



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

An April Update from the Carsons!

Mission Week

Every Spring, we host "Missions Week," a time of increased outreach and evangelism. In a normal week, we share the Gospel with an average of 800 students across 12 schools. This week, we reached 2,180 students, but I'd like to share about one. Meet Ivan.

He and his girlfriend Ava agreed to play Soularium, (a picture-based evangelism tool), with us in exchange for a free boba drink.

"This describes a struggle in my life" said Ivan, pointing to a picture of a beer bottle. Ivan grew up in culture of alcoholism and abuse in Peru. He never knew his dad. When he was 8, his mom married an American and came to the U.S. They were excited to finally live "the good life"! But two years later, Ivan's stepdad was stabbed to death. His mom was left to raise two kids in a foreign country. This left him feeling scared and deeply alone.

Then it was Ava's turn. She pointed to a picture of a girl crying in a corner. "I have so many memories of myself crying alone. Whenever I was sad, my mom told me, 'Shut up and stop crying!' I learned that I couldn't show my sadness to anyone, instead, I would hide in the closet. My dad was passive and never stood up for me."

As I transitioned into the Gospel, I shared, "Ivan and Ava, it wasn't God's original plan for sin to terrorize your life... but your past isn't fully healed, and your future cannot be fully realized outside of a relationship with Jesus. Could I share with you what I believe as a Christian?" They said yes! By the end, **both Ivan and Ava chose to follow Christ!** When asked why, Ivan said he was tired of going through this life alone. Ava said, "I've been asking God to give me a sign that he is real... and here you are telling me about him. I can't believe that God actually heard my prayer AND answered it!" When they asked for a Bible, I asked if they would read it and take care of it. They said of course! I then told them, "Good. If you take care of this book, it will take care of you. It's not just words on a page, but the LIVING word of God." With smiles, they gave their first Bibles a hug!

We have so many other stories, just as amazing as this, of students likewise praying and receiving Jesus! **This week, 2,180 students heard the Gospel and 358 indicated a decision to receive Christ!** Praise God for this movement of His Spirit!



90 students hearing the Gospel at Fountain Valley



@bhonest_ speaking at Jordan High School



Jessica's birthday!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Ivan and Ava as they begin their new relationship with Jesus!
- Pray for the other 2,180 students that heard this Gospel this week. Pray that they would respond with saving faith in Jesus!



Selah turned one!



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Volunteer Meeting

Once a month, all the volunteers with Cru meet at our home for dinner, sharing, devo, and training. With Jessica as the Volunteer Director, it's always a sweet time. We would love to highlight one of our leaders, Josiah. Some of the best times that I've had with him were on car rides home when he was a student. We would talk about faith, future, and of course, girls. Now that he is a volunteer, Josiah gets to drive other students home, having those SAME conversations! One night, Luke opened up about his life... "How can she love me, but still cheat on me..." Luke then laughed about the situation, said it was fine, and moved on. Seeing that Luke was minimizing and hadn't processed the breakup, Josiah decided to dig deeper.



Our Monthly Volunteer Meeting

Josiah responded, "I hear you laughing, but I know you don't think it's funny. God loves you and sees you, as do your friends at Cru! Let's talk about this." By the end, Luke sighed, "I guess your right... but not thinking about it makes it easier... but as you said, the pain doesn't go away..." Josiah then lead Luke in a time of prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to bring healing in the breakup, as well as Luke's life. I LOVE getting to see discipleship come full circle... **the student, now becoming the teacher!**



Alan prayed to receive Christ in my Bible study, and was baptized at our church, Arbor Road!



Our family trip to the Grand Canyon

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Josiah as he continues to lead at Long Beach Poly and Fountain Valley High! Pray also that Josiah would allow Jesus to lead, guide, and direct every part of his life.
- Pray for Josh, that he would know that he is LOVED more than he can ever imagine. Pray that he would listen to God's voice as he leads a club of 120 students at Mayfair High!



Calvary Minis

Every Spring since our start in 2013, Calvary Chapel Chattanooga has graciously sent us a missions team from their own congregation to help with increased outreach. During this week, our student Josh asked to share his story. This was surprising, as he doesn't like the attention! Being deaf, he has CONSTANTLY felt out of place and not included in social spaces. He shared, "Growing up, I struggled with suicide as I was often bullied because of my disability. I responded with anger, cursing, and fights. If they hated me, I would hate everyone else. After my dad got me involved with Cru, I met people that actually loved me! I learned that God loved me, and that He called me to love and forgive others! Eventually, I was baptized by my dad! Now, I'm a leader at my school, Mayfair! No matter how different you are, you are unique and God's creation. You are loved by God."



Josh shared his story in front of 35 of his leaders and peers with great articulation!

In total, we shared the Gospel with 557 students. From that, 167 indicated a decision to follow Jesus! Please pray for us as we follow up with what the Lord is doing in the lives of these teenagers!



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