



# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

*An April Update from the Carsons!*

## Calvary Chapel Chattanooga

Over the past week, we've been sharing the explicit Gospel at every campus, powered by the support of the Tennessee Calvary team! This special partnership, which began in 2013 when they sent us a group of their members to help with ministry, has since blossomed into a yearly event of increased evangelism and discipleship. Here are some highlights from the week!

At Garden Grove, 200 kids joined us for the lunch rally, with 58 indicating they prayed to receive Christ. Lakewood had a record-setting meeting with 406 students attending, and an astounding 104 committing to Christ! Browning saw 84 kids, which means 25% of the campus heard the Gospel, with 19 indications. With a total of 2218 conversations and 510 indications of decisions for Christ, it was incredible to see the Lord move! Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this week. Please continue to pray as we embark on the next phase of follow-up and discipleship with these newfound believers.



**Happy Birthday to Jessica and Selah Grace!**

## **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for the students and families that we reached during Calvary Week!
- Pray that they would get connected with Cru and a local church near them!



## Lakewood Evangelism

Here's one story from the week: At Lakewood, Josh and I had a talk with five students: Evan, Noah, Carlos, Mateo, and Luke. Evan and Noah both grew up in homes where their mothers were absent due to affairs. Carlos lost his father in a gang-related incident three years ago. Meanwhile, Mateo struggled with the aftermath of multiple divorces in his family. Despite their backgrounds and lack of exposure to church, they all shared a common longing for peace, belonging, and hope.



As we shared about the healing and redemption found in Jesus, Evan and Noah were moved to tears. Meanwhile, the others listened intently, asking curious questions. By the end of our conversation, all five young men made a heartfelt decision to pray and invite Jesus into their lives. When I asked them why they prayed, the predominant response was their desire to grow closer to God and experience the family they never had growing up. It was a powerful reminder of the transformative power of the Gospel, offering hope and healing to the brokenhearted. Please pray for these young men as they begin their new life journey with Jesus!



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## Alex and Chris's Prayer!

At Arbor Road Church's High School Ministry (HSM), our Bible study quickly grew to 19 guys, making conversations challenging. Despite the crowd, we pressed on and had meaningful discussions. Among us was Chris, who attended church at the request of his family but hadn't yet embraced faith due to fear of missing out on life's pleasures. Also in our group was Alex, exploring Christianity alongside his friends Charly and Diego, while also considering other religions.

During one study, Chris bravely shared his struggles with drinking and smoking, revealing a deeper battle with anxiety and addiction. His admission sparked a conversation about surrendering to Jesus for true freedom. Sensing that Alex, too, had not yet prayed, I turned to him and asked about his current position in his faith journey. Surprisingly, Alex, known for his contemplative, analytical nature, declared his readiness to pray and commit his life to God. Witnessing the transformation in Charly and Diego's lives helped convince him of Jesus's truth, as well as seeing the change in his own life.

On April 10th, both Alex and Chris prayed to receive Christ. Chris sought guidance and strength, while Alex expressed gratitude for God's pursuit and eagerly anticipated this new chapter. As we celebrated, Pastor Rich Baker joined us, imparting wisdom and encouragement to our new believers and also capturing the moment in a group photo. It was a powerful reminder of the impact of community in the journey of faith.



## Prayer Requests

- Pray Diego, Charly, Chris, and Alex as they start their new journey with Jesus! Pray that they would find solid Christian community after they leave home this summer for college.
- Pray for grace, favor, provision, guidance, grace, protection, and anything else you can think of for our Panama team! (trip will be July 5-19).



## The Panama Team

This summer, our family will be leading our 2nd annual mission trip to Panama with 16 of our local students. These students face financial, logistical, and support challenges that typically make trips like these impossible. However, because of your prayers and financial support, doors have opened for these students to embark on this transformative journey.

With your generosity, we've secured vital documents and raised the funds necessary, overcoming hurdles that seemed insurmountable. There, we are partnering with Panama Cru staff and local churches to share the Gospel in public schools, aiming to impact high school students and families. Additionally, we'll collaborate with a local church to provide clean water to 32 families in need.

Our goal extends beyond this trip; we aim to ignite a passion for evangelism and discipleship among our students, empowering them to make a lasting impact in Southern California. Your partnership in prayer and giving is crucial to realizing this vision. Together, we're equipping students to continue spreading Christ's love long after they return home!



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