

# THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

January 2025 Update



## Emery from Garden Grove

Emery's journey has been marked by deep struggles. For years, she battled self-harm, substance abuse, and depression, leading to several hospitalizations after suicide attempts. In September, during a Parable lunch meeting at her school, she prayed to receive Christ, hoping for a fresh start. But the weeks that followed weren't easy. Emery found herself still wrestling with sin, doubting God, and questioning whether He truly loved her.

At Close Up, our winter camp, during a session about surrendering to God, Emery came forward to the altar. She shared that she wasn't even sure what she was there to pray for, but as she got on her knees and opened her heart to God, He began to reveal the things she needed to release. Emery found herself praying for struggles she hadn't realized were weighing her down and repenting of sins she didn't even know she needed to confess. It was a freeing moment as she surrendered everything to Him. Following this sweet moment of surrender, Emery suddenly felt a hand gently rest on her shoulder. Startled, she turned to see who it was—but no one was there. The sensation was undeniable though, and as warmth spread through her, she realized what was happening. "I felt the Holy Spirit put His hand on me and give me a hug," Emery shared. "It was so warm, I felt it deep in my soul!" In that instant, Emery experienced the love and presence of God in a way she had never known before. God was reminding her that He saw her, loved her, and hadn't given up on her. That Though her journey isn't over, she now walks forward knowing that she is held securely in the arms of a loving Savior who meets her in her darkest moments and brings His light into her life.

Emery's encounter with Jesus was just one of many powerful moments at Close Up. Throughout the weekend, 129 students experienced God in profound ways, with 25 students professing their faith in Jesus for the first time!

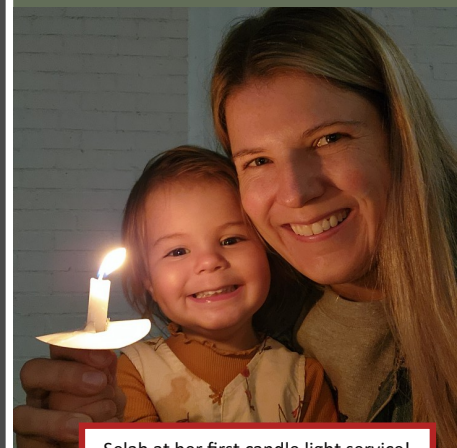
This is made possible in part because of your continued prayers for our students and ministries. To hear more about our other students, check out socials on IG and Facebook.  
**@TheCarsonConnection**



On Christmas day, Andren prayed to receive Christ!

## Prayer Request

- Pray for all of our students as they return to their clubs, schools, and families. That they would grow in confidence to share their faith with others.
- Pray for Emery and the other 24 students as they continue their new faith with Jesus!
- Pray for Andren as he also begins his journey with his savior, Jesus!



Selah at her first candle light service!



Brandt, Jessica, Cayden, Andren, and  
Selah Grace Carson

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