

THE CARSON CONNECTION

A JUNE MINISTRY UPDATE, 2026

CloseUp 2026 Summer CloseUp

This summer we took 175 students to our summer conference, CloseUp. Kids came from all over Los Angeles and Orange County to worship Jesus together. One of my students, Kyro, felt compelled to share his testimony after camp. Here is his story in his own words:

I come from an Egyptian family. My mom wasn't religious, and my dad was Coptic Orthodox. At home there was a lot of fighting. My parents were always in conflict about something. After that, my grandfather died and my dad was never the same. He then made a decision he would regret, and my parents got divorced. We lost our apartment and moved into a hotel. Before I knew it, my family was split and we were homeless. I was lonely and depressed, so I fell in with the wrong friends and started smoking and drinking to numb it. I thought I was happy. I thought I did not need anything else. God was calling me back to him. I just did not listen, and it kept getting worse.

On day, my sister told me she was getting baptized and wanted me there. I thought I was only going to support her and never come back, but I felt so much love from everyone, and it caught me off guard. The next day I ran into the Pastor at the store. I had barely spoken to him, but Collin came up and called me by name and made sure I would be there the next week! I did not think anyone cared that much.

Later she invited me to Close Up, and I did not want to go. But I felt God calling me there, so when my job would not give me the time off, I turned in my resignation and went. One of the talks was about roots. The habits we fall into and the things we run to all grow out of something deeper underneath, something we usually never stop to look at. It asked where our roots were, and I realized I did not know where mine were.

*That night I talked to Brandt, and he asked me questions to help me figure it out. I was too stubborn to admit why I did the things I did, because I thought it would make me look weak. He prayed for me, and during that prayer God made the words louder and louder until I finally said them. Validation. Fear of my future. Fear of being alone. **That was the night I knew God was real and was calling me, and I surrendered my life to Christ.** If I have learned anything, it is this. If you ever feel God trying to speak to you, listen, because he is probably calling you to his love. Even the bad things in my life were part of his plan, because it was all the hardship that brought me here, so I could feel His love!*



Aiden, from the last letter, was baptized!



The Orange County Team



On June 22nd
Brandt turned 32!

PRAYER REQUEST:

- Please pray for Kyro, who gave his life to Christ at Close Up this summer. Pray that he keeps growing, stays rooted, and holds onto the freedom he found.
- Please pray for Aiden, who was baptized at Close Up. Pray for his strength, and for his family.



Our kids lived out their dreams to be farmers for a day at a U-pick farm.



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