



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A Fall Update from the Carsons!

July: Celebrating “CRU 22” in Milwaukee!

In July, all of Cru’s US staff came together to share stories and worship the Lord together! It was a blessing to spend time with staff from all across the country that we haven’t seen in years! Also, Jessica and I were shocked to hear that out of 7,000 staff, only 144 work with Cru High School; LA being the largest Cru High team!

Even more amazing, we learned that every Cru High School in the US is coming to our LA Summer Getaway 2023! Because of the success seen here in our city, our team will be hosting the FIRST national high school conference! It’s humbling to know that our team is setting the bar for where other movements want to be! You should also rejoice in knowing that our success comes also from your generous partnership!

Following the Getaway, many staff and students will be immediately embark on mission trips all around the world! Our team here in Long Beach is looking at bringing students to Peru and Thailand. Would you be in prayer for us as we prepare for our first National Getaway, as well as our mission Trip?



Our Team in Panther Stadium



Our family and Cousin Alyssa in WI for Cru 22

Prayer Requests

- We are so sorry for the delay in the newsletters! We were gone for almost a month in July, launched 12 schools in August and September, then battled sickness with our kids in October and November.
- Please friend us on FB or Insta to keep better in touch with our regular family/Cru post.
- To join our Prayer Warrior weekly text prayer request, please send the message @PRAY4LA to the number 81010

August: Garden Grove & Fountain Valley

With five of our seniors having graduated from Grove, we were prayerfully trusting that the Lord would provide new students for our Servant team; Ceci was our only one left! If you receive our prayer texts, you’ll know that we had 160+ students sign up to express interest in Cru! From that, we found four other kids who were passionate about their peers knowing Jesus!

Would you prayer for Ceci, Naol, Lezlie, Sophia, and Esabelle as they seek to serve and lead their campus?

The next club rush was at Fountain Valley! Over three days, we saw 180 students sign up to find out about Cru club. We now consistently see around 45 attend our weekly meetings. One prayer need at FV is for deeper involvement with the students. Many come from church or wealthy backgrounds and don’t realize how much they really need Jesus.



Our first Grove leaders meeting of the new year!



Our church, Arbor Road, celebrates 75 years!



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Lakewood High & Arbor Road Church

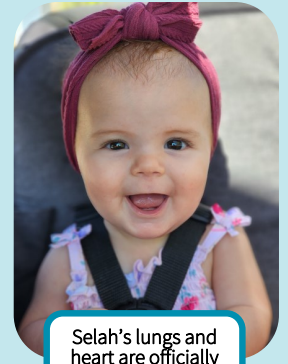
At my third campus, Lakewood, we had 180 sign-ups for club rush! Even more exciting, Arbor Road has officially committed to serving the year with us on campus! Right now, 140 students are attending weekly, with multiple Lakewood HS faculty assisting us as well. Please pray for us to personally connect with students there.



The Boyers, our ministry partners, join us for a club meeting on campus at Lakewood!

My fourth and final “campus” is a small group at Arbor Road church. The highlight of the year comes from my student who has grown up in the church, but struggled to allow Jesus to truly have his heart. Before I met him, he had been battling school bullies, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

After a year of building trust through discipleship, he confided with me about a secret dating relationship. He had shared about it with his friends at a conference, but not with any adults. He told me, “My parents would never forgive me for this. I don’t think that I can ever tell them!” Knowing his parents, I urged him to trust God and come clean with them. By the end of our hour long talk, he prayed to God for strength, then messaged his parents through tears that he was ready to talk. As I had expected, his parents responded with the love, grace, and truth that he desperately needed. “Thank you Brandt. I needed to get this out! I’m tired of hiding and needed them to know the truth!” Since then, he has openly shared his testimony of hypocrisy to faith in Jesus in front of his peers! We look forward to where God will take him!



Selah’s lungs and heart are officially cleared as of 11/23!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for LWHS as we personally connect with students.
- Pray for our partnership with Arbor road and LW, that it would be honoring to God!
- Pray for FV and GG; that the fire they received from LIFT would grow into the new year!
- Pray for committed, weekly volunteers at these movements as well!

Influencers to Leaders

On October 15th, we put on our fall kickoff event (Leading in Faith Together, or LIFT) for student leaders. I frankly have seen so much growth with students who are new to Cru, but I felt that some of our student leaders had lost sight of our goal. This has led to some being disinterested, and absent.

At the LIFT22 event, our Cru staff emcee, Jordan Gavero, wore a custodian’s jumpsuit, and carried a towel and a mop. He kept his strange wardrobe choice a mystery right up to the



Garden Grove and Fountain Valley Servant Team

last session. Then he shared, “You have all been wondering why I dressed like this today. This is what someone looks like when they work in the background. You see the great work that they do, but maybe it seems lowly to you. Can I tell you about what Jesus said leadership looked like? It starts with this towel and some dirty feet.”

Two of my boys came up to me afterward and said that they felt convicted! “I haven’t been that interested in Cru or Jesus... But that changes today! Our friends need to know that JESUS SAVES! And we have ideas!” Praise God for this fresh wind!



Josh, one of my first students from 2013, was married on 11/19!



Andren turned 2 on 8/8!