



February 09, 2017

*Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:8*

An update on what has happened recently (November, December, and January):

**TDCJ:**

- Still no change with Juan. I speak with Juan from time to time, but he still is not doing well. Last I heard, he still does not have a job. Please remember to pray for him. Especially for his salvation.

**TYC (McFadden Ranch):**

- Chuck Grice continues with me in leading Bible study at McFadden Ranch on Monday nights. We average about 4 to 5 youth. We are going thru the book of 1<sup>st</sup> John right now.
- We were able to make several more trips to get state IDs for some of the youth. This helps them when they get out, to be readily able to get a job.
- Thank you again to Countryside Bible Church for providing clothing (button-down dress shirts) and sports equipment to the youth at McFadden Ranch. The youth were very impressed with these gifts and even made a card expressing so. Thanks again to Countryside Bible Church!

**Youth Village:**

- Group Bible studies struggle to continue at Youth Village. Please pray that God would speak to their hearts and that it would make an impact on them and they would put into practice what they learn!
- Prayers still needed as not much has changed – it is still challenging at Youth Village as to when I can come and if Bible study will happen. Several of the dynamics have changed to where it is almost impossible to have Bible study. I feel for the youth, as they need to hear God's word. But I am seeking the Lord's direction in this matter. Your prayers in this are greatly appreciated!!!

**After Care:**

- Ismael – He dropped 3 of 4 classes at Navarro College and failed to take a Final test on his other class. He moved back to Mission at the end of November. He totaled his car in January, but he is ok. Your prayers for him are greatly appreciated. Really sad to see a youth that at one time was really walking with the Lord but is not now.
- Alejandro – currently in Justin and now working at a landscape company. He worked for Hard 8 BBQ for two years! Please pray for his salvation.

**Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):**

- There is no one at Hope Inn Christ right now.
- Prayer – they still need new house parents! We have a board meeting later this month.

**Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):**

- I have been going to Teen Life Challenge for a several months now. This is a place (like Hope Inn Christ) where men can come to get off drugs, pornography, etc. It is an 18-month program and is Christ centered! (The best part.)
- Please pray that they would let me be more involved with the men! Still working on this!
- Most of the men are over 21 and many have been to prison.
- There are a couple of the men I work with that are showing a growing love for Christ! Please pray that I may be able to encourage them in their walk and be a positive influence for the Lord: Andrew, Isaac, Jason, Jorge, Robert, Bubba, Carter, and Alex.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support. Below are some areas of prayer needs that are on my heart at this time. Some requests you may have seen before.

**ONLY** in HIS strength,

Ernie Black

**Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for Hope Inn Christ – for new house parents, and for youth that desire to walk with God.
- Pray that when we share the gospel that it would be accurate and with the love of God, that we would speak clearly, and that the hearts of the young men would be open to hear and respond to God's Word.
- Please pray for youth at McFadden and Youth Village – for their hearts to be open and for them to come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- That the Lord continues to use me to speak and work with these youth.
- For Juan, Alejandro, and Ismael – their salvation and walk with the Lord.
- Direction for Youth Village.
- For more time with the men at Teen Life Challenge – should know more by next month

**Praises:**

- For Chuck Grice who continues to help with Bible study at McFadden. He is a great encouragement to me!
- Just for the opportunity to work with these youth and men!
- That Ismael and Alejandro are still staying in touch with me since they are out!
- Andrew is really getting into God's Word! We try to speak on a weekly basis!