

The High School Ministry of Cru in LA Metro



Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Rose & River as they begin their new walk with Jesus
- Pray that they would continue to seek Jesus even as life continues to be unpredictable and difficult
- Pray for Manny and Sam. Pray that they would continue to allow God to lead and direct their lives.

To receive real-time prayer request, text @PRAY4LA To 81010

“AND THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU CONTINUALLY AND SATISFY YOUR DESIRE IN SCORCHED PLACES AND MAKE YOUR BONES STRONG; AND YOU SHALL BE LIKE A WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING OF WATER, WHOSE WATERS DO NOT FAIL.”
ISAIAH 58:11

A JANUARY UPDATE FROM THE CARSONS

Fastbreak 2019

The second night of camp, three new girls were placed in my cabin because they couldn't get along with the girls in their cabin. This left us with a worrisome mix of ten girls from six schools who didn't know each other at all.

But just minutes into the late-night discussion time, everyone was breaking down in tears! River told us about her struggle with depression; Rose shared about her mother's mental illness, and E confessed she was emotionally scarred from being raped 3 years ago. These girls, who initially thought they had nothing in common, began to bond over their similar life experiences!

The next morning, Rose asked to share more of her story with me. She recounted traumatic memories of her alcoholic father beating her mom, and in tears shared how she would sacrifice herself to blows in order to protect her younger sister. After I prayed for her, she spontaneously asked, “Can you tell me how to have a relationship with Jesus?!” – I was shocked! At the same time, River asked if she could join us, and with tears in her eyes said that she too wanted to know how to have a relationship with Jesus!

After I shared the Gospel, both girls said they wanted to pray and receive Christ! River stated, “I have been in such a dark place, and I understand that God has been there and wants to bring light back into my life!” Rose said, “I am so tired of doing everything on my own; I believe that God wants to help me with my future!”



Jessica, Rose, and River

Manny

Things weren't going so smoothly for me over in the boys' cabin either. During our first nightly chatroom, every serious topic that started was quickly sidetracked or mocked by Manny. After the sixth interruption, I boldly said, “Manny, I LOVE that you want to make people laugh, but right now you are creating a barrier for the guys to know Jesus. I'm asking you to show respect to these guys as they have shown it to you. I know there is a gem inside you, and I'm going to find it this weekend!”



Sammy, Manny, and Nate

As conversation continued, Manny began to show respect by listening to the other guys! He even asked good follow-up questions and became vulnerable himself. By the second night, Manny bravely shared that he and his brother Sammy come from a staunchly traditional Nigerian household. They and their family are under constant criticism and ridicule from their Christian father. From bowing to their father when they enter to house, to the constant chores, Manny said that, “Nothing is ever good enough for him! I know that I use jokes to hide my feelings, but I do that because I'm sick of letting fear rule my life! Right now, I just want to cry but I can't! My dad punished me for laughing, crying, and showing emotions!” Manny later shared that Fastbreak is the highlight of his year, as this is where he truly experiences God! I told him, “Thanks for sharing! I think we finally found that gem!”