



# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

An August Update from the Carsons!

## The School Year Begins!

We would like to introduce you to the fall 23' Servant Teams for Fountain Valley and Garden Grove! On the right, we have Dorian (VP), James (President), Derrick, Uly, and Matthew (Secretary). Brandt is also joined by staff members Jihye, Dan, and Daniel (intern). Uly joined last semester after hearing the Gospel at Fallfest. He has now recruited over 20 people to join!

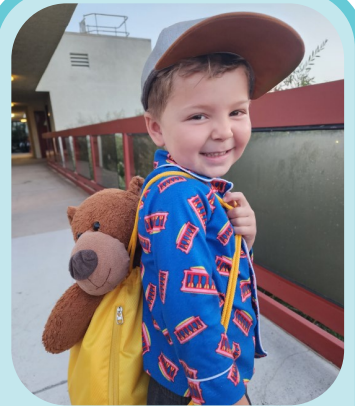
At Grove, we have Arly (alumni & volunteer), Ceci (President), Savannah (ASB), Alan (publicity chair), Justin (secretary). Through these teams, we saw over 200 students sign up for our clubs. They are also responsible for making sure that the club runs smoothly during weekly meetings. Pray for our president Ceci (sophomore) as she bears a large burden of leading and directing Cru. Pray that all of our board members would experience Jesus!



FVHS Student Board!



GGHS Student Board!



## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Garden Grove. Even though the lunch club is active, it's hard to connect with students after school as most are heavily involved with extra-curricular activities.
- Pray for Fountain Valley and Arbor Road's HSM, that the Lord would connect the facts that they know in their minds, with the love and joy of Jesus to their hearts



## Connecting Students to our Local Church

At our home church, Arbor Road Church in Long Beach, Brandt has been serving with their high school ministry (HSM) for three years now. Typically, groups have 5-10 students with two leaders. Somehow, Brandt ended up with 10 students and no co-leader! As the semester continued, our boys, in love with the group dynamic at Arbor, started inviting their friends. We now have 16 guys in our one Bible study! Even though many of these students have grown up in the Church, quite a few have expressed that they still aren't sure about their faith. *"I've always thought that I was a Christian because my parents made me one... made me go to Church... but now, I'm not sure what I believe about God."*

The amazing part is that even though they are unsure about what they specifically believe, they are dedicated to asking good questions, and finding the answers. **Please pray that that the Lord would connect the facts that they know in their minds, with the love and joy of Jesus to their hearts through this Bible study.**



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# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

*A September Update from the Carsons!*

## Overnighters with Arbor Road's High School Ministry (HSM)

For our second overnighiter, the boys voted to carpool in my 12-passenger van to grab ice-cream and boba on 2nd Street. After we got home at 11pm, I lead a few of the guys through Solarium, (A picture-based evangelism tool). In that conversation, Diego shared that he wasn't a Christian.... But he was very interested in the idea of it! For Diego, his battle growing up was chronic loneliness. *"I remember always feeling alone... High school is the worst that it's ever been. My mental state took a hit from that. Well, maybe it's always been this way and I just don't remember what it felt like as a kid."* From family drama to broken relationships, he was seeking one thing: peace.

After hearing about the peace found in Jesus, Diego asked for something greater than himself to bring wholeness into his life. At 1:30am, on September 17th, 2023, Steven Petersen lead Diego in the prayer to receive Christ at our dining room table. *"I've still got my good and bad days, but now I have God on my side through both of them. It's a fullness that I can't really describe.. But I found peace. His name is Jesus."*



Steven to my right, Diego wearing glasses



## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Diego as he begins this new journey with Jesus!
- Pray for my other students in my small group that boldly admitted their unbelief. Pray that their desire to learn more would grow into saving faith.



Brandt taught Cayden how to ride a pedal bike! He rides every day now!



## Club Rush at FV & GG

At Fountain Valley, there are 3,286 students enrolled making it the 21nd largest public high school in California. Garden Grove isn't far behind with 2,265 students. During Club rush, we saw, (between both schools), 288 students at our booths! While they won't all come to club, we are very excited to see what our club meetings look like this year! Please be praying as we look to connect with these new students on campus!

## The Kings Kalediscope Concert!

One prayer that I have for my students, is that they would allow Jesus into the medias in their life: Their Spotify playlist, Youtube & Netflix watch history, and gaming. One way that I've approached this is by introducing them to incredible Christian artist that will daily encourage their faith. When King's Kalediscope came into LA, we loaded up a group of 11 students, alumni, & staff to see them live! It is always such a joy to see them listening to music and know that what's going into their little brains is Bible-centered on Jesus!

