

# THOMAS TRIBUNE

Summer 2016  
Tim & Sherry Thomas



## LORD, INCREASE MY TERRITORY

Most of you will recognize the title from Jabez's prayer recorded in 1 Chronicles 4. Jabez prayed for four things; God's blessing, increased lands, God's guidance, and His protection.

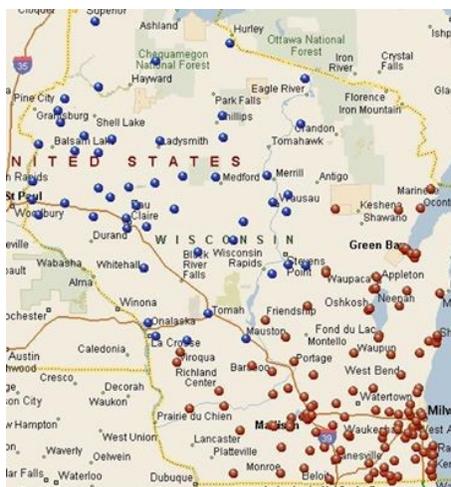
There are a lot of opinions of what Jabez's prayer means for us today, and I will not attempt to explain any of those here. I just want to point out some similarities to his prayer and our current responsibilities

From the time we came to Wisconsin in 2006, there have been two missionary couples serving in the state. Roy and Betty Koopman served the northern part and Sherry and I in the south. This changed at the end of 2014 when the Koopman's retired. So for the last 18 months, we have been the only missionaries serving in the state. During this time, there was not an official change in our territory. We, along with many wonderful ministry team members, did what we could to assist the northern churches.

In the last several months, things have been changing.

The first change happened in February, when Awana reorganized the field structure, moving from 15 districts to 9 regions. During this process, Wisconsin became part of the north-central region, which includes Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

At that time, some of the Minnesota missionaries began serving some of the churches in the western part of the state.



The next change occurred, when Minnesota Awana missionaries, Tim & Cheryl Gilley began to sense the Lord leading them to relocate from the St. Paul area to Eau Claire, WI.

Once again, there were two missionaries in Wisconsin, resulting in a larger territory for both of us. We added 32 churches in north-eastern Wisconsin, bringing our total to 131 (red dots), while the Gilley's, and others, will serve the northwest (blue dots). They will

also be serving churches in eastern Minnesota. These changes took effect on July 1.

Undoubtedly, there will still be a few things to tweak as we work through this transition, for example: dates and locations for conference and events, support raising, ministry team assignments, etc.

While we were not praying for it, God has seen fit to increase our borders.

Please continue to pray, with us, for God's blessing, protection, and His hand of Providence on our ministry as we begin serving these additional churches and for the Gilley's as they complete their move into Wisconsin.

## AWANA IN WISCONSIN

### EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

**T&T Update.** Over the last 18 months, we have been working with both the home office and our churches to help them transition into the new updated T&T curriculum. These included webinars and each of our last 4 On Target Sessions. Next week we have two more live trainings scheduled for Madison & Milwaukee. Additional training will continue through our fall Ministry Conferences and beyond.



**Awana Ministry Director Training.** This past Saturday we partnered with northern Illinois missionaries, Bruce & Marti Brumfield to conduct the first of its kind training for ministry directors (a.k.a. commanders). There were six AMD's and two pastors in attendance. We hope that in the next few months this training can be made available to missionaries around the country for use in their territories.

**Awana Ministry Conference.** This fall we will be again be hosting two AMC's in Madison and Milwaukee.

This year we will be focusing on relational discipleship.

\*Dates are: Milwaukee: September 24  
Madison: October 1

\*corrected from previous versions

**Facebook.** To stay up to date with our ministry, please like our facebook page at: [fb.com/awanaswi](http://fb.com/awanaswi)



### TRAVELS

In June & early July, we took several trips up to the Green Bay and Appleton area meeting with our new churches. We are thankful that we have been able to connect with over a third of these churches. In the coming weeks, we will be traveling in the northeast quite a bit hoping to meet with as many as we can, before weather becomes an issue.

We were gone from July 13-26 preaching and teaching at the Awana Prairies Camp in Glendon, Alberta, CA. Preaching for a week of youth camp was a new experience for Tim, who now has a deeper appreciation for youth pastors. Sherry taught Bible for Trek campers from the Trek 2: His Love book.



During our trip we were able to do some sightseeing in the Northwest Angle, MN; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and visit the International Peace Garden on the border between Canada and North Dakota.

We are thankful for safe and uneventful travel for over 3200 miles, for the

privilege to serve, and for the time of refreshing.

We will have pictures up on our facebook page soon.



Previous issues of the Thomas Tribune and other news are available from our website: [awanaswi.org/newsletters.html](http://awanaswi.org/newsletters.html)  
Please like our facebook page at [www.fb.com/awanaswi](http://www.fb.com/awanaswi)

Tim & Sherry Thomas are missionaries with Awana serving in Wisconsin. Their sending Church is the Deltona Alliance Church of Deltona, Florida.

None of this would be possible without prayer and financial partners. Would you please pledge to pray for us during 2016? If so, please let us know by sending us a card, letter, or email. Would you also prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner by pledging a monthly or quarterly gift of any amount to help us stay on the field? If so, please visit the missionary support page of our website or contact us for more information. [www.awanaswi.org](http://www.awanaswi.org)

Tim & Sherry Thomas • 750 Summerset Dr. • Johnson Creek, WI 53038 • 920-699-1977 • [timt@awana.org](mailto:timt@awana.org)