

Cliff's Notes

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“Gentlemen, start your engines!”

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed and is based on 2 Timothy 2:15 which demands accuracy in handling the Word of God. AWANA is a fantastic, time-tested and proven international ministry that prepares young people in the gospel of Christ through modern-day catechism of biblical basics as well as Scripture memorization. It encourages parents and children to memorize God's Word together. My involvement in AWANA began 12 years ago when my oldest daughter began to hide



God's Word in her heart at the age of 3. Since then, all 4 of our children have been in AWANA, have memorized hundreds of foundational Bible verses and have had a blast being involved in other elements of the ministry. One of those elements is the “AWANA Grand Prix” where the kids, along with their parents, craft their own box cars of wood and compete against fellow AWANA clubbers. They compete for speed and design. Currently GBF partners with Valley Church in the AWANA ministry. Pastor Cliff and Paul and Chin Beckmann serve as discipleship leaders for Valley's Wednesday night AWANA ministry. Paul recently invested countless hours coordinating the annual Grand Prix that had almost 30 entries of hand-crafted racers, a fully automated 4 lane track, a high- precision live video feed, state of the art computerized time computation, and countless enthusiastic spectators who were on the edge of their seats during the entire nail-biting event. Of the numerous cars in the competition, GBF fared well, bringing home the gold in several categories. For “Speed” in their respective heats, Timmy McManis took 1st, Timmy Beckmann took 2nd and Paul Beckmann took 2nd place; for “Design” Timmy Beckmann took 1st, Mitch Douglas took 2nd, Paul took 3rd and Tim McManis got honorable mention. Our own Scott Snyder was an official judge, and our own Michael Tang was instrumental in set-up and serving in the pit. If you get a chance, congratulate our finalists and commend them for their work of excellence. Maybe they'll even show you their award winning cars!

Mitch Douglas



Tim McManis



Timmy Beckmann



Paul Beckmann

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)



The most prized college football award—*The Heisman*—went to *Tim Tebow* this year; a sophomore quarterback at the U of Florida. He began his widely-viewed acceptance speech with these words: *“I just want to first start off by*

thanking my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave me the ability to play football, gave me a great family and support group...God truly blessed me...It's an honor.” Tim's parents were missionaries to the Philippines in the 1980's and homeschooled all their children. While there, Tim's mom contracted a serious form of dysentery when pregnant. The doctors told her to abort the baby who supposedly had irreversible damage from the illness. Tim's mom refused an abortion because of her belief in the sanctity of life. As a result, Tim was born...healthy...and now considered to be one of the greatest college athletes of all time. To God be the glory!

The California Supreme Court announced this month that it will hear 3 hours of arguments on March 4 in the cases challenging the decision not to allow ‘homosexual’ marriage. A ruling will be made within 90 days. California law defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman back in 1977. The voters validated that law by passing prop 22 in 2000. Now the mayor of San Francisco, and others, are trying to overturn that law. God invented marriage in Genesis 2, defined it, and He is committed to protecting its sanctity. Hebrews 13: 4 says, *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”* Be in prayer for this.

It's election year. As Christians, we have dual-citizenship. We have temporary status here on earth, and eternal residence in heaven. Instead of losing our focus in the vortex of the heated cauldron of campaign rhetoric and amorphous political platforms, we can find our stability in timeless, transcendent, unchanging truths. The first is that God is sovereign, in control of history, kings, nations and all people (Daniel 2:21). Second is the fact that no one rises to power apart from God allowing it— whoever is in power is actually a tool in the hand of the Almighty that He might accomplish His purposes—whether they are good or evil. Romans 13:1 says, *“For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”* So in this election year be prayerful while remaining calm and confident knowing God is in control!