



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A June Update from the Carsons!

Our First NATIONAL Getaway Conference 2023

Over the past ten years, we have seen tens of thousands of students exposed to the Gospel in public high schools during school hours! Seeing the movement of the Spirit here, our executive Cru High School team asked us to host a national Getaway. This was personally intimidating as it would require us to host 600 staff and students from across the USA. Brandt was also



Brandt teaching during men's time (300 guys)

asked to be the director for ALL seminars and communications, as well as to be an outreach, small group, and seminar leader for the week. For Jessica, she would be at home for the week with three kids while also preparing for her role as the Operational Team Leader for the 10-day Panama Mission Trip. Prior to Getaway, we hosted two missions weeks, and after we planned on sending out mission trips to Thailand and Panama. Feeling tired but trusting God, we said YES!



Brandt turned 29 in June!

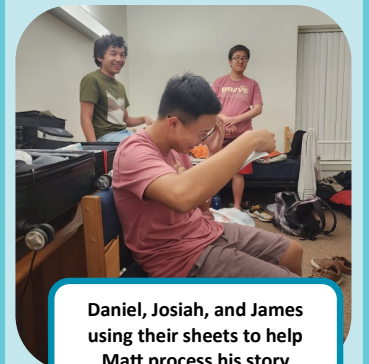
Prayer Requests

- Pray for Matt. His story is one of 13 different conversations that Brandt had at Getaway... all just as heavy! It seems that this is a great need for our context as this particular talk continues to resonate with our students and volunteers.
- Pray for Daniel and Josiah as they have committed for another year of volunteering!

Emotionally and Spiritually Healthy



One struggle that I've had with my male students is that they are often very disconnected with their emotions, life, and story. **Many of them grow to be strong theologically, but are emotionally immature; constantly running back to the same temptations to cope with their negative feelings.** As God has been leading me personally in this area, I have been consistently asked to speak on this. After one talk, Matt, a sophomore, approached me and shared he didn't learn anything. He then said, "Yeah... emotions aren't for me. My mom says that I don't know who I am as a person." Though this was a great opportunity to engage with his story, he couldn't remember 10 years of his life because emotional repression inhibits memory retention. After this, Matt decided to come to my second talk. During the response time, he began using a feelings wheel to circle what he was experiencing. He was able to identify feeling sad, frustrated, attacked, lonely, overwhelmed, and sometimes happy... but he had no idea why. That night, Matt came to our chat room and shared, "Okay, guys... I think that I have some progress... My dad works ALL the time, and I never get to see him. That makes me feel... grateful? that he is working for our family." In our room were also Daniel, James, and Josiah... all of whom I have helped work through their own stories. Seeing the disconnect, they used their own worksheets to dialogue with Matt about deeper feelings. With their help, Matt said, "I got it! Even though I'm grateful for my dad, I miss him and feel sad that I don't get to spend time with him. I'm also mad/angry/sad that my twin brother decided to walk away from a relationship with me. I feel scared for my future because I have to work to help my family pay the bills. Wow. That's too many feelings..." It was amazing to see his peers that have had healing in this area bring healing to their friend!



Daniel, Josiah, and James using their sheets to help Matt process his story



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A July Update from the Carsons!

Summer Mission Trip: Panama

Following our summer camp, Getaway, Jessica lead a missions team of 15 students to the country of Panama for 10 days. Panama currently has no organized Cru high school ministry, and the country's public schools have been closed due to COVID from March 2020—February 2023. Seeing the great need of young people in her country and their desperation for the Gospel, the in-country staff leader, Massiel, reached out to ask if we would send a team of high school students to encourage and equip the students of Panama. Massiel has a vision of Panamanian high school students meeting Jesus, being equipped with the Gospel, and with the support of local churches, sharing their faith with their peers. Having never done in-classroom Gospel presentations in a high school context. Our L.A. students were able to show Massiel and six of her high school disciples how we have been successfully sharing the explicit Gospel with students in public schools, during school hours for the last 10 years. Together, we were able to share the Gospel with 557 students, and 127 of those students indicated a decision to follow Christ for the first time!



Jessica & Massiel



Brandt watched the kids while Jessica was gone!

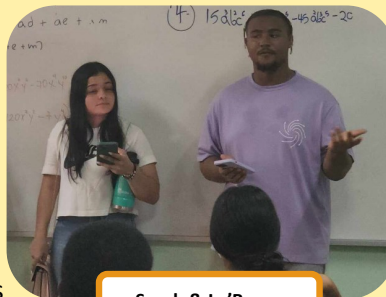
Prayer Requests

- Pray Massiel as she continues to lead a movement in Panama. We look forward to continued partnership and hope to return soon!
- Pray for Le'brone as he starts his senior year. That he would have continued boldness to share Christ with others.

Le'brone, Sarah, & Juan

The public school the team visited on that first Monday was known for its high crime rates, drug use, and violence. As the team pulled into the gates, there was heavy police presence in and around the school. As we talked with the principal, we discovered there had been a gang fight that had broken out on campus earlier in the morning. Overwhelmed by the events, the principle passionately declared that these kids needed "religion" to get their lives together. She then made the necessary arrangements for our team to visit and share the explicit Gospel with 9th-12th graders during their math classes!

Le'brone, 17 from Long Beach, nervously began to share his testimony in front of a class of 30 students. When he finished, Juan, sitting in the furthest corner, asked "ok, so Jesus changed your life THEN. But what's your life like now—what would you say to someone like me whose life is a a living hell?" Lead



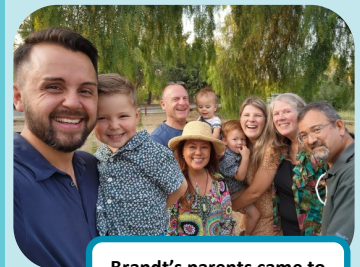
Sarah & Le'Brone



Juan



by the Holy Spirit, Le'brone honestly shared the reality of walking with Christ. During the Gospel presentation, led by 15 year old Sarah (a Panamanian student), Juan with tears streaming down his face, made a decision to follow Christ. Juan is only one of the 127 students whose lives were forever impacted by the truth of the Gospel.



Brandt's parents came to visit from Tennessee!



Andren being himself