



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A Ministry Update from the Month of January and February



Jacob ^

City Wide

After a season of virtual meetings, we are finally moving back (again) to in-person meetings! When we prayed about restarting our Thursday Bible studies in-person, we weren't sure if students would come. By the second month, we had about 30 students and 15 staff/volunteers gathering in outdoor eating areas for food, fellowship, and Jesus!

One great story comes from a former Poly High School student, Jacob. Jacob first met Cru through a Bible study at In and Out. Missing his father and fighting homelessness, he was very eager for a free meal! From here, Jacob would go on to give his life to Jesus, become a leader in Cru, graduate high school, and now interns with Cru! During these years, some of his favorite memories were the conversations in the car as staff drove him home.

As an intern, Jacob is the driver for two brothers that live in Compton. On one particular ride, they talked of similar struggles that Jacob had while growing up; not feeling safe, financial struggles, and doubting the goodness of God. As they pulled up to a gas station near their house for food, the older brother went inside while the younger asked to stay in the car because he was afraid of his own neighborhood, and for good reason! There is often gang activity, violence, and robbery on their block.

Jacob who had been through the same situation, shared his story of how the Lord brought him from similar circumstances to where he is now! *"It's so crazy to see that in just five years, I get to share the Gospel truths that I learned at their age! I think that I was able to encourage them in their faith! I'm excited to see where God will take me next!"* - Jacob



In January, we adopted a little monkey!

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.



Our first date without kids in months!

Family Update



On March 8th, Cayden turned two years old! He and his brother, Andren (7 months), now share a room together! Please be praying for Cayden as his speech is delayed due to a tongue tie. Thankfully, the regional center offers free speech therapy twice a week for him! Please also pray for Andren as he is hitting a growth spurt and cutting four teeth at the same time! Sleep has been hard to come by due to this short season in his life. Thankfully, we were able to take our first date thanks to Jessica's sister Felicia being able to babysit the kids!



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Lakewood Meeting

In early Spring of 2020, up to 100 students would walk into the gymnasium at Lakewood High School (LHS) to hear a message about Jesus while eating free pizza. By the fall, we could only gather online and our Zoom meetings had fallen to single digits. After resuming in-person ministry again in the fall, it was closed a second time due to a Covid spike in November. Thankfully as of Feb 2021, we are again able to meet in-person. Hearing our need, the

Coyne family from Arbor Road Church offered their beautiful garden of a yard for us! Last week, we officially had our first LHS in-person meeting since fall of 2020, (pictured below).

Meeting in Person (Again)

After Alex Valdez led worship on his guitar, David had intended to have a short message on Genesis one. Half an hour later, we were still talking about how amazing God is

to have created the world simply by speaking it to be! It was refreshing to see their smiles face to face!

I am also so blessed to be surrounded by such a faithful, dedicated, team. Alex V drives 90 minutes round-trip to pick up one student. "If he can come, it's worth the drive!" David drives from Orange City to pick up Jason in Anaheim, then drops him off to work afterwards. Like Alex V said, if they will come to learn about God, it's all worth it. I am hopeful to see how the Lord will grow this movement through their faith!



Jason, Alex L, David, Alex V, and Brandt



Cayden's facial hair is coming in sooner than expected!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for LHS as we seek to reach more students!
- Pray for Christina W who also works at LHS. Due to a serious illness, she has had to take time off from ministry.
- Pray for Jason as he recently moved 30 minutes away from his school due to a very difficult issue with his parents.
- Pray for our students as they battle Zoom fatigue since they are on screens for hours at a time!



Computer Building

As a student, one of my favorite things was when staff taught me how to do practical skills. Joey Young taught me how to drive stick shift and build a computer, Casey Bryant taught me how to play ultimate frisbee, and Justin Cox taught me how to waterproof a housing foundation. Over quarantine, I started to see a need for tech support for our students as they were spending multiple hours on Zoom calls. If their computer crashed or overheated, they were unable to complete



Ralph, a volunteer that graduated from Jordan High School

their classes and homework! Thankfully, I've been able to use the skill sets that I've learned to help & teach our staff and students with their tech needs! Pictured here, I invited Ralph and Alex to teach them how to build a PC from scratch! What started as a hobby has now become a part of ministry to help keep these kids connected to their school and Cru club!



Alex L from LHS



Cayden loves to help his little brother, Andren!