RESILIENT
Child discipleship and the fearless future of the church

Battle cry. Call to action. Whatever name you want to put to it, we who are in the children’s and youth discipleship arena are doing vital ministry. Future-directed ministry.

Enter, Resilient. Resilient is a book coming this February co-authored by Awana CEO Valerie Bell and VP of Partner Solutions Chris Marchand.

"This is about the future of the Church," Bell explains. "If we are going to shape the ongoing vitality of the Church in a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to the gospel, we need to disciple resilient kids who will be the fearless church leaders of the future."

As the global leader in child discipleship with over 70 years of ministry success, Awana is uniquely positioned to be a visionary voice for the church today and in the future.

Valerie and Chris are imploring churches to look at the shifting culture around us and to ask the question of what the Church will look like in 2050. "We are living in times of unprecedented change," Bell says. "The world is shifting and tilting towards an unknown future. And when it comes to our children, it’s as if we are launching a generation of kids to land in 2050 on an unknown and far-away planet. How can we possibly prepare them to survive and thrive in that foreign 2050 place? This we sense: the adults of the future church will need to be disciples as few modern generations before them have had to be. They will need fearless resilience. The greatest investment in the future of faith is the discipleship of our children."

The book will focus on three proven essential factors in shaping life-long faith:

Belonging – highly relational ministry led by loving and caring adults,

Believing – deeply spiritual ministry rooted in the truth of God’s Word and the power of the gospel, and

Becoming – truly experiential ministry, designed to move kids from simulation to real-world application of faith-based living.

Resilient will blend visionary philosophy with real-life resources that will cut through the clutter for ministry leaders like you to focus your energy on the most essential areas for shaping future leaders of the church.

For more information and updates on Resilient, please visit www.relisilientdisciples.com.
Kathy Brock — Her journey to being an Awana missionary

From Air Force ‘brat’ to Awana leader to missionary appointee

As a self-professed Air Force brat, Kathy Brock has had many steps along her life journey. But her next step (or giant leap!) might be the most inspiring — raising support to be a full time Awana missionary for North and South Carolina.

Kathy has lived in Cape Cod, Mass., Denver, Colo., Fort Walton Beach, Fla, and even the Philippines. But today, Kathy lives with her husband Randy in Pageland, S.C. And now she is seeing the Carolinas as the mission field God is calling her to in order to reach more children and families with the gospel as a faith-supported missionary with Awana.

Her Awana journey started over 10 years ago when she led the launch of Awana at her home church, Philadelphia Baptist in Marshville.

“I have always been passionate about Awana,” Brock says. “I love watching children learn how to memorize their verses and hide them in their hearts. I love watching them run around the game circle giggling and having fun. I love when they come to wherever I am anxious to tell me the new verse they just learned. I love that the missionaries keep the leaders updated on the new materials providing inspiration and encouragement.”

Her passion for the ministry is leading this grandmother of 10 to give up her job in the secular workplace to pursue a full time ministry position with Awana. A position that requires her to raise her support.

“I initially thought (being an Awana missionary) would be perfect for my daughter and her husband,” she recalls. “But she told me that she was not the one that was supposed to be the missionary. I'm the one who loved Awana. I'm the one that loves the training meetings. She was right. God was calling me. I can't think of any position that would be better than being an Awana missionary. I am so blessed that God chose me to be an Awana missionary.”

Please keep Kathy in prayer during this exciting and challenging time!

Joining Kathy’s team

You can be part of the answer to those prayers by donating to Kathy’s ministry at https://www.awana.org/donate-to-a-missionary/

You can also E-mail her at kathyb@awana.org to be added to her prayer list or plan a visit with her.

Carolinias Training Calendar:

Commander Connect 2020
TBD, Columbia area, SC
Jan. 25 from 9:30-3:30
Contact Bill Fugel for more info and to register at (864) 752-5126 or billf@awana.org
What is the Great GoMission? Start by looking at an overview here: https://www.awana.org/greatgomission

Resources (all free!) include lesson guides, videos, decorations, key verses and promotional materials. The complete kit of resources can be found at: https://awana.widencollective.com/portals/itza0kud/GreatGoMissionKit

The GoMission Kit connects to a flight theme including a Passport and Boarding Pass (below)

If you have questions, you can reach out at go@awana.org. You can also find out more about AwanaGO on their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/awanago/
In Our Own Words...

We have always shared with our ministry team that where there is great opportunity, there will often be (if not always be) great resistance. In these past few months, we have seen great resistance to the ministry in so many ways, particularly in shipping issues, as our adversary has “roamed about as a roaring lion” (I Peter 5:8).

We have told our team, this is going to be a GREAT Awana Club year for “greater is HE who is in us” (1 John 4:4). And, in spite of the “issues” we are seeing we have told our team, this is going to be a GREAT Awana club year for “greater is HE who is in us” as we reach more children and their families for HIS glory.

Praise the LORD for “greater is HE who is in us” as we reach more children and their families for HIS glory. And, please let us know how we can be of assistance.

You SO belong here. That was the phrase on the backs of our Awana Conference shirts this year. I love the sense of belonging we had at our conference, and I hope that sense of unity and belonging will extend to your Awana club as well — for children and volunteers.

Church ministries, and especially Awana, are at their best when everyone feels safe and that they belong. Every volunteer has an important role to fill (no one is “just” anything!). And every kid who comes into our ministry is ready to be known and loved for exactly the person they are. They SO belong here. And so do you! Thank you for your involvement in engaging children and youth in lifelong discipleship! I hope you will exude love and belonging to all the children, parents and co-laborers in ministry.

We are so thankful for the churches like yours using Awana to help children and youth to know, love and serve Jesus! We have helped 16 churches launch Awana for the first time this fall, and have had countless other web meetings, phone calls, texts and emails with ministry leaders. It’s so encouraging to hear the difference each Awana club makes in the lives of young people.

Please keep our family in your prayers as we juggle ministry, kids schedules and family down time.

Using teaching moments to instruct our students and children helps in developing a Biblical worldview. Being afraid and being in fear are similar but contrasting concepts. We are to fear the Lord, but not be afraid of what man can do to us, see Psalm 56:11. A story from a few years past, when I (Al) was a small group leader in Awana, is somewhat funny but a good illustration.

The room we were meeting in was a small kitchen in the church building, just below grade. The windows looked out just above level and when a person was short-cutting past the building, we could only see his feet and lower legs. For some reason, one of the kids panicked and ran for the door to the fellowship hall. Immediately, the other guys followed him to the door. That door opened into the kitchen, so there was a pile-up of boys, all trying to get the door open, pulling it towards themselves. What a mess with no one going anywhere! After I got them calmed down, we could make this verse more real in the lives of these boys.

Please pray for new Awana leaders in ministry this year. Being in leadership for the first time can be scary. Also remember in prayer for us for safety and health.

Equipping Season

We have had a blast equipping leaders over the past few months. We have conducted 4 Awana Basics trainings with 164 leaders attending. These leaders have a potential to reach over 820 kids this year. Along with that we conducted an Awana Ministry Director training with 10 ministry directors attending. They will impact 400 kids this year alone. That’s 1200 kids that will be engaged in lifelong discipleship!

One of my favorite parts of conducting trainings is seeing new Awana leaders come in not really sure of what to do in Awana and somewhat reluctant about the importance of their role in ministry, but by the end of the training they are filled with an excitement to reach kids. They see their role as vital in reaching kids today. We also see leaders who have been doing Awana for years come in wondering if this will be their last year serving in Awana; but by the end of the day they leave encouraged.

For part of our training we ask how many kids they want to reach through their ministry. It is always great to hear the responses especially when a leader catches the vision to reach more kids. West Edgecombe Baptist Church caught that vision and has set a goal to impact 1,000 kids through the children’s ministry this year. Pray that every church would catch that vision!