

THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

March 2025 Update



Hope in Heartbreak

At Fountain Valley High School's Culture Fest, clubs sold food to fundraise, and our students ran our table entirely by themselves. Beforehand, I asked how many had shared their faith before. Every one of them had first learned how to share the gospel at one of our camps. After a quick refresher training, they went out boldly. In just a couple of hours, they shared the gospel with over 100 students, prayed for 66, and saw one student pray to receive Christ. It reminded me of Jesus leaving the 99 to find the one.



Our student-led FallFest team!

Shortly after, tragedy struck the campus. A well known student at FVHS took his own life. Many in our club were hit hard, grappling with the shock and grief. God's timing was clear. Nate, one of the students who led during Culture Fest, was already scheduled to share his testimony. He spoke of losing a godly friend to a car crash, a heartbreaking event that turned into a mini revival at the funeral as the gospel was shared and many came to Christ. He also shared about losing another friend in a plane crash, this time with less visible closure, though he still saw glimpses of God at work.

When it came to Dane's death, Nate admitted he did not yet see what God was doing. But he clung to this truth: just because we do not see it does not mean God is not moving. His story helped our students sit in their grief honestly and still find real hope with Jesus.

Prayer: Presence over Performance

At Citywide this month, I spoke about prayer, how God meets us in our weakness and not in our performance. I shared stories from my own life about how prayer carried me through helpless seasons and how God invites us to come as we are. Here are some highlights that students shared after the message.

One student from McBride High School had been around for years, enjoying the community but never surrendering to Christ. That night, the Spirit finally broke through. He admitted he had been living like a fake Christian, wanting the benefits of Jesus without giving Him his life. With his leader by his side, he surrendered his heart and prayed to receive Christ with his Bible study group!

Another student came up and said, "Hey Brandt, thank you so much for teaching tonight. I really related to your story." When I asked which part, he said, "The arrogant part. I never realized that me wanting to fix my own problems was rooted in my pride. I want to work to allow God to have that part of my life as well."

Another shared he had been embarrassed to pray because his words felt too messy. After watching the video of my son Andren's scattered but honest prayer, he said, "Now I know it is better to bring a messy prayer to God than to stay messy without Him."

God is stirring hearts across our campuses, raising up leaders and students who want to seek Him with honesty and boldness. Thank you for praying, giving, and standing with us as we help students experience the love and power of Jesus for themselves.



A staff gathering in our home



Cayden was THRILLED to finally turn six years old at his Lego themed party!

Prayer Request

- Pray for Fountain Valley students as they grieve the loss of their friend. Pray that their sadness would lead them to seek real, lasting hope in Jesus.
- Pray that our students would not just hear about prayer but truly experience God as they seek Him. Pray that they would seek Him in every part of their life and story!



Brandt's parents came to visit for two weeks. The kids loved getting to spend time with their Papa and Lola!



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