

Ways To Help Your AWANA Missionaries

"As every man hath received the gift, even so, minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Peter 4:10

Before you can begin to minister to them and with them, you must get to know them. Be sure and get one of their Prayer Cards. These cards have important information about them and their family. It has their names, birthdays, and anniversary dates on the back.

Listed below are ways to help your A W ANA missionaries Chad & Karen Smith. They are in no particular order of importance, except for item number one. Also included are a few ways of doing some of them.

PRAYER.....James 5:16 *"Therefore confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

They need your consistent prayers more than anything else. They need prayer for the ministry, and also for them as a family.

Chad spends many days on the road and is separated from his family. Pray that God will keep their family (Karen, Christopher, Deanna) strong.

Consider being a "**Prayer Partner**" by praying for them on a regular basis. Ask them for specific prayer requests, or if they have a "**Prayer List**" so that you can be better informed as to their specific prayer needs.

Individual Financial Support..... II Cor. 8:13,14 *"For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye be burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality."*

As an individual, or as a family, decide on a one-time gift or a monthly commitment to help with their financial support. If you decide on a one-time gift, ask when that support would be needed the most. There are some months when their support is lower than others and thus needed more.

Group Financial SupportPhil. 4:16 *"For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. "*

As a church or an AWANA Club decide on a one time gift or a monthly commitment.

One-time gift examples....

Penny Drive

Free will offering at Special Events

Section-A-Thon (\$.25 per section for a designated period of time).

Food Pounding

Monthly Commitment (Regular Support currently at 60%)....

Approach your missions board at church and ask if your church would help support it's AWANA missionaries as an outreach of your church.

Leader's Dues go to the AWANA missionaries.

Office Supplies....

They can always use copy paper, postage stamps, legal pads, pens, post-it note pads, etc.

Ask them for specific needs in this area.

You could have your clubbers bring in these items. This encourages them in helping support their missionaries.

Household Supplies....

Their family, like yours, uses household supplies. These cost money, so if they receive them as gifts, they don't have to buy them. Anything you use in your home, they more than likely use in theirs.

Check with Karen and ask about personal preferences. They might have allergies.

Print a list and give it to the leaders and clubbers so that they will know what to bring.

Food....

We have all developed the habit of eating, and would like to maintain it on a regular basis. They're not fussy eaters, but they do like to eat. Canned and dried items are the easiest to transport. Some cheese products (Velveta, Cheez Whiz, etc. need not be refrigerated until opened. Ice cream tends to melt, and frozen fish tends to thaw and stink unless packed in ice or a cooler.

Get a list of foods they like. Try not to provide too much of one item. Bring in home-grown fruits and veggies.

Consider getting them a grocery store gift certificate rather than meats and other frozen items. Find out which stores in their area they shop for groceries.

Expenses....

Being on the road as much as they are, they incur many various expenses.

Open your home to them or offer to pay for their motel and meal expenses. Offer to fill their gas tank or give them a gas station gift card.

Take them out to dinner or better yet, treat them to a home cooked meal.

Furnish coffee and donuts at one of the meetings, i.e. P.C.D, Coaches/Judges.

Check out the tires on their vehicle. Can you see the air in the tires?

Ask about clothing needs. Get their individual sizes.

Offer your plumbing, carpentry, mechanical, computer services.

Get-Away.. ..

They are not allowed to be out of their territory very often, and as with a pastor, if they are home, they are at work. They need times of refreshment.

Designate a financial gift for personal use (Vacation).

Offer to send them on a couples retreat.

If you have a mountain cabin or vacation home, offer it to them for a few days.

Offer to take care of their pets, or the expense of a kennel.

Special Days....

On birthdays, their anniversary, Christmas, graduations, send them a card or small gift to let them know that they are loved and appreciated.

Designate monetary gifts if you want it used for a specific purpose. All monetary gifts should be sent to AWANA headquarters. They will get your gift.

Send them a gift certificate. This can be sent to them at their home address. Gifts are not tax deductible.

Special Interests....

Find out the special interests of each family member. What are their hobbies, sports interests, books, etc?

Chad and Karen both like to read Christian fiction books.

Ministry Work....

There are several events taking place during the year. If you wait until the event occurs, their minds are probably on many other things. **Volunteer In Advance.**

Offer to teach a workshop at one of the conferences.

Help with Basic Training at one of the new clubs in your area.

Help set up and clean up at the AWANA Games, Bible Quiz, or GPX.

Be a Circle Director or Line Judge at the AWANA Games.

Work at the Sales table. Collect entrance fees. Work at the Registration Table.

If you are a woodworker, ask if you can make some ministry items for them.

Food and desserts are always welcome at the area meetings.

Periodic e-mail or letters of encouragement.

Specific Needs....

Ask what their specific needs are. As missionaries, they have to be very careful in asking for things. The IRS can consider their asking as soliciting, which is illegal. If you, on the other hand, ask what they need, they are allowed to answer.

Give them a price range. They won't tell you they need a lap top computer unless you let them know that you have a large gift intent. .

Give them a category (Office, Household, Car, Family).

Don't insist on an immediate answer. Give them a few days or so.

Why Multiple Church Projects....

The benefit of receiving more money in order to purchase the larger ministry items.

Spread the blessings of the giving throughout a broader base of people.

Gives your children the realization that the missionary outreach is not just done by them and for them. It takes Christians working together to accomplish the task of supporting and helping missions.

Others....

This area is for you to fill in. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to help in whatever ways you can. Sometimes they may just need someone to be there to listen and love them regardless of their human frailties.