

THE CARSON CONNECTION

A MAY MINISTRY UPDATE, 2026

A Two Year Journey

Aiden grew up in a family of devoted Jehovah's Witnesses. He never felt like he belonged, learning early that stepping out of line could get you cut off. School was not much safer, where he was bullied for being different and made to feel ashamed of his skin, language, and culture. Some of the deepest wounds came from inside his own family, from people who should have been safe.

His dad also had serious heart problems, and for years Aiden's biggest fear was losing him. In third grade, that fear came true. His father's heart stopped, and Aiden ended up in a hospital waiting room, a scared little kid with no idea whether his dad would make it. Then his mom prayed over his father, and the heartbeat came back. For the first time, Aiden wondered if prayer might be real, and if God had been listening all along.

That was not the last time fear found him. Years later a stranger held Aiden, his mom, and his brothers at gunpoint, and as the man threatened his life, Aiden prayed, more afraid for his family than for himself. He was not a believer yet, but he cried out anyway, because deep down he already knew God was real. He made it out alive, and looking back he can see that God was near him even in the years he felt most alone.

This is the kid who first walked into Parable only because a friend (who we will call Jill) said there was free pizza, and he kept coming back, first for the food and then for our after school Bible study, until he simply loved it. At Citywide, he had a conversation with Daniel about faith. The one thing that had always held him back was knowing that following Jesus could cost him his family. He chose to follow anyway and gave his life to Christ that night.

His fear came true. His grandparents and much of his family cut him out, and months of silence followed while God walked him through the slow, painful work of forgiving them, including the ones who had hurt him long before this.

Aiden, now a junior, has continued to walk in love, faith, and forgiveness. The kid who once could not stand who he was, is slowly learning to like the person God made him to be. Instead of bracing for the next hard thing, he is moving forward with a purpose he never had before. He then stood up in front of a full room and shared his whole story.

His friend Jill, who came to support him, had grown up with real church hurt and had walked away from church completely. As she heard Aiden share, she felt the heaviness of her own untold story. She also needed a ride home, so Ben and Denise, an older couple who love this ministry, pray for us, and bake for our students, offered to take her. Denise put her arm around her and said in a sweet motherly voice, *"Hey, sweetie, I can see you are sad, you can tell me what is going on. I'm so glad that you came tonight!"*

What God did in Aiden did not stop with him. It has already begun spilling over into his friend Jill, whose story is just getting started. I do not know all the Lord has for her yet, but I get to walk alongside her while we find out. Will you pray for both of them with me?



PRAYER REQUEST:

- Pray for Aiden as he continues to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation with a family that doesn't want it.
- Pray for Jill as she begins the hard work of understanding her story, and trusting God with the deepest, hardest parts of her life.



Brandt sharing at Westminster to over 100 students!



Eric sharing at OC Night



Andren graduated Kindergarten!



ParableLA.org

Brandt: 423-667-3239
Jessica: 951-501-9787



@The_Carson_
Connection

