

*Integrating Missions
into your
Awana Club Ministry*



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“Not only do our children need to be enriched by godly heroes through book and videos, they need to be around real, live, flesh-and-blood people.”

-John and Susan Yates Character Matters

Missions Education An Integrated Approach

Children and young people are at an impressionable period of their lives. Most of God's servants on the mission field today and in the pulpits committed themselves to the Lord's work prior to or during their teenage years. In fact, studies show 85% made these decisions between the ages of 8 to 14.

We as Awana leaders have a tremendous opportunity to impact these young lives with God's plan to save the world...Missions! It is critical to encourage involvement through education, hands-on activities, prayer, and personal contact with missionaries. If the Lord tarries, may many of our young people be called into full time Christian ministries. May all be great witnesses through their words and deeds.

This booklet is to just open your eyes to the opportunities for participation in mission's education. Let's help this generation of young people to develop a deeper understanding of others' needs. Allow your mind to wander to opportunities and experiences to share God's heart for the world with your clubbers! May you be the catalyst!

Closing Thoughts:

Think over what is currently being done for mission's education in your club. Set some goals for increased involvement and emphasis on missions. Develop strategies to reach those goals. Define who, what, where, why, and hows it will be done.

"Last year over 13 million people died, never once hearing the good news of Jesus Christ...A recent United Nations report projects that more than four billion children will be born in the next 25 years. About 87 million children were born into unevangelized homes just last year...must impact them (children) with the needs, obstacles, joys and rewards of being part of missions in this millennium."

[taken from CEF article *Mission Trends for Kids* by Sylvia Foth]

Remember the challenge in Romans 10 how will they know...unless they hear. This booklet prayerfully has given you ideas on how to help children all over the world hear by teaching our children to H.E.A.R.:

H = affect their heart

E= educate their minds

A= adapt and apply to your church with hands-on activities

R= ready to go.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Special note of thanks to Aquilla Smith, Consultant/Specialist for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware for her guidance and suggestions.

Resources

Missions Made Fun for Kids, by Elizabeth Whitney Crise, Accent Publishing, Colorado Springs, CO., 1993

Mission Ideas, Sacred Literature Ministries Pub., compiled by Matthew Diachenko, c. 1976

Fun Around the World, by Mary Branson, New Hope, c.1992

52 Ways To Teach Missions, by Rainbow Books, c.1991

You Can Change the World, by Jill Johnstone, WEC International

The Kid's Multicultural Art Book*, by Alexandra M. Terzian, Williamson Pub., c.1993

Hands Around the World*, by Susan Milford, Williamson Pub., c.1992

Do You Hear What I Hear?, New Hope, c.1994

I Dare, Missiongram, CEF Press, c.1971

Some Ways to do Missions Education, Aquilla Smith

Building Great Commission Kids, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, PO Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO

See Southern Baptist publications, www.namb.net
www.imb.org

See CEF Catalog, www.cefpres.com

See Heroes of the Faith series, many books on missionary heroes, Barbour Pub.

Awana Clubs International www.awana.org

Wycliffe Bible Translators www.wycliffe.org

Youth With A Mission, www.ywam.org

Operation Mobilization, omusa.org

Gospel Publishing House Springfield, MO

*not Christian resources

What's included in this pamphlet?

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General Hints:

- Open all senses to missions
- Takes effort to expose them but worth it
- Foster a love for missions
- Modify to fit needs based on age, ability
- Hands-on experiences best
- Make them interesting and often
- Individual, club, or ministry involvement
- Ministry wide or church wide emphasis
- In club or outside club activities
- Gather resources including media-driven ones
- Utilize gifts, talents, availability, desire, burden, and passion of leaders and clubbers
- Communication is the key!
- Put a face on missions
- Goal is to create interest and involvement in missions through education.

Note: See list of resources

Missions Resources

- See countries and number children being reached through Awana Ministries at www.awana.org. Then go to Reach Kids , click on global outreach.
- Awana Missions Month ideas and lesson- www.awana.org/go
- See <http://awanalifeline.org/> for resources to help children of incarcerated parents
- See these websites for additional lesson helps.
 - www.childrensministry.org
 - <http://akidsheart.com>
 - www.kidssundayschool.com
 - www.incm.org
 - www.berean.org/bibleteacher/index.html
 - bibleschoolmaterials.blogspot.com/2007/04/missions.html
 - <http://www.wycliffe.org/Resources/Kids/FreeCurriculum.aspx>
 - <http://www.kidstalkaboutgod.org/?TabId=64>

Try typing “teaching children about missions” in your internet search engine.

Outreach Opportunities:

- Reach out to community around church.
- Plastic or cloth bags filled with small sizes of personal hygiene articles like toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, etc. Be sure to add trac, Bible, map to church, list of service times and phone number, calendar of events, and ministries offered.
- Collect items for church ministry outreaches and mission projects. Join with church in their efforts.
- Consider collecting items for new Moms, food pantry, clothes closet, unwed Moms. Look around for needs in area.
- Awana Store...stock with items that can be sent to missionary children or missionary as gifts. Allow to trade in shares for money to be given to the missionary.
- Gift wrap at mall during Christmas. Offer the service free of charge and give out tracs along with information about church programs coming up.
- Adopt a missionary family at holiday time. Collect and wrap gifts to mail.
- Sponsor a missionary family while they are home on furlough. Provide for their essentials.
- Sponsor missionary children or young people who are stateside for school.
- Sponsor an exchange or international student who is here for school.



Seasonal Ideas

- Christmas giving tree with gift ideas for missionary Shoe bag with 9-12 pockets, fill pockets with small gifts for missionary children at Christmas
- Valentine's Day...make prayer heart and pray
- October...send note saying thankful for harvest of souls
- November...send Thank-you notes
- December...learn about customs of mission supported countries. Who has eel for Christmas?
- March...fly kite and focus on Japan/China
- April...prayer requests in plastic eggs, open and pray
- Prepare a mission calendar to emphasize something different each month.
- Mission Emphasis---allow clubber to decorate a sock. Give prizes for most beautiful sock, most creative, most colorful, etc. Talk about what the Bible says about the feet of those who tell the good news. [CEF]
- Make prayer bracelets with name, country, etc. on them. Wear them as a reminder. [Like the MIA bracelets] People and people groups who need to hear God's Word. Use globe, heart, and letter beads.
- Allow clubbers to wear or bring a favorite hat, doll, or stuffed animal to club. Share why it is their favorite and name a country where the hat is worn or animal lives. Pray for that country and missionary.
- Allow them to make bookmarks with mission facts and laminate them for durability. Use in Bibles as reminders to pray.
- Make a prayer box...cover shoebox with mission pictures, facts, etc. Inside store items that will remind clubbers of missionaries. Take item/s out in large group time and pray for that missionary.

Opportunities to help your Awana missionary:

- Collect leader dues to help support financially
- Showers...food, household items, paper, office supplies
- Old fashioned pounding...bring a pound of different items to club
- Bring items of your color team, make it into a contest...blue mouthwash, green (apple) shampoo, red drink mix, yellow bananas, to name a few.
- Remember to pray for your missionaries
- Take part in annual Awana Missions Month

Offering or dues:

Goal—to introduce early the responsibility to give money toward missions.

- Encourage use of Awana GO resources where kids can give to kids who have never heard the gospel.
- Designate one club night per month as mission's night. Offering/dues collected that night go to missions. See Awana ministry catalog.
- Publicize special projects and needs of missionaries so clubbers can give.
- Allow children to turn in their Awana shares to purchase missionary biographies, mission books, supplies for mission trips, and/or back to money for missionaries.

Service Opportunities:

Parent and church approval is important.

- Collect teddy bears or make teddy bears. Other stuffed animals also are good. Give to rescue personnel to help in time of emergencies.
- Bring new or good, clean used toys and clothes to send to missionary children, children's homes, etc. Always check prior to sending packages overseas.
- Be a peer tutor or baby sitter for community.
- Help to update prayer lists, letters, newsletters to missionaries and their children using computer. Many missionaries send over their letters and need someone to copy, mail, or send them by email. Some even need the sent material rewritten decoding the text first.
- Use the computer to gather information about mission fields and WebPages.
- Cookie ministry...get together to make recipes from around the world. Share about missionaries while making cookies. Deliver to nursing homes, police, fire, ambulance, daycare, hospital, etc. Call ahead to make arrangements. Consider giving to a homeless shelter...food, clothing, bedding. Variation...hospitals, jails, retirement homes, nursing homes.

Publicity:

- Bulletin Board Display...utilize to inform and educate. "Missionary Spotlight" where different missionary is highlighted each month. Have pocket where fact, prayer, and praise sheets can be placed to be taken home.
- Bulletin Board..."Look what God is doing in _____" Keep updated. Have a map with push pins locating missionaries
- Ask leaders to collect mission related items for clubbers to use such as magazines, news clippings, letters, emails, etc. Posters and items from travel agencies, teaching stores, libraries, schools, yard stores, thrift stores too.

Game Time cont'd.

- Go on a scavenger hunt where items are on a mission theme. What a missionary would need to share the gospel in his country. List the items or better yet, give clues that must first be solved.
- Guess that missionary: Sign on back of clubber naming a church supported missionary, country, etc. Clubber tries to guess answer by asking questions that can only be answered yes or no.
- Play game with inflated globe instead of a ball.
- Play Body alphabet...Call out letter of alphabet. All clubbers on team must work to form that letter. Once formed, they have to yell out a country that begins with that letter. If they can name the missionary serving there, give extra points. [From June Holland -MD.]
- "A Light in the Night" - all clubbers blindfolded except for one. All others must try to find and touch the unblindfolded child who stands for the "light." Find the "light" and hold on to for the rest of the game. Each clubber who finds "light" or one holding onto that original clubber adds to the chain of clubbers. Object is to get every child holding on to the chain of clubbers that leads to the "light."
- Play a matching game where facts about the missionary, their country, organization, work, family, etc. is shared. The clubbers try to match the missionary to the information you tell. Give points to teams that answer correctly. Facts written on paper slips. Run up grab a slip of paper, run back to team line for help. When have answer run up to game guy, give answer, if correct, run back and tag next clubber. Next clubber repeats process
- Prayer game...prayer requests hidden in container of sand or rice. Clubber runs up, digs for prayer and brings back to line.
- Relay race...using native dress articles and items, run and pick up an item/article put it on or carry it back to line. Continue till all items gone or all clubbers have played.

- Encourage them to write missionary children, send along tape with songs and talking. Request missionary to send back with message, maybe even children from their area of service singing and talking.
- Allow to learn "mission verses" for extra points or shares. Always connect verse to mission focus. See if other verses they are learning have a mission application. Be sure to share if they do.
- Make own mission puzzles by covering map of area, missionary photos, facts, etc. then laminating and cutting into puzzle pieces. Allow putting together when verses said or while waiting for turn.
- Make placemat design for mission or other church banquet. Can run off on copier. Also make flags to use for decorations.
- Make mission mobile, collage, etc. to share with club during large group time. Encourage clubber to pick a missionary based on what they are interested in... country of origin/heritage, know missionary, interested in country of service, etc.
- Make prayer reminders...prayer wheel, cube, box, paper chain, bookmark, doorknob hanger, flag, etc. Have supplies available for when verses done. Use stickers or pictures for non-readers.

Game Time

- Have an activity night where native crafts from targeted missionary country are made.
- Play games from around the world or focus on just one country. Piñatas are fun!
- Play game where clubbers pantomime job, daily tasks of missionary. Others try to guess. Pray for missionary too.



- Have a missions hat night where the hats worn designate a certain country. For example: sombrero for Mexico, veil for Middle East, yarmulke for Israel, fur hat for Russia.
- E-mail and/or newsletter letting clubber and families know of upcoming mission focus and activities.
- Bulletin insert...introduce and increase anticipation of mission event with puzzles, word searches, codes, verses to unscramble, True/False questions about missionary.

Specials

- Celebrate Missions Month using Awana GO resources.
- contests with missions as the focus. Maybe a poster contest publicizing upcoming mission activity, or see which club can raise enough money to match the weight of highlighted missionary. Or could match the weight of clubbers in each club to see who can raise the most for a mission project. Could give missionary biography as prize if individual or for club country themed party.
- On occasion have the dues go to child-oriented mission need
- Make a jigsaw puzzle with missionary information or photo. Cover with contact paper or laminate. Then cut into puzzle pieces. As the offering comes in, add puzzle pieces while clubbers try to guess who is depicted. Can do same thing but only have intact photo under the puzzle pieces. As blank puzzle pieces are removed, it reveals more and more of the photo.
- Have a MISSIONS FAIR where booths, food, costumes, etc. are set up to educate while having fun.
- Decorate handbook/large group (council time) room like the country of the missionary you are learning about.
- Do mural of children on a wall
- Learn about traditions, traits, climate, toys, food, games, music, etc of another country.

Specials cont'd

- Story Hut...Set up house of missionary's country as backdrop, sit on floor, eat food, learn songs, customs, etc.
- Clubbers can give missionary update in club or church, explain they are collecting things to encourage entire church involvement, develop design and information for insert in bulletin
- Missionary moment in club to share missionary update. Give shares or special mission item (bookmark, sticker) to clubber who prepares and delivers information.
- Parade of flags...learn John 3:16 or different gospel verse in languages of missionary countries supported by church. Hold flag and recite in language. If country supported has no Bible in their language hold flag in silence. Also hold a solid black flag to represent those nations and tribes with no scripture in their heart language. Play song in background like Song of the Nations

Awana Specific Ideas

- Ideas books for mission ideas for youth.
- Friendship Evangelism—get clubbers involved through *The Great Shake-up*. Go to A.R.T. from Awana web page for lots of great ideas and resources
- Clubbers learn and participate in Awana GO.
- Leader meeting and mission lesson...during large group (council time) one leader shares a mission story while other leaders go to prayer and planning meeting with club director. Rotate to different clubs each week. Leader who shared idea says it works great because everyone benefits.
- Invite your Awana missionary to come...have the questions from their handbooks printed out with lines for answers.



Small Group [Handbook] Time

- Assign missionary of church or mission board to do research on, come back prepared to give report
- Make a missionary note/scrapbook and display. Consider giving extra shares or points for extra effort like adding a flag, native materials, currency, letters, map, photos, etc.
- Encourage Pen Pals or Mission Friends. Read responses during large group time, praying for needs. Have a hand made mailbox or other suitable place to place completed letters available. Mail the letters for the clubbers as some countries have special requirements. Be sure to do nothing that would endanger your missionaries.
- Develop a Club missionary notebook where your adopted missionary information is kept. Clubbers write to as individuals or jointly when verses are done. Allow clubbers to read reply when it comes in. Try to match clubbers to missionary family who has children same age of your clubbers.
- Have clubbers learn a Bible verse in different language. Let them choose to say or write it. Book #1 T&T
- Interview a missionary for T&T Ultimate Adventure, Book #1 Discovery 8:4, page 141[page 78 in T&T Ultimate Challenge Book #1]. Allow them to share it in large group time.
- See *PowerUp* resources on Awana webpage.

Celebrations cont'd.

- Celebrate unique holidays of countries where your missionaries serve, such as St. John the Baptist Day in the Philippines...use as time to point them to Christ
- Mission Fair...Set up booths and exhibits depicting missionary service areas. Serve traditional refreshments. Play typical games of area. Give out information. Time of fun and education. See *How to Conduct a Successful Missions Festival from A to Z* by Dale Burley
- Harvest Party...dress up in missions outfit and share about area. Serve seasonal food and play games.
- Family Night Out...games from countries, mission skits, watch mission video. Time of discussion and prayer to end night.
- Fashion Show...Dress up in native country attire/hat and share what the 'best dressed' native is wearing. Can do the same thing with what a missionary looks like or a Christian looks like. Find clothes at thrift stores, yard sales, second hand stores, etc.
- Serve missions sandwich to teens...slices of *Swiss* cheese, *German sauerkraut*, *Irish corned beef*, *California lettuce*, *Italian tomatoes*, and *kosher* dill pickles. Come up with own ideas.
- Foreign Missions Night...Progressive dinner where food is served from different countries while clubbers learn about that country. Option...serve food from one country while missionary from that country shares their work, needs, praises. Variation...do regressive dinner.
- Have a Future Missionary Meeting...set up like Future businessmen and teacher meetings. Special event and attendance must be earned. Set up requirements and plan something extra special.

Large Group (Council) Time:

- Emphasize different current missionary each week or month by doing a missions spotlight. Spend a few moments sharing about them, their area then pray for the needs of the missionary.
- Pick a missionary from the past and spend entire large group (council time) on them. Show how God worked in their lives, be sure to focus message on unsaved and saved. CEF has excellent resources here.
- Pick a current missionary and do entire lesson on them. If they are home on furlough, have them come and share. Add visuals and items of interest. Take clubbers or club photo with missionaries for own personal prayer card.
- Pick missionary based on their birthday month, need, or church emphasis. Lottie Moon for Christmas, Annie Armstrong for Easter, etc.
- *Voice of the Martyrs* has downloadable resource for young people called *Kids of Courage* to help them know and understand needs of missionaries in countries as well as persecuted Christians.
- Talk show set up and interview missionary
- Use drama, character sketches, pantomime
- Take imaginary tours with passport. Be sure to use visuals that add interest and excitement like books, arts, crafts, mini-museum
- During your song time, pick songs with a mission emphasis, songs sung in other languages, traditional songs, hand motions, instruments common to land
- Learn phrases, Bible verse in another language
- Show mission videos like [Kids on Missions](#) [SBC], slide shows of previous mission trips.
- Start out time with tasting foods from missionary country. Talk about the unusual foods and lead into a discussion of other adjustments a missionary must make.

Large Group Time cont'd.

- *D.I.M.E., Backpack, Aware and Missions Matchfile* are available to Southern Baptist churches to use for mission lessons
- Bulletin Board...add to it each week or month. Allow clubbers to bring in items to share then add to board about missions or specific missionary.
- Set up room like church in foreign land. Example would be that all ladies sit on one side with men on the other side. Check with missionaries to see what is unique about their worship. Incorporate it into your large group time.
- Record a cassette tape of lesson and send to missionary. Have missionary record a message and send back. Great to have songs of children singing and welcome message. Fun to hear native tongue. Also puts a sound along with the faces. Helps with engaging the clubbers better.
- Prayer Ideas...calendar with prayer ideas, wheel with requests, email requests. Stop and pray for them.
- Start out time with tasting foods from missionary country. Talk about the unusual foods and lead into a discussion of other adjustments a missionary must make. Prayer is critical!
- Bring in current news stories...discuss what they think missionaries would or could do to help children in those areas. Discuss how children might be feeling. Current events could be from the neighborhood, community, state, or around the world.
- Go on a virtual tour of a mission field or a stay at home field trip. Make missions come alive!
- Search and Rescue skit...see *CMA Kids Mission Fest Module #1*
- See Group Publishing www.grouppublishing.com/ for 6 *Minute Messages for Children* by Donald Hinchey and *Clip & Tell Bible Stories* by Lois Keffer

Large Group Time cont'd.

- Teach children how to tell others about Jesus, using various gospel tracts, gospel wheel, wordless bracelet or book. Maybe even make their own to use or give away.
- M&M tote bag...plain tote bag filled with various M&M small bags of candy and red, blue, green, and yellow permanent markers. As clubber brings a friend, each sign the bag and choose an M&M treat. M&M stands for Mighty Missionary [from Leader's Digest].
- During prayer time for missions allow clubber praying to hold a doll, toy, stuffed animal, flag, or squeeze globe. Have the items appropriate for each country such as monkey from Africa, china doll from China.

Celebrations:

- Celebrate holidays in way missionary, country, or area would celebrate...decorations, food, customs, dress, music
- Celebrate birthdays of missionary family members especially club age children, send signed card from clubbers, send song cassette of clubbers singing to them.
- Encourage clubber to find missionary or missionary child with their birthday...write to them and learn about them, report back on them to club.
- Mission, Awana, or other church wide area banquet. Decorate each table from different missionary country, missions theme, and occupation of missionaries or needs of missionary. Make placemats with prayer and praise, map of area, etc. Make napkin rings with mission facts, name, location, etc.
- Missions Brunch with speaker sharing opportunities In community for children and youth to share Jesus through service or witness.