



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A Ministry Update from the Month of December



Fastbreak 2020

We kicked off 2020 with our winter Fastbreak camp. Over 200 students from the LA and San Diego teams trekked to the San Bernardino Mountains, and many of them experienced Jesus in a radical way! There are too many amazing stories to fit in one letter, so we'll be telling about it this month and next. Here's Ben's story.

"Right before going to Fastbreak, Fountain Valley had a Bible study where we discussed how the enemy wouldn't want us to be going to this camp. Coincidentally, most aspects of my life began to struggle and complicate during this time. Firstly, I got into a big fight with my family that was really discouraging! Then at the same time, I had a scary episode with a close friend that really shook me. With the support of my group, I continued to look to Jesus and also what He would do at Fastbreak.

Once I got there, I met David who met the Lord at camp. His child-like wonder towards his faith inspired me and re-centered me on the amazing work God could do in a person's life! This, in combination with surrendering those tough struggles to the cross, allowed me to come out of Fastbreak with a recharged heart for God. Even though life is tough, I know that God has it handled! I'm ready to trust him and go out and share in the commission he assigned for us!"



Cayden found out that he has a tongue and enjoys showing it to everyone!

Prayer Request

- Pray that Ben and Daniel would continue to trust God in every part of his life!
- Also for David as he begins his journey with God! Pray that he would continue to dig deep in his exploration of who God is!

Surrendering Control

From Daniel: "During the past month, my life honestly sucked. I felt lost, blind, and chaotic. It was clear that God wasn't the center of my life. Though I wasn't excited about Fastbreak, Brandt convinced me to go. When I arrived, I was mentally distant, emotionally dull, and just going through the motions. Even that night during chat rooms, I remember God pushing me to share but I didn't.

But as the week continued, God began to remind of the great things that he had done in my life, and it sparked joy in my life; I wanted that feeling to last forever! For a moment, I felt God pushing me to surrender my life but I held myself back because I was afraid to let Him have full control.

At the Prayer Experience, I saw an old painting of the prodigal son begging for his father's forgiveness; it really hit me. The prodigal son was so full of pride that he lived on his own thinking. He thought he knew best, which brought him so low that he had to eat pig's food. I didn't want to go through such a tragic situation in order for me to realize that I needed God! As I reflected on that with Brandt, he explained the importance of repentance and surrender to God. I begged God for forgiveness and rededicated my life to His will! I also asked God to fill me up with the Holy Spirit and give me wisdom when dealing with any challenges.

Since that moment, my life has already changed! The problems that I had wanted to fix myself don't trouble me as much, because I know God can handle them. Although problems will still come, I know that God will always have my back. Looking back, I realized how stubborn I've been. But I'm glad that God has once again rebuilt my broken parts!



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