



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A January Update from the Carsons!



Fastbreak!

Every winter, we take as many students as we can to the mountains for our Fastbreak winter camp. Unfortunately, a sinus infection caused me to lose my voice -- and I was helping emcee the conference! It was a struggle, but as He often does, God showed His power in our weakness. During one small group time, I met

six students from Estancia High School. It was their first Cru conference, and I had the honor of sharing the Gospel with them. Two of them shared that they didn't think that they were saved.

AT said, "I grew up in a Catholic church so my family was religious.... but I don't have this personal relationship that you're talking about." Then BK chimed in: "Ya! My family doesn't really go to church, but we have always believed in God. If Jesus can REALLY forgive me of all that I've done, I need to do this!" After helping AT with his prayer, BK asked if she could pray her own prayer. It never ceases to amaze me how God can use the most broken things for his Glory, even me! At the end, all six students stayed to practice sharing what they had learned, LONG after the session had ended and every other group had left. They practiced sharing their faith, held hands, prayed, then went on their way. Praise the Lord for these awesome students!



Prayer Requests

- Pray for David Potts (the director of Estancia High) as he continues to cultivate an amazing movement in the OC!
- Pray for HT and ML as they consider transferring schools for football scholarships.
- Pray for Jessica as we prepare to have our baby girl in March.

A twisting and windy road



At Garden Grove, it seems like we have it all: An incredible, prayer-filled teacher sponsor, great staff, involved students, local church support, funding, and more. Still, it's been difficult to recruit kids to our after-school meeting! Jenny and I had the idea to find a couple of students at lunch to personally meet with. This turned out

to be a success as two regular students FINALLY agreed to meet with us! Meet HT and ML, two football players who have been best friends for years. Initially, they said life was good and they wouldn't change a thing! However, as conversation continued, they began to open up.

Using Soularium, a picture-based conversation starter, we learned that both boys came from religiously split homes. This led to a split understanding of who God was, and what HE thought of them. They also shared that "snakes" (peers at school) were constantly trying to mock and bring them down. Along with pressure from their team to perform, they felt stressed! At the end, I asked, "if your relationship with God could look like anything, what would it be"? Immediately, they both reached for the SAME card. HT said, "I picked this card because I don't think life is ever going to perfect and straight. It'll twist and turn... but what I want, is for God to be with me no matter where that road goes." ML followed, "Same! You never know what to expect in life... but I just want Jesus to never leave my side. Because if He is there, I'll be just fine!" How great is it that they didn't ask for the straight, easy road? Please pray for us as Jenny and I continue to reach more students like this at Garden Grove High School!



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