

THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

Panama Newsletter Update



Poly to Panama

Meet Airee. She grew up in a challenging environment, including a period of homelessness in LA. We first met her last year when she stopped by our Cru club for a slice of pizza. Shortly after, she attended our summer camp, where she encountered Jesus, and her life was transformed. Since then, she has become a core member of our student team at Long Beach Poly. This summer, she took another step of faith by joining our mission trip to Panama.

Airee's prayer was to see someone come to Christ. Sensing that Airee felt unqualified, my wife, Jessica, encouraged her to ask for more—to trust God not just to witness it, but to lead someone to Jesus herself. Despite her doubts, Airee prayed boldly. On the clean water mission day, she had her chance. While installing a water filter, Airee shared how we're like dirty water—only Jesus can make us clean. **Through tears, the woman prayed to receive Christ with Airee, answering her exact prayer!** She was overwhelmed with joy, realizing that God had answered her prayer! It was a powerful reminder that He often works through our weaknesses to show His strength. Now, Airee is excited to share her faith with others and sees how God can use her story to bring hope and transformation.



A Gospel Response

On Thursday, Casey shared his powerful testimony with the students. He spoke openly about the pain of growing up in a broken home, living with an abusive mother, and the deep sense of abandonment he felt when his father went to prison. Despite being from Tennessee, his story resonated deeply with these students from Panama. Though their circumstances differed, many

could relate to the themes of poverty, broken families, and loneliness. Casey shared how, in his brokenness, Jesus met him, offering healing and purpose. He also told of the miraculous way both his parents eventually came to faith, showing that no situation is beyond God's reach. After Casey finished, I shared the Gospel, explaining how Jesus offers forgiveness and new life to anyone who trusts in Him. I emphasized that this invitation was for them personally, right where they were. **When we asked who wanted to respond, 22 of the 25 students raised their hands, eager to start a relationship with Jesus.** It was a powerful moment, not only because of the number of responses but because these students—though from vastly different walks of life—had found hope in the same Savior.

By the end of the week, our team, in partnership with three local churches, had shared the Gospel with 600 people, with 245 making decisions to follow Christ. These churches are now equipped to continue the ministry in their communities, and they've already begun doing so. Additionally, through a clean water mission, 23 families received water filters and were connected to a local church, ensuring both their physical and spiritual needs are being met.



The boys at the Panama Canal!

Prayer Request

- Please pray for Airee and the rest of our team as we return home. God used this trip to open our eyes to a bigger piece of His plan, and it continues in California.
- Pray for Massiel, the director in Panama, and she continues the coordination of schools and churches.
- Pray for a possible third trip in the summer of 2025!



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