# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

### A Panama Misson's Update





## **Daniel Testimony**

When we started meeting at Garden Grove High, I bought a pizza in faith, hoping students would show up for Bible study, but no one came. I almost gave the pizza away, but I felt the Lord tell me to grab five plates and walk the campus. Near the gym, Daniel came out from volleyball, drawn by the smell of pizza. I told him he could have some if he played a card game called Solarium. He agreed, and four friends joined. As they shared their stories of pain and loss, Daniel said his life was good and he

had little to share. I reminded him that every story matters, and his is worth sharing.

Daniel said that the reason he was open to the idea of faith was because God once saved his father's life in a way that felt impossible to ignore and too intentional to be coincidence. His dad, on a work call, had been redirected to a closer job site that turned out to be a hospital. When he arrived, he collapsed from a heart attack and survived because help was right there. That moment made Daniel believe that God was real. Soon after, he placed his faith in Jesus, joined a church, and was baptized.

This past June, however, Daniel's father died from the same heart issue. He admitted feeling angry and confused, wondering why God would take his dad just as his faith was beginning to grow. Yet he said the only thing that got him through was his relationship with God. He is thankful he became a Christian when he did because, without God's presence, he would not have made it through that season. Daniel now lives with confidence that his dad is with the Lord and that he will see him again.

Today, Daniel serves as Parable Club President at Garden Grove High, guiding others to find the same hope he has found. He helped lead our Missions Week outreach where more than 200 students heard the Gospel and 39 responded to Jesus, and he served on the Panama mission trip sharing his story in public schools. He even started a Bible study with the sophomore volleyball team. Daniel's life began with one simple step of faith and now continues to point others toward lasting hope in Christ.



#### La Quinta Launch

For two years, students at La Quinta High School tried to start a Christian club and were denied every time. Administrators insisted that allowing a faith based club would violate the school's separation of church and state. Still, Amanda, a bold sophomore with a heart for her campus, led weekly Bible studies off the record and kept praying for God to make a way. When she reached out for help, her home church, Westminster Christian Assembly, and their pastor, Colin, joined forces with our Parable team and FCA to advocate for her. Knowing the Equal

Access Law protects student led religious clubs just like any other, a final appeal was sent to the school reminding them that closing the door on this club was not legal. What we found was not hostility, but uncertainty. The administration had simply misunderstood the law and wanted to be careful. Once everything was clarified, the doors finally opened. Now, as a senior, Amanda gets to lead the officially recognized Christian club on her campus, where 70 to 80 students gather each week to hear the Gospel. What began as quiet faith has now become public light, and your support helped make it possible for this movement to begin and grow in ways we could have never imagined.



#### **Prayer Update**

 Brandt's Car is reaching end of life. We are now looking for a car that provides more than 14 mpg! If you would like to help us meet the financial cost of this, please contact us. Thank you!



