



# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

*A Ministry Update from the Month of August and September*

## Fountain Valley and Garden Grove Lunch Meetings

During the 2020 school closures, we lost momentum at our schools. Our seniors graduated, and we weren't sure when we would be allowed back on campus. When I met with Mr. Nguyen (our teacher sponsor at FVHS) in August, I discovered that we could meet on campus a month BEFORE club rush! So this month, mainly due to our personal good standing with the school administration, we are one of the only clubs meeting on campus!

Over at Garden Grove, we had thought that we wouldn't continue the movement due to Covid restrictions and lack of connections. Thankfully, Ms. Kalajian (our teacher sponsor), had been praying for a student to take charge and restart the club. On Wednesday, she called me to say, "Brandt! I found that student!

Kenny (who attended Cru as a freshman) asked me today when we could start Cru club. He and his friends will be the five board members, but now we need to find at least 10 members! Can you meet tomorrow?" Read the back page for an update on this!



FVHS Lunch Meeting



Kenny and David at Club Rush



## Prayer Requests

- Pray for us and our team as we launch 12 different campuses in three weeks!
- Pray for Kenny and David, as they lead a renewed Cru movement at Garden Grove High!
- Pray for favor with the schools as we engage in discipleship and evangelism on campus!

## Fountain Valley Night Meetings

This summer we met outside at a local park because of Covid restrictions. Though it was great to be together, we were often distracted by passing cars and others using the park. Thankfully, Bumble Ho (a local pastor) and his wife Jenny have reopened up their home for us to meet! Jenny even provides a home cooked meal for ALL of the kids! There is nothing quite like meeting inside a home, sharing a meal together, and learning about God.



While we could lead the meeting ourselves, our favorite approach is to train our student leaders, then allow them to have ownership in serving/leading the group! For example, the night starts with Youssef leading the entire group in a game that he has prepared. Then, Jeremy leads us into announcements and musical worship. After a short sermon, they get to help lead their classmates in the small group discussions that follow! Though they are teenagers, we are seeing God use them in radical ways to reach their friends, family, and campus!



Jeremy and Kevin lead worship for our night meeting



Contact us at:

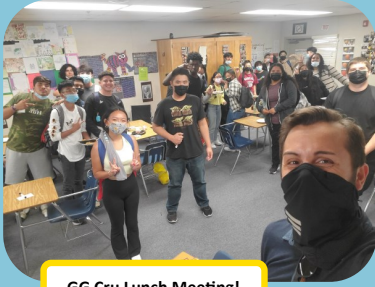
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## Club Rush... continued



GG Cru Lunch Meeting!

Excited for the opportunity, we met with Ms. Kalajian the next day! While we wanted to start Cru club again, we had one problem; club rush was tomorrow and applications were two weeks overdue. Amazingly, Ms. Kalajian knows every Christian on the campus including Mr. Nguyen (the activities director!). On the phone he said, "Sorry Kim, I can't give you a spot for the club fair.... But you could stand there and ask for sign-ups!" I asked if we could bring tables and he said, "Well, they can't kick you out!"

On Friday, we showed up with a table and ten boxes of pizzas & doughnuts. The next thirty minutes was a whirlwind as 2,500 students surveyed ~50 clubs. By the time the dust had settled, we had collected 129 signatures. When we held our first lunch meeting on the following week, 22 students attended! We hadn't seen a few of them in two years! Being back in Ms. Kalajian's room felt like we were finally home again! Since God is clearly moving at this campus, we cannot wait to see what He will do!

At Lakewood, we likewise had a very sudden invite to club rush. With a few days notice, we held a second club fair at Lakewood High School! By God's grace, we got connected with 150 students! At our first lunch meeting 6 days later, we saw 96 kids in the gym for a Cru meeting! The schools are opening back up and we need prayer! Please pray as Fountain Valley will have their club rush next!



Lakewood High Club Rush



Andren turns one!

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Lakewood as we seek to dive into deeper relationships with students!
- Pray for William as he wrestles with past trauma and present uncertainty. Pray that he would learn to trust AND hope in Jesus with every situation.

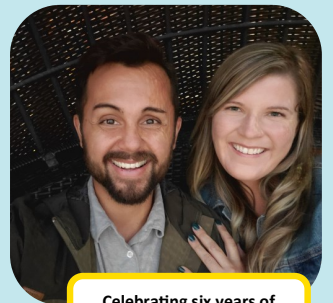


## Learning to Hope Again

William (not his real name), is one of my student leaders. Over the past few weeks, I've been noticing that he has been mentally and emotionally checking out of our meetings. After a Cru meeting, I asked for a one on one time with him over boba. When asked how he was feeling, he responded, "I literally have no idea. I'm like this with my parents as well, which is why they hate me. My head feels foggy. Whenever I feel overwhelmed

though, I just start to ignore it, and now I subconsciously do that with everything!" Further conversation revealed that Will was feeling incompetent, useless, and overwhelmed. "Everything I do ends up being a failure... I'm a senior now and I have no clue what to try next! The worst part about hoping for something to work out, is the crushing feeling when it inevitably goes wrong.... So I just ignore everything."

I then shared with Will a personal story about how I had not wanted kids. Though I gave various reasons, the truth was that I was terrified of eventually losing our child... and thus didn't want one. When we got pregnant in 2018, I asked the Lord if the baby would be okay and He told me, "I will always take care of you, your wife, and your child. But do you trust that I'm good no matter how that plays out?" I told Will that I couldn't imagine my life now without Cayden! When you refuse to hope in anything, you're going to miss out on what God has for you. "That's so true..." he said. "I haven't told anyone else this, but I think God has been calling me into ministry. I've tried to ignore it and chase other goals, but I think it's time for me to face it.... It's actually something that I'm quite passionate about, but I don't know what to do with it." After spending time in prayer, Will left the meeting with a smile that I haven't seen in a while. Would you be praying for him, that God continues to work this new story in his life?



Celebrating six years of marriage together!

