

AN UPDATE FROM

Tara



To my amazing friends and family,

I hope you're all doing well and having a beautiful first half of the year. I just want to start by saying a massive thank you for all your generosity, all that is through donations, prayers, and every way else. It has been an enormous support for myself as I journey on this exciting mission year. I have seen the Lord work in amazing ways and it truly is such a blessing to be living and ministering to the young people in the Northern Territory.

This year I've been lucky enough to serve alongside my team who you'll be able to see in the picture above, including Marraki, Talia and David. We're serving in the Darwin Diocese which is incredibly large – spanning from the Tiwi Islands down to Santa Teresa, which is about an hour south of Alice Springs. In this first half of the year, we've been lucky enough to be welcomed into 11 schools, with multiple visits a week, allowing us to develop relationships with the young people and share the love that we experience from Jesus everyday of our lives. 2 of these schools have been within Aboriginal communities, where there is a growing need for such ministry, and has been extremely rewarding in sharing this love with the students in different ways.

Our ministry varies from day-to-day, week-to-week and is comprised mostly of classroom ministry; being in classes alongside students and sharing with them that same love from Jesus. We're also very lucky in Darwin to be able to run sessions within the classroom, pinpointing ideas relevant to the students, and sharing that through a faith lens. It is truly a blessing to be able to serve alongside my teammates and be able to serve the Lord in the most practical way possible!

Like I mentioned before, we've been able to work alongside students from pre-school ages to young adults, which is so rewarding. Being able to chat about common interests is something that I've really loved doing while up here, especially with the amazing appreciation for AFL in the Territory as opposed to back in Sydney. Since the students love the sport, it opens up conversation, and lets me tap into their hearts the way that Jesus does to mine.

An example of this was in one of the main schools we've visited in this first half of the year. I was running a class and was finding it quite hard to connect with the students, especially those in my small group. One of the students in my small group, Josh (I've changed his name for privacy) came up to me during one of the breaks and, quite shyly, started telling me about how he loved the Sydney Swans. I was so excited – we got to speak about each of our favourite players, the teams' performance as of late, and just have a nice conversation about something we both enjoyed. After the break, in our next small group, Josh had such a bright smile on his face and was so much more excited and willing to contribute and share. It's in small moments like these where I can see that the peer-to-peer aspect of our ministry is so important; that, regardless of whether we're talking exclusively about the love of God or not, it's so important to open up that conversation and give the students a space to express themselves. It truly is a blessing to be used as a vessel of Jesus' love in being able to provide a space where students feel loved and received.

So far in my sponsorship I've raised almost \$5,500 of the required \$6,400 – not far to go! This money has made it possible for myself and my team to work alongside hundreds of young people in the schools and parishes across the diocese. I am so grateful for all your generosity whether it be donations or prayers alike. If you know of anyone else who would like to sponsor me, please pass on my email so they can reach me personally at tararowall@gmail.com or donate directly through <https://netministries.com.au/support-us/> where they can fill out their details and include my name, Tara Wall, in the reference.

All your support is so appreciated, and your prayers mean more than you know. It is only through your love and support that missions like this are possible, and it is such a comfort to know that I have a whole community of support backing me this year and beyond. Please know that you all are in my prayers too and I look forward to sharing even more with you at the conclusion of this year!

Peace & Love,
Tara