



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A Ministry Update from the Month of May

An Update on our Community:

We are all aware of the tragic loss of life that has taken place this year, and have seen the news of how our nation has responded. Here in Long Beach we have also seen many things from peaceful protests to the looting and burning of local businesses to mandatory curfews; protesting and turmoil that our city has not seen since the LA riots of 1992



For our students, they are feeling a wide range of emotions. Darius feels angry and frustrated that people care more about statistics and the loss of material items more than they care about the death of a member of his community. Kevin shared that he is scared to be living at home with so many burglaries in his area. He often hears screaming, running, helicopters, and sirens throughout the night. Because Zhu didn't post anything about the BLM movement within a week of Floyd's death, her friends unadded her social media, named her an oppressor of people of color, and now refuse to talk to her. Tien's mom's shop was in a shattered heap after a break-in.

Many of our students are living in midst of the chaos and are struggling to navigate social distancing and community, anger and sadness, persecution and advocacy, joy and mourning. However, the beauty of the Gospel continues to go forth as we engage in powerful conversations with our students and their friends, about what it looks like to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we navigate these delicate and tender spaces.



We are excited to announce the name of our 2nd son!

Prayer Request

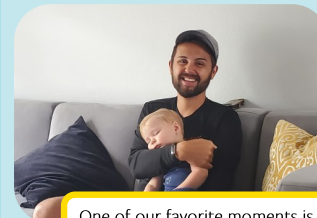
- Pray for our students to love and trust God as they navigate the uncertainty of life.
- Pray for Jessica as she was hospitalized for going into pre-term labor. Pray also that as she will be tested for cholestasis soon due to her intense, full-body itching.

Aliyah wrestle

"I've honestly just been living life going through the motions... I've just been mentally and emotionally out of it for the past few weeks and not wanting to deal with anything. I keep wondering where is God?" - (Aliyah, Garden Grove HS graduating senior).

Aliyah has grown up in a Christian home, but prior to COVID19 was wrestling between loving God and loving the world. Carrying too much on her shoulders, Aliyah works to help with her family's financial expenses, often working late into the night and having to take an Uber home. "It sucks and my coworkers don't understand that the last 1.5 hours that I work is to just cover the expense of getting home safely." Partying was her usual way to cope with the stress and expectations of her family. In the season of COVID and Shelter in Place orders, opportunities to "escape" have disappeared, and she is left alone to face her own crushing anxieties and crippling insecurities.

By God's grace, Aliyah was bold to reach out and share with Jessica for virtual discipleship. She was open about her brokenness and desired to pursue wholeness with a newfound intensity. After a few months, Aliyah shared "This has been the hardest season of my life; it doesn't look anything like I thought it would. But I am also thankful that it has forced me to slow down and see how God has been pursuing me! I feel more confident to resist temptation going into college because I now see that those things don't mean anything!" Please continue to pray for Aliyah and other students who are wrestling with the goodness of God and the satisfaction that can only come from Him!



One of our favorite moments is when Cayden falls asleep on us!



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