

*Marlin & Donna Fuller - fall 2007 - Anniversary 9/25/71*  
*B irthdates - Marlin 1/29 Donna 4/2*

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

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**THE FULLER'S - MINISTRY**

Marlin and Donna Fuller 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 31 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: NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA**

**NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN NY/PA USING AWANA: 504**

**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 Orientations.
4. We meet with our 3 Awana Ministry Teams and Event Specialists during the year.
5. We assist other Missionaries with their conferences.
6. With our Event Specialists we plan & conduct 9 AwanaGames reaching 3000-3500 people.
7. With our Ministry Team we plan and conduct several Sparks-A-Ramas.
8. Our Event Specialists hold Coaches and Judges Meetings prior to the AwanaGames.
9. We speak at year end Awana Banquets and Award Nights.
10. Our Ministry Teams hold 2 area wide Grand Prix races each fall.
11. With our Event Specialists we plan and conduct 7 Bible Quizzes each year.
12. We speak in Awana Club Council Times.
13. Marlin speaks in churches on Sundays.
14. We are involved in Missionary Conferences during the year.
15. We do club evaluations at Awana clubs.
16. Donna speaks and provides special music at Mother/Daughter Banquets.
17. We speak at special Parent's Nights.
18. We promote Awana, Youth emphasis, and strive to motivate leaders.
19. We make and receive over 200 phone calls and receive over 1000 e-mails per month.
20. We are in the Awana office nearly every morning and afternoon (and some evenings) writing letters making phone calls and doing all the necessary paperwork involved with ministry.
21. Marlin does pulpit supply when his schedule allows.
22. We travel over 40,000 miles per year.
23. We are always ready and willing to serve and answer questions that Pastors, Commanders, Directors, and Leaders have concerning Awana.
24. We have 1 Sparks Camp-a-Rama in the early summer.
25. We set up our Awana Open Golf Tournament.
26. Every few years we are involved in an Awana Missions trip to further train our foreign Awana missionaries, speak at their Leadership Conferences, speak in their clubs and meet with some of their pastors and leaders. We have assisted our missionaries and visited clubs in Brazil, Australia, Canada, The Bahamas, Aruba and Japan.
27. We meet with our Teen Ministry Specialists, Don & Cheryl DeVinney as they coordinate teen events.
28. We have partnered with our Japanese Awana Missionaries and do much with them.

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**Leisure Activities:** Marlin - spending time with our kids and 8 grandchildren, traveling, reading Christian novels, playing golf, watching NASCAR, watching football, biking.  
Donna - spending time with our kids, being a grandma, playing the piano, shopping, reading, watching NASCAR).

**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  
\*Need to raise additional support to cover cost of Donna working in the office.

### 2007 Highlights:

January, February, March and April were filled with Outreach Events across New York and Pennsylvania.

In April, we both assisted at Summit07 in Denver, Colorado. There were 1500 high schoolers from around the United States at the four day event.

We had 3 Awana Leadership Conferences 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 need to raise about \$850 more support a month. Churches facing financial difficulties and Donna working in the office have raised our expenses.

**Some of our Goals:** To see decisions made when the message is given at Bible Quizzing AwanaGames, Sparks-A-Ramas & Grand Prixes. To have even more clubbers involved in our Bible Quizzing.

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OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT STATUS  
AS OF SEPTEMBER 2007

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. We currently need about \$850 more monthly support.

WHAT IS COVERED THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

Housing, Salary, Health Insurance, Car Insurance, Home Insurance, Life Insurance, Umbrella Insurance Policy, Taxes, Travel Expenses, Communications (phone, fax, e-mail), Office Supplies, Postage, Equipment Purchases & Repairs, Printing, Promotion, Rentals, Gifts (10% of our support goes into a fund at Headquarters for administrative and field projects).

Inventory Purchases, Supplies from Headquarters, 401-K, Western Pennsylvania and Western New York Teen Ministry Specialists Travel Expenses, Salary for our Part-Time Office Assistant and other misc. Awana expenses. A portion of our support also goes towards our Awana Missionary Conferences.

We receive zero financial support from Awana Headquarters and have to raise our support from churches 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.

## *Marlin & Donna Fuller - 2007*

### **Family News**

Our three children are now grown, married and we have eight grandchildren.

Brandt & Keri Fuller (in the white) live in Boca Raton, Florida. They have three children: Max who is 5, is quite the thinker and then the twin girls, Paige and Kamryn are 3 years old. They are really cute girls. Brandt is the worship pastor and program director at Spanish River Church, a large church in Boca Raton, Florida. Keri is a very busy mom and has put her nursing career on hold but loves to scrapbook.



Mick and Michelle McKeown (in the blue) live in Johnson City, NY and attend Davis College. Mick is a counseling major and works fulltime as the Café Manager at the college. Michelle an early childhood education major. They have two sons, Gabriel (5), a Spark and London (4) a Cubbie. Gabriel is our miracle grandchild having received a pacemaker when he was 2 days old. Michelle is the T&T Girls Secretary.

Eric and Harmony Flint (in the orange) live in Johnson City, NY with their three children, Kala(5) a Sparky, Kole, a Cubbie (3) and Kodi(18 months). Eric is the Children's Director at First Baptist Church, Johnson City, NY and Harmony is the Choral Director. Eric and Harmony are very involved with Awana as Commander and Director respectively. They are expecting baby #4 in March.

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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 disciplined 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.

## *Marlin & Donna Fuller - 2006*

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

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#### Personal Testimony - Rev. Marlin Fuller

In 1952 I was born into the family of Titus and Florence Fuller. I am thankful for a Christian family and upbringing.

As a child we attended Sunday School and church regularly, affording many opportunities to hear the Gospel. It was during one of those times as a child that I came to the place in my life when I realized the truths of Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23, that I was a sinner deserving of God's judgment – Hell. But, I also realized that Jesus loved me and gave His life for me (I Peter 2:24, John 3:16) and that is when I accepted Christ as my Savior and became a part of the family of God.

I continued to attend Sunday School, Church and Awana regularly, becoming more and more involved in our local church – Harpursville Baptist in Harpursville, NY.

As a junior in High School I began teaching the third grade class in Sunday School and was also a Pals leader in our Awana program. I also brought 10-15 kids to church and Awana each week in my 1966 Chevy Nova and began to get a real burden to reach others for the Lord.

During my senior year in High School I continued teaching in Sunday School and working in Awana. The directors of our youth group moved away and I was asked to become the director of our teen program and also became the assistant Sunday School Superintendent. I graduated in June of 1970 from Harpursville Central School in Harpursville, New York.

In December of 1970 I was engaged to Donna Weiss and we began making wedding plans and also plans to serve the Lord in some type of ministry. We were married the following year. At that time I was serving as a deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Director and Awana Leader.

In July of 1973 we moved to Savannah, Ohio to begin our fulltime ministry as youth and associate pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, working closely with Rev. Ron Merrill.

In 1975 we attended Practical Bible College (now Davis College) where I majored in Bible, preparing for our work as Missionaries with Awana Clubs International. In May of 1976 we were accepted as Awana Missionaries and assigned to New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island where we were working with 35 churches. We served there until May of 1978 when we took a one year leave of absence to return to Savannah, Ohio to help in the establishing of the Awana program and to rebuild a strong teen ministry outreach. We were able to see our teen group grow from 18 to over 70 teens a week when we left. Many were saved and over 20 went on to Bible School with many serving today as pastors, Christian school teachers, missionaries, evangelists and in other areas of Christian ministry.

In May of 1979 we began again as Awana Missionaries and are grateful that the Lord is allowing us to serve Him as in this capacity in Western New York and Western Pennsylvania.

Commissioned – June 13, 1976 – Harpursville Baptist Church – Harpursville, New York

Ordained – November 21, 1978 – Bethel Baptist Church – Savannah, Ohio

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#### Personal Testimony – Donna Fuller

Being born into an unsaved family, I don't remember many of my early years. I do remember when my mom was saved and baptized in 1959. She is the one who started taking my two brothers and me to Sunday School and Church. My dad said he was a Christian the first 27 years of his life and that was enough.

Shortly after that we moved to the country and started attending church in Harpursville, New York. In 1963 during Vacation Bible School I accepted Christ as my Savior. That fall I started attending Awana at our church, being invited by the Pastor's daughter.

During my pre-teen and teen years I was faithful and active in my church. While in High School I began teaching Sunday School, worked with the music, sang in the choir and enjoyed my years in Awana working as a leader. Not until my senior year in high school did I notice a fellow named Marlin Fuller. We dated and then were married September 25, 1971.

I had always wanted to be a pastor's wife. We had planned on going to Bible School in the fall of 1973, but the Lord sent us to an assistant pastorate position in Ohio. We were there a total of 3 years and I received my teaching from the Word from our Sr. Pastor, Ron Merrill.

We felt the Lord was calling us to serve as Awana Missionaries but first needed Bible School Training. We went to Bible School and were accepted in May of 1976 as missionaries to New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island. We are now serving as missionaries to Western Pennsylvania and Western New York. We have been in this general area since 1979 and love the work and people.

I love to speak at Mother-Daughter Teas, Banquets, Ladies retreat, meetings and serve alongside my husband.

God has blessed me with the ability to play the piano and sing. I love to use my music to serve the Lord whenever possible.