

They came.

They worshipped.

They partied.

Outbreak Camp

was infectious.

Outreach Magazine's Sarah Gullo reports on YouthNet's Outbreak 2000 Camp, held in June.



international youth camp



AN OUTBREAK of youth

They came from England, America and throughout Australia. Over 2000 youth, with an intense desire to worship God, packed the meeting tent for four days. With the music pumping, preaching firing and hearts yearning, COC's youth caught the God virus.

The campsite at Stuarts Head, near Coffs Harbour (NSW), was the location for this momentous weekend. In the midst of the rain, the cold and non-waterproof tents, many lives were permanently changed and restored by God. No amount of antibiotics could stem the outbreak of God.

Pastor Darren Nosworthy, North Queensland YouthNet coordinator, led a group of approximately 40 youth on a 38 hour bus trip to attend the camp. "The camp was absolutely awesome," he declares. "It was a life-changing camp for so many of the youth."

International President of Christian Outreach Centre, Pastor Neil Miers, Ruckins McKinley from the USA, and John James were the camp's main speakers. Ps Miers declared COC's belief in and support of the Movement's youth. He dared them to dream and believe, not to be stifled by the confines of religion. John James inspired the youth to be desperate to see God move. Ruckins ministered prophetically into many people's lives. Steve Apirana performed before most sessions. Using his trademark humour, he encouraged the youth to open their hearts and allow God to change them.

The camp united youth from many different churches. The powerful worship sessions led by Andrew Ironside and Lisa Wills incorporated singers, musicians and songleaders from churches throughout Australia.

The Trophy Challenge, held during the afternoons, saw regions compete in activities to claim the trophy for their region. Sydney City was the ultimate winner, with Suncoast using any means possible to try to get the trophy back to their church.

Twenty-five bands and dance groups entered the Battle of the Bands competition. The competition cranked, displaying the enormous talent held within COC's youth. Red Entrance, from Dalby COC, took out Best Band, with the Metro dance group, from Brisbane COC, winning Best Dance Group.

Ross Abraham, COC's YouthNet director, says "the whole idea of the camp was to show youth from all over Australia that they are part of something bigger than themselves - that they are not alone."

The camp's leaders achieved their aim. Pastor Darren Nosworthy says this was one of the greatest things the North Queensland youth walked away with. "They got to see the big picture and see that COC is more than just their own youth group. The vision of COC youth is bigger than they thought - it's more than just them. This was really encouraging for them," he declared.

Nathan McDonald, Victoria and Tasmania YouthNet coordinator, agrees that his youth also walked away with a similar realisation. "For many of them, it was the first time they had been to such a big conference," he says. "They loved the size, the big mosh pit, being with so many people and worshipping with so many people. It was exciting to see so many youth represented from throughout the Movement."

COC Oversight member, Pastor Dave Schaeffer, loved the camp. "The thing I came away with more than anything when I looked at the number of youth in that tent, I saw that it was a representation of Australia. I believe we're on our way to 10,000," he declares.

"This is the next step. We will do this through the development of youth leadership around Australia. This is the catalyst for 10,000. We will achieve this. I firmly believe that with all my heart," Ps Schaeffer says.

Plans to implement youth leadership training are under way. 2001 is set to be a busy year, with YouthNet and Brisbane COC's School of Ministries planning the launch of the new Bachelor of Ministry specialising in youth ministry. Young Guns weekends for high schoolers are being held throughout Australia with the Generate 2001 conference for 18 to 40 year-olds also being held next year.

Outbreak 2000 was just the beginning of YouthNet's outbreak in Australia.

PERSONAL OUTBREAKS

"I had backslidden a fair bit, however that weekend really brought me back to God." - James, QLD.

"God moved so much in my life, I now believe that I am here for a purpose. Just to be there and see that there are other Christians

out there my age that are walking with God and doing the right thing is so encouraging" - Sarah, Wollongong.

"Camp was so good. I got touched and changed. Ruckins was really good, so was John James." - Brendan, Melbourne.

"I know God really touched me in an unexplainable way." - Rebecca, VIC

"Every other camp we've come home excited, but this time we've come home excited about something. Guys who have just turned up to church for the last ten years because their parents have made them are now receiving and speaking words from God. Not even the rain and wet clothes could have stopped me from experiencing God like I never have before." - Sally, Toowoomba.

"God challenged me to be more diligent in my time with Him. He brought me to a new level of understanding of just how great He is." - Jonathan, Suncoast.

"So much happened to me. I was just so blown away by God's presence. I have found freedom in my praise and worship that I never experienced before. My youth have been touched so deeply and it's so good to see what can happen when we just open up to God. Not one of us came back the same." - Jessica, Warringah.

GETTING TO CAMP

Many youth groups went to great extremes to get to Outbreak. North Queensland youth groups did car washes, lamington drives and sold anything they could to raise money for their 38 hour bus trip.

Wagga Wagga's youth raised over \$1,150 by shaving their pastor's moustache.

\$10,000 was raised at the NSW Pastors and Leaders conference and given to Victoria for travel expenses.

Several thousand dollars was raised at Victoria's Pastors and Leaders conference, and given to Tasmania's youth for travel expenses.

Coastlands (Noosa) and Suncoast auctioned their youth off as slaves to do 4 hours of work, raising money for their travel expenses. ①

