

May You Be Strengthened by this Anointed message of the Past!

Re-evaluating your goals!

Several years ago I was visited by a man who had a deep concern for reaching the boys and girls of the community of his church. He was an active deacon of a large denominational church that had a regular attendance of over 1,000 each week in Sunday School. He told me how so many of his boys and girls would quit Sunday School soon after the confirmation age. Realizing the need for a week-day club to supplement Sunday School, he decided to start one of his own. Being very inexperienced, he went on to explain what kind of a club he was running. He told how he raised several hundred dollars to purchase a large-screen television set.

This was placed in the church basement, and the neighborhood children were invited to attend. No presentation of the gospel or any portion of God's Word was even attempted. This was the extent of their week-day club. We are all aware that an effective weekday program is far more than keeping boys and girls off the street. Many community programs do a fairly effective job of this without challenging anyone to the real issues of God's Word. This is a very extreme case, I know.

If you are an Awana Director, may I ask how effectively you are reaching the objectives you have set forth? Clarence Jones, one of the first Awana leaders, and founder and president of Radio Station H.C.J.B. in Quito, Ecuador once said, "I go away alone at least once a year to take a good look at the objectives of Clarence Jones." He said, "I have often found after re-evaluating my goals, that I was just spinning my wheels and that my objectives needed to be revamped radically." This is real good advice from one of our most aggressive and effective Christian leaders today. May I ask you, as an Awana Club Leader, what are your club objectives? Write them down and review them periodically. It will help keep you from being a mechanical leader.



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Here are some objectives that some aggressive leaders have set for their clubs.

- 1) don't be satisfied with just 25 boys or girls, if you can effectively reach 50 and don't be satisfied with 50, if you can reach 100.
- 2) BE A UNIFORM CLUB. I have never seen a really successful club that didn't stress the importance of the uniforms. Many clubs from just average neighborhoods where perhaps lack of finances was a factor, have succeeded in being a "uniform club." No boy or girl will ever make much progress without the uniform to which to attach the awards; therefore, face this problem head on and lick it.
- 3) Have regular weekday or bi-monthly leaders planning meeting. This is vital to having a oneness in vision. No one club director can succeed without the combined planned efforts of all his leaders.
- 4) Have a visitation program. This is basic! This will be a blessing to your leaders as well as a ministry to the parents of your club members.
- 5) Are your boys and girls passing their tests regularly? This is proof of good leadership. Be a fruit-bearing club. John 15:16 commands us to be fruit-bearers and to have fruit that remains. This of course is the ultimate goal of every Awana leader. I am reminded of a missionary who would always sign his letters with these words, "Remember, the devil is a liar." We've always know this is true, but the reality of it has not always gripped our hearts as realistically as it should. By faith, claim your objectives. The Devil says it can't be done, but we say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."