

THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

An October Misson's Update



JC sharing his testimony minutes after praying to receive Christ

A Two Year Journey

Two years ago I was walking around Garden Grove hoping to meet some students who would be willing to talk. I found a group of five who agreed to play Solarium in exchange for free pizza. *Solarium is a picture based evangelism tool that helps students open up quickly by choosing images that represent their lives.* It works every time. Within minutes they were sharing things they had never said out loud before. If you remember from the August newsletter, this is where I first met Daniel. JC was also in that group. When I came back for the follow up only three students returned and JC was one of them. He asked thoughtful questions and seemed genuinely interested. But by the third meeting it was just Daniel sitting with me. JC drifted away. I prayed for him, saw him on campus here and there, but he didn't come back.

This fall, a student greeted me with a big smile and said it was good to see me again. I did not recognize him at first. When I realized it was JC, I asked what brought him back after two years. He told me he had reached the lowest point of his life and felt alone, anxious, and overwhelmed. He said he had been retracing his steps trying to find any happy memory he could hold on to, and the moments that came back to him was those early Solarium conversations. Even though he only came twice, something about the openness and the joy of that conversation stayed with him. That memory pulled him back.

Over the next few weeks JC started coming to everything; Lunch meetings, after school Bible studies, Fountain Valley nights and more! He was present at every single one. On the drive to Citywide I finally asked him what had made him come back. He told me he wanted to believe that God was real and he was trying to lean in, but he also said that if this did not work out he felt like he would be without hope. He said the only thing holding him back from starting a relationship with God was the weight of his doubts. Is Jesus real? Is the Bible trustworthy? Does any of this matter?

At Citywide our speaker, Alexander James, talked about the invitation of the King and the freedom that Christ offers. When the invitation was given I looked up and saw JC stand. He said he felt a peace he had never felt before and knew God was real. He said he was tired of carrying the weight of his thoughts and anxiety and wanted the freedom Jesus brings. Because I was the emcee for the night I



JC getting his first Bible from David Urquhart

brought JC on stage to share what had happened. He told the room that he grew up in a home without God, had reached the lowest point of his life, and remembered the joy he felt during a club years ago. Then he shared that tonight he had fully put his trust and faith in Jesus. He went on to explain what faith meant to him, and keep in mind he has never read the New Testament, yet he essentially paraphrased Hebrews 11:1. He said that faith in God means you cannot see everything, but you know it is real, and that when you jump, Jesus will catch you. Then he went a step further and told the room that if they wanted a relationship with Jesus this was available to them too. **It was wild to watch, because he had been a Christian for about seven minutes and he was already sharing the gospel!** Praise the Lord for how He moved in Daniel and JC's life!



Boaz Gunter turned six this month. The Gunters are our closest family friends and have become family to us.

Prayer Update

- Please pray for JC. Pray that he grows deep roots, stays steady in the ups and downs, and keeps walking toward the God who met him that night when he stood up and said yes to Jesus.



Andren joined the Lakewood Dragons for flag football. He finished his last game with SIX flag pulls and one reception!



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