



THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

A February Update from the Carsons!

Relationships Panel

Every Valentine's Day at Fountain Valley HS, we present a panel to discuss Biblical perspectives on relationships. This year some of our other local staff members joined the panel, adding fresh perspectives to the topic. Though many of these students have grown up in the church, they had many questions such as: Why can't we have sex before marriage? Why can't we date a non-Christian who's still a good person? How do we date, break up, or move on? And so on.



Here are some students' comments afterward: **"I didn't think about how much I would be influenced by the person that I date. I really need to think about how important my faith is to me, before I date someone."** **"It's weird to think that God created sex... but also exciting at the same time. I've always thought of sex as a dirty, sinful thing. This panel was really refreshing!"**



On Feb 15th, we celebrated 7.5 years of marriage!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the new students that we met at club rush! That they would find a home in our club!
- Pray for Brandt as he enters a new season of healing with his oldest disciple.



Club Rush

Fountain Valley HS holds a "Club Rush" each semester to give students the opportunity to find out about the 103 campus clubs. With all those groups to choose from, 93 students gave us their names! One of those 93 is Ethan. He was born in Egypt, moved to MA, to HI, then to CA. This was his first week on campus. He was feeling lonely, and tired of moving. After signing up, he's come to the past 5 meetings! Please pray that he would encounter Jesus!

Lifelong Ministry

In the summer of 2014, I met my first disciple in California. I led Damian in the prayer, and he then proceeded to bring FIVE of his family into a relationship with Jesus! Sadly, Damian's walk with God since then has been rocky. He called this month to tell me that his wife had evicted him, and has filed for divorce and a restraining order. He has spent many nights on my couch trying to process this. He is struggling to see God's goodness, and praying for a reason to keep going forward.



"I have no idea what He is doing, but he woke me up today... so He must have a plan... and I have to trust in that" - Damian



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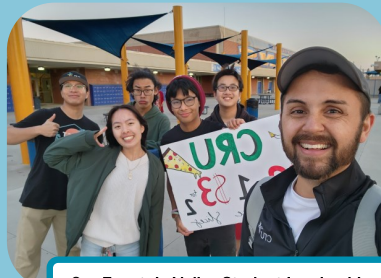
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A March Update from the Carsons!

Using Solarium at CultureFest

During Culture Fest, each club picks a country that best represents them, and chooses to sell a food item to raise money. We of course, picked Italy because: pizza. As always, we will give the students free pizza if they take a short, picture-based survey (Solarium). The simple exercise of choosing photos showing what their life is like (or what they'd like it to be) often leads to them sharing very honestly about their feelings and struggles. Pointing to an image of adults arguing, one

shared, "My parents are always mad. At me, each other, the world... I just wish that they would love each other again." Another pointed out a bathroom scale, saying, "I am struggling with my self-image. People call me fat and ugly every day.. It gets old... I wish I wasn't like this." Others shared of abuse, abandonment, and unmet expectations. But some were hopeful. One pointed to a phone booth in a dark area. "See how it's the only light and connection in the area? I want to be that for others!" We spoke with 35 students, and nine of them prayed and received Christ!



Our Fountain Valley Student Leadership



Selah turns one!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the students that we met at club rush! Pray that they would grow in their love and affection towards Jesus!
- Pray that my HSM boys would continue seeking Jesus!

Arbor's High School Ministry (HSM)

In addition to working at Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, and Lakewood High Schools, I also serve with High School Ministry at Arbor Road Church. Many of these kids have grown up in the church, and know the "right answers" to the questions asked in small group. I've found that the challenge is helping the Gospel reach past their minds, into their hearts. During a sleepover at my house, one boy mentioned that he proudly held streaks (how many consecutive days two people have been sending pictures to each other on Snapchat) with 60 different girls. By the end of the night, he humbly received our advice that he might be finding validation in the wrong spaces. He even removed 60% of them!

Another student had a past relationship that he kept secret from his friends and family. For the first time, he opened up and shared about the lust and pain of dating her. Through our talks, he had a chance to repent and receive God's love and forgiveness as we prayed over him. It was 2 am before we finally hit the sack. Youth ministry really doesn't follow any kind of normal schedule!



Selah was dedicated at Arbor Road!



Cayden turns 4!



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