of ministry need with stewardship to ensure long term sustainability and impact.

Integrated Programs – Creating interconnected biblical programs that engage children, youth and families throughout their spiritual development.

Service Excellence – Excelling in personal expertise, support and service.

Ministry Partnerships – Developing relationships that maximize the impact of the local church around the world.

Christ-like Leadership – Preparing generations of ministry leaders to passionately and faithfully serve Jesus Christ.

Our Prayer: That all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Vision: To be a strategic partner with churches in a global effort to ensure the opportunity for all children and youth to be evangelized and discipled in Christ.

Our Mission: To work with our ministry partners in creating and disseminating integrated programs, tools and training that equip leaders to evangelize and disciple children and youth for Christ.

Our Values: We will glorify God and serve the body of Christ by committing ourselves to these values:

- We proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity and urgency.
- We commit to God's Word as our guide and standard.
- We treat all people as created and loved by God.
- We maintain a servant heart in all we do.
- We manage God's resources with faithfulness and integrity.

- We pursue excellence as unto the Lord.

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Personal Testimony – Bob Bennett

As a child I was not raised in a Christian home, however at the age of 12 I was invited to ride the church bus to Lyona Bible Church. After attending for some time at the age of 13 I accepted Christ as my personal Savior. Because I had no Christian influence or foundation in my life, as a teenager I did not grow and therefore did not live for the Lord, only for myself.

During that time our church called a new pastor who showed some interest in me. He began to disciple me. When I was about 19 years old he asked me to drive the church bus for a youth retreat, during that weekend retreat I realized my need to dedicate my life to the Lord. I began to live for the Lord and not for myself and my own interests.

As a young adult I grew in the Lord and dreamed of serving Christ full time, not realizing then that He was already preparing me for that full time ministry. In 1983 Dorinda and I were married and God has blessed us with two wonderful boys.

In 1984 our church started the Awana ministry. After getting involved on a local level in our home club, I began to see that I could be used to help other clubs get started and grow to reach out to those who don't know Christ as Savior. Through working closely with our Awana missionary in Western PA, the Lord began to show me that He was calling me into this ministry.

After 10 or 12 years as an auto mechanic the Lord began to challenge me as to the eternal value of what I was doing. When there are people who need to hear about Christ, how could I spend my time fixing cars. I believe the Lord made me restless in my job so that I would explore other options. When the Lord and I finally settled on my call as an Awana Missionary, there were several obstacles the Lord had to take care of. First my Bible Training, He worked it out that I could work four days a week and put the fifth day into a Bible Correspondence Course from Moody Bible Institute. Also the doctrinal application and the personal references (25 in all) for Awana was quite a challenge. After a lengthy application process (because of the Bible training needed) and interview with Awana, with the blessing of our families, pastors, and others, we accepted the call to be Awana Missionaries to Northeastern PA and Eastern NY.

In 1984 I began my experience with Awana as our church began the ministry - until that time I had been involved in many different ministries - SS Teacher, Bus Ministry, Usher, Sound Room, etc. Each of these were good experience for me, however God has given me a burden to reach the lost. Because of this, I have found greater fulfillment in working in Awana than running the sound board for the church services for example. As time went on I got more involved in Awana, continued as a Sunday School teacher, and was appointed to the Deacon board of our church. As I began to put more time into Awana, I had the opportunity to see clubbers accept Christ and to help them build a foundation in their lives. During my time in the Awana ministry, I have been a leader, director, Olympic Coach, and Bible quiz Coach. I also served on the Western PA Ministry Team for 10 years, in that time I have helped churches get started with Awana by doing presentations and Basic Trainings. I have also done Club evaluations, and Leadership Training. I have worked closely with our Awana Missionaries to help with all of the area wide events, including, Bible Quiz, Olympics, Grand Prix, Scholarship Camp, Leadership Conferences and special events. I have also had the privilege of teaching workshops at Fall conferences for several Awana Missionaries. Some of the topics which I have been able to teach include, Pals & Pioneers, Making Your Club More Effective, Olympics A to Z, Using Your Space more Efficiently, Discipline Problems, Bible Quiz, Reaching Out, Scholarship Camp, and many others, each have come from personal experience. When our home church began Awana, we began with approximately 60 children. Over the years the Lord has allowed us to grow to the place where we reached a high of 296 clubbers and leaders. During that time we had many challenges to overcome and that experience I believe the Lord allowed to help me to help Awana clubs in the area with the challenges they face.

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Personal Testimony – Dorinda Bennett

I was raised in a family who attended church every Sunday morning because it was the thing to do. My mother is a Christian but was not actively serving the Lord during my young life, But she made sure we were in church every Sunday morning. At the age of about 10 we moved to where my parents still live now and started attending a church just down over the hill from our home. We attended there for awhile, but when my mom asked the pastor what He would do if someone came forward to accept the Lord and he couldn't answer – we started Looking for a new church.

We ended up at Lyona Bible Church when I was about 13 years old. My brother and I became Very active in the youth group – because I had been raised in a “Christian” home, I assumed I was a Christian – I even had all the right answers and was baptized shortly after coming to The church. HOWEVER, it was not until I was attending a Youth Rally at the age of 16 that I came to realize that having all the answers and being baptized was not going to get me to Heaven. I came to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ on July 9, 1979 and then returned To our church and asked to be baptized again (that was a humbling experience for a 16 year old- and a great experience for our church to realize that just because someone has all the Right words – it may not be real)

After that point in my life, I really started to serve the Lord and my dad had come back to the Lord and re-dedicated his life. Our church started a bus ministry to reach out into our rural community, one of the “bus kids” my parents and I started to pick up was a teenager named Bob Bennett J. Although we attended the same high school and the same church we didn't really know each other until after I graduated from high school and the Lord brought us together – on June 18, 1983 we were married.

God has been continually at work in my life every step of the way. He has used many different circumstances and situations to work His plan in my life. I enjoy serving along with Bob as Awana Missionaries, as well as in our local church as a Ladies Sunday School class teacher and Sparks Director.