



# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

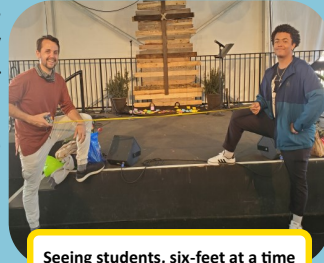
A Ministry Update from the Month of March

## Together Again 2021



We held our first large-group event in ages, "Together Again," TA21 at Cornerstone Church in Long Beach. Our goal was for students to experience the healing power of Jesus and fellowship as many have been isolated for months. Jose Rodriguez, CEO of Rescue A Generation, delivered a powerful message from Mark 2 regarding Jesus healing the paralyzed man. While students first related to being the person on the mat, they walked away with a vision of how to be the friends that carried their friend to Jesus.

Here are some stories: From the stage, Amy shared her story of how her mom had to take her and her sister away from their abusive father. She went from house, to apartments, to motels, to getting evicted on her 8th grade graduation day. After developing an eating disorder and pornography addiction, she felt that life had nothing left.... Until she met Jesus through Cru! The Smith girls had a nasty breakup with their friend Jamie. So did Alex with Cameron. After TA21, they all felt God calling them to forgive each other and make amends! Ana, who had battled an intense mental disorder for the past year, was able to dance and celebrate her savior, Jesus! David left with a strong desire to reach his brothers, as none of them know Jesus! Praise the Lord for the movement of his Spirit!



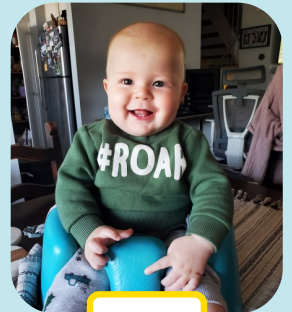
Seeing students, six-feet at a time



Cayden's first experience on the throne!

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we creatively reach students this year!
- Pray for students as they adjust to a hybrid school and Cru schedule.



#Roar

## Thursday Studies



On Thursdays, all of our Long Beach schools come together for a city-wide Bible study. Curtis, pictured above, shared, "This is the highlight of my week! I make sure that I'm on my best behavior so that my dad, who doesn't like Christianity, allows me to go!"

Another great story comes from Wilson High School. Jake and Alex invited their three friends from Cross-country to come to our Thursday evening Bible study. While there, Scott Chan, Caleb Thach, and Casey Cashen led them through Solarium, a picture-based game that focuses on helping students tell their story. After hearing Casey's story, they each shared how they grew up hearing about religion, but never experienced Jesus. They also shared how they were very invested in sports, grades, and work. Casey said, "While you shared about different categories, I noticed that you are all chasing something to bring you satisfaction. How's that going so far?" "Very poorly" they responded. There they heard the Gospel and all three quickly said YES to starting a relationship with Jesus! "I really resonated with Casey's story! I am so tired of chasing and I want the wholeness that you say is found in Jesus." Since then, they have all been returning weekly for continued discipleship!



Contact us at:

[Brandt.Carson@cru.org](mailto:Brandt.Carson@cru.org)

(423) 667-3239

[Jessica.Carson@cru.org](mailto:Jessica.Carson@cru.org)

(951) 501-9787