

Franke Family '99

Christmas Newsletter



God used our team of ten staff and students in several different ways during our outreach to Australia. We did work projects, assisted the YWAM Olympic Games Outreach office, and worked alongside the YWAM ministry in the city of Newcastle. But the most rewarding thing for me was watching Sparky Dietsch in action.

He shared what God has done in his life during the two years he's been in YWAM: *He met Jesus face-to-face and fell head over heels in love with Him!* He told me that he got to see the world and minister to people in "heaps of different cities". He also was impressed with how God had matured him more than he ever thought was possible.

Our team worked alongside Sparky and the rest of the Newcastle base to put on a giant all night youth event called Break-Out, which was attended by mostly non-Christians. Break-out was one of Sparky's favorites! He was one of the coordinators for the event. I was so impressed and blessed by God to see Him use Sparky in this way. His true passion is to get into the high schools among the youth to promote Jesus! YWAM Newcastle ministers in five of the high schools every week (that is against the law in America). Sparky is a dynamic person, well known in the city of 300,000 people. You could go into any of their schools and mention his name, and they would know who you were talking about.

To see Sparky in action, whether spinning his fire sticks or just talking to the kids, I knew that God was using him in powerful ways. I've seen Sparky's heart ache over the kids in Newcastle, a true demonstration of God's compassion. We saw over 25 teens receive Jesus into their hearts that night at Break-out. I thank God there are people like Sparky Dietsch who are ready and waiting to minister God's love to the young people of Newcastle, and to the world.

I know that I've spent most of my letter sharing my experiences with Sparky, but this is what it's all about. This is why Shelly and I do what we do. We work with training schools in hopes that the students that come through will grab hold of the call of God on their life and fulfill the dreams of God.

Shelly did great in holding up the fort while I was gone. It was a big job to be alone with the 2 kids, but she did awesome, she's a wonderful mom.

Would you pray for us as we begin yet another Discipleship Training School this January? Pray that God would give us the strength to keep on and give us wisdom in our time management. I would like to leave you with a quote from Sparky Dietsch and we pray that God blesses you this Christmas season.

"In all my years as a luke warm Christian I had no idea that real Christianity could be so fun! I'm sick of being a hypocrite, saying one thing and doing another. If I am going to follow Jesus then I will follow Him with everything I have. My mind, body, and spirit!"

-Sparky Dietsch

