



# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

An April & May Update from the Carsons!

## Selah Grace

On April 3rd, 2022, our baby girl Selah Grace was born at 10:05pm; measuring 8lbs, 6 oz, 21 inches. Out of all three kids, Jessica said that she is thankful for choosing a home water birth! In her words, *"It was the fastest, smoothest, and most relaxed experience thus far!"*



Cayden and Andren have adjusted perfectly to their baby sister! They are both very quick to let their parents know when baby sister is crying. Andren also runs up, puts the paci in her mouth, then prays, "Dear Jesus, help. Amen." He then looks up with the brightest eyes to see if his Heavenly Father answered his prayer. To his sheer wonder and delight, Selah is often comforted! Cayden on the other hand, gives her his toy cars, tells mom, then goes back to building blocks. I guess we all have our different ways of comforting others in times of distress!



Selah's first Easter!



## Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we adjust to having three kids in diapers!
- Pray for Manuel, Rene, Hailey, and Elizabeth. Pray that they would get involved with Cru and deepen their faith! Pray for their home lives as they come from messy families.

## Garden Grove High School

*"Which picture represents my life? This broken bottle. It's my childhood. My dad was an alcoholic and left our family... After, he was deported. We were so poor that we had to wear the same sets of clothes multiple times a week without washing them. It was so embarrassing when people at school noticed and made fun of us."* - Manuel

This response comes from our after school evangelism with Jenny and David. We ask the students to play a quick card game called Solarium, in return for free food (sponsored by a local church, First Baptist of GG). By using these pictures, students will share their life story in a matter of minutes!

After Manuel, Rene & Hailey picked the same picture. *"This is my story as well."* they shared. Three of the four grew up in alcoholic, abusive homes which resulted in the dad leaving. Hailey shared, *"I don't even know who he (dad) is. My mom has to have boyfriends just to pay the rent so there have always been so many men in our home."*

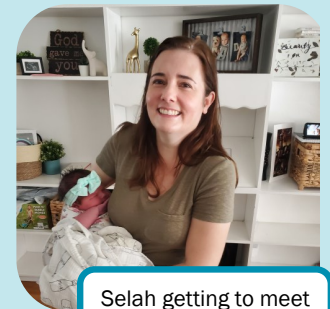
When asked what picture represents the greatest hope they have, they all shared that they wanted to buy clothes for their families, a house for mom, and a car for themselves. We took this moment to share the good news of Jesus with them, which they had not heard before! *"If Jesus is really this good, I want him with me all the time! What do we do next?"* asked Rene. All four students followed in the prayer to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior! Pray as we follow-up with them!



Card Game: Solarium & Snapshot



After School evangelism at GGHS



Selah getting to meet her godparents



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## Youssef G

As we left the night meeting at Fountain Valley Cru, I said to Ivan and Youssef, "Wow... It's wild to know that this was your LAST Cru night meeting as a student! Thank you for both being faithful to stick with us for ALL four years! What would you say is the most impactful lesson that you've learned during your time with Cru?"

Youssef shared, "I learned what it means to be a man. After suddenly immigrating to America from Egypt (at 9), my mind and body went.... Blank. I didn't even realize that I hadn't processed that miserable time until you, (Brandt), started coaching me through my testimony. I've felt disconnected from myself for... years now... and after my time with Cru, I'm finally started to ask the question, 'who is Youssef, and what has God made him to be? To do? To love?' I'm also getting in touch with my feelings. I thought men were supposed to repress their feelings, but you taught me that my feelings aren't something to run from."

Both Ivan and Youssef are continuing their walk with God into College. They are both plugged into a local churches, have Christians in their life that love them, and have plans to serve the Lord! Praise God for the faithfulness of these incredible young men!



Dan, Curtis, Hung, Jeremy, Youssef, and Brandt



Pray for us as we seek wisdom regarding Cayden's health issues.

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Youssef and Ivan as they seek to serve God in this new season of adulthood!
- Pray for our seniors that they would continue to trust God post-high school
- Pray that the Lord would raise up new young leaders across all 12 of our Cru High School movements!
- Pray for committed, weekly volunteers at these movements as well!

## Finishing Well

Spring is a bittersweet time for high school ministry. "I can't believe it's over..." shared one student. "I don't want to leave honestly! What's next feels scary!" I responded by telling them to think of this, not as an ending, but a faithful completion of the work set in front of them! This student was graduating with honors, as well as with a deeper faith in Jesus! They finished well!



Toby Johnson and I lead the group on Wed Nights

In addition to working at Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, and Lakewood, I also lead a boys high school group at my church, Arbor Road (pictured above). It was a joy to continue discipleship at my home church. It also serves as a connection point for Cru kids and the local church!

**Would you please pray for God to raise up new students in leadership at all four of these campuses?** Many of our Servant Team leaders are graduating. Secondly, we have missed one to two years with the other students due to Covid. Please also pray also for our summer camp, Getaway at Biola College in June!



60+ students at our weekly GG lunch meeting

