The Awana ministry is ***all about Jesus***.

I think the way we are centered on the Gospel, rooted in Scripture and focused on discipling kids is why Awana is experiencing tremendous growth in almost every area of our ministry — especially in a time when the tides of secularism are rushing in. To God be the glory; we have much to be thankful for.

Much like a stockholder of a for-profit company receives shareholder reports as an investor, I felt you needed to know about the following because you are invested as a ministry leader, a parent, a volunteer, a donor or a pastor.

Together, with you, we are so thankful that God is at work in big and exciting ways! Let’s look at some of the highlights together:

* **16% Growth** – Since COVID-19, Awana has grown by 16% in weekly child discipleship engagement. (Our chief metric!)
* **5.6 Million Children** – Before COVID-19, Awana was engaging 4,852,828 children weekly, and now Awana engages 5,685,970 children on a weekly basis in Bible-focused, child discipleship ministries.
* **Awana Works** – More and more people are less impressed by how entertaining a ministry is, and they just want to know if it’s effective at discipling children. Check out our [2021 U.S. Awana Impact Study](https://go.pardot.com/e/36072/s-tlrsdhbf5s-us-impactstudy/wbmffv/817282825?h=U71GQ8suT9Fdt6L_sp7nG5jYgJannPZOiIPNcDYEwek) and our [2023 International Impact Study](https://go.pardot.com/e/36072/vprn-international-impactstudy/wbmffy/817282825?h=U71GQ8suT9Fdt6L_sp7nG5jYgJannPZOiIPNcDYEwek) (conducted by an independent third party, Excellence in Giving).
* **U.S. Church Growth at 5% in 2023** – An increasing number of U.S. churches are looking to Awana as their child discipleship partner of choice. We give God glory for significant U.S. church growth two years in a row.
* **72,584 Churches Globally** – The real heroes of Awana are the church leaders, volunteers, parents and pastors doing the work of child discipleship in their local communities. Just two years ago, Awana partnered with 64,131 churches, and today that number is 72,584 churches. That’s over 13% growth in church partners in just the past two years alone!
* **New Awana Weekend Ministry up by 40%** – From June 2022 to June 2023, the new Awana weekend kids’ ministry called [Brite Curriculum](https://go.pardot.com/e/36072/2023-07-25/wbmfg2/817282825?h=U71GQ8suT9Fdt6L_sp7nG5jYgJannPZOiIPNcDYEwek)TM grew by 40% in church partners. This trajectory in Brite ministry partners follows a 25% church partner growth in that same time period between 2021–2022.
* **Donations up 114% from 2019** – In 2019, Awana received $3.8 million in global ministry donations. In 2023 our donor partners gave $8.15 million in donations. This sharp increase over the past four years is because donors are deeply concerned about what’s happening to our children! They are looking for ministries to invest in that are addressing how our culture is aggressively forming kids, and Awana is pushing back with the love of the Gospel, a deep devotion to Scripture and proven child discipleship ministries.
* **Awana Growing in Europe –** Just a few years ago, Awana only had *one* church in Norway. Now [Awana Norway](https://go.pardot.com/e/36072/p-Cu7WzWmucyx--hl-en/wbmfg5/817282825?h=U71GQ8suT9Fdt6L_sp7nG5jYgJannPZOiIPNcDYEwek) is partnering with 185 churches and is working on a plan to expand into other Northern European countries!
* **Awana in the Public School System in Africa –** Over the past few year’s, Awana has been invited into the public school system in several African countries. This time last year Awana was ministering to 586,678 public school kids in Africa. Thanks to the prayers and donations of our ministry partners, you have added fuel to the tank, and we are now engaging a total of 801,252 children in 2,675 schools. Praise God, that’s a growth of 73%!

As I sit back and read this, I ask, “Who do we have to thank for such encouraging news?” First and foremost, we thank God, our heavenly Father, the giver of all good gifts! Next, I thank you, our ministry partners – parents, grandparents, kids’ pastors, ministry volunteers, mentors, donor partners and pastors. Your time, your effort, your prayers and donations are fueling child discipleship, and it’s worth the effort.

Rather than letting the darkness of secularism overwhelm our children, you are pushing back with the light of the Gospel and Child Discipleship. We are grateful to be your partner in what we believe is the most important work on the planet. Jesus said, *“… Let the little children come to me. …” (Matthew 19:14)*  Thanks to you, they are. Now that’s really good news.

Discipling a Resilient Generation,

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated  
Matt Markins     
President and CEO