



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A Special Ask and Ministry Update from the Carsons!



"Most" of our staff and Volunteer team

Revival on Campus

"I don't know who my dad is. He left a long time ago... It's just me and my mom." This is Nick's story, a student we met while sharing the Gospel after school. His friend Ethan shared that he struggled with constant anxiety. I then asked, "If you could know the good and perfect God that created this universe, would you want to know him? He is a perfect father that never leaves you, and brings PERFECT peace!"

Eagerly, they said yes and prayed to receive Christ!

For the next eight weeks, our team was seeing stories like this multiple times a week; and I wish I had time to share them all! As a team (17 staff and 40+ volunteers), we personally shared the Gospel with 555 kids across 13 campuses! What's even more wild is that in those conversations, we saw God move 187 of them to receive Christ; just like Nick! As my director said, this revival is not normative, but isn't that just like our God? It has been difficult to work with the California COVID-19 mandates for the past 21 months, but He is clearly "restoring the years that the locusts have eaten away" and making beauty out of broken things. Pray for us as we follow up with all of these kids!



Prayer Requests

- Pray for us and our team as we follow up with all of the students that we met in the past two months!
- Pray for Fastbreak, our winter camp! We are excited to see the Lord move in a new and exciting way! Dec 17-20th



A New Chapter

Last week, one of our ministry partners thanked us for the work that we do. I said, "Of course! But you know these are not just "Carson" or "Cru" stories right? These are OUR stories!" And this is true! Jessica and I cannot work full-time in ministry without your faithful support. So as you continue to read and hear about what God is doing here, please know that we are beyond thankful for YOU!

This year has been very exciting for us personally as well as in ministry. Not only is God bringing an enormous revival, but we have some personal updates as well! First, Jessica and I were blessed to move into a

home owned by one of our ministry partners in Lakewood! This is strategic as we work at Lakewood High, which is now right across the street! It is also such a gift that our boys now have a yard to play in. Secondly, we recently found out that Jessica and I will be expecting our third child in March! Once our baby girl is here, we will have 3 kids under 3 years old! Because of this, Jessica officially transitioned to working full-time from home as our team's Volunteer Director. We are so thankful to have her in this role! Lastly, we have had a large increase in out-of-pocket pizza cost, which is currently \$1,600 monthly, as our clubs are rapidly growing at all three schools. **Because of the cost of moving, baby, and increased ministry, would you prayerfully consider helping us toward our goal of \$5,000? It will be matched, dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000.** As always, we are eternally grateful for you!



Baby Girl coming 3/22



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First Baptist Church of Garden Grove

“Sin is like this piece of paper!”, Kenny (GG Cru president) said as he held the sheet over his face. “Can you see me? No. Can you hear me? Not as clearly. But when we bring this before Jesus, what would He do? He won’t ask you to do community service to cover it! He won’t ask you to write a check to pay for it!” As Kenny ripped the paper in half, he proclaimed “JESUS HAS PAID IT ALL! If He is your Lord and Savior, then you need do nothing else other than trust in Him. He doesn’t want your perfection! He wants your humble repentance. This is why I have a hope beyond the grave and into eternity. If you don’t have the same, would you open your hearts to him today?” Kenny crumbled up the torn paper and tossed it into the can, and sat down.



Jake, David G, Kenny, and Brandt evangelizing at Garden Grove High School

Following this incredible message, I shared the explicit Gospel. Typically, the crowd is asked to bow their heads and close their eyes... but that day, I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to ask them to stand with eyes open. Nine students stood up and verbally prayed to receive Christ! Seven others had done the same the week prior!

Seeing that God was doing something incredible, I prayed and asked Him to provide help. For the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Feeling led by the Spirit, I

walked across the street to a church that I knew nothing of and encountered Wade. He was the only person at the church to answer the door. After telling him what was happening, he said, “It sounds like God is doing great things there Brandt! What do you need from us?” I told him that we needed help buying pizzas and a place to put kids after school. “Ok, well we can easily take care of that. Secondly, let’s go look at rooms!” I froze. “Wade, I didn’t even ask... what is your position here?” “Oh! Well I’m the senior pastor, which is why I can immediately approve your requests! Every day after school, I look out this window and wonder what we could be doing to reach the 2,500 students at GGHS... and here you are! Also, we actually have a young guy here that graduated from GGHS with Cru in 2020! After seeing his faith, I knew you guys were the real deal!” That young guy is David Guerrero (refer to prior letters for his story). It is always humbling to realize that God has been working long before we got here, and will be after! Pray for us as we follow where He leads!



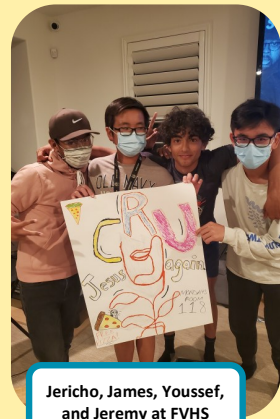
Prayer Requests

- Pray for our GGHS team as we seek to grow the movement!
- Pray also for Jenny Chan. She just reported to staff and is now the first staff member working with us at GGHS!



Fountain Valley High: Fallfest

Every Fall, Fountain Valley (FV) hosts “Fallfest” which is an opportunity for clubs to set up booths, sell items, and raise money. Cru has always taken this opportunity to give away free food if students take a quick survey. Using “Proxy Station” a picture-based evangelism tool from Intersarsity (another parachurch ministry), we ask the students where they and their friends find satisfaction in life. From there, we transition to the Gospel. One of my leaders, Jeremy Nguyen, was so excited about sharing his faith, that he missed out on the entire fair so that he could keep taking people through the survey. By the end, he led 10 groups of his peers through the station! Many were encouraged to hear; one of the students he led through was Sam.



Jericho, James, Youssef, and Jeremy at FVHS

Sam attentively listened while Jeremy shared the Gospel. At the end, he responded, “Well, can we pray now? I really want to make sure that I have a good relationship with God!” His brother Theo prayed a week later! They desperately want to know Jesus, but their parents are very restrictive which hinders them from coming to Bible studies. Please pray for these two brothers. Also, pray for Jeremy, that he will continue to be loving and courageous with his faith!