



May 07, 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 (February, March, and April):

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 2 to 3 youth. We are about to begin going thru the book of Matthew on DVD.
- 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.
- Had to take a youth to a funeral in San Antonio for his grandmother (who raised him). Trip went well and the youth did well. We dropped him off at a halfway house in San Antonio. He is 15.
- Got to take 4 youth to the Grapevine Recycle event in March. They were very impressed with the youth and their work. They invited us back in November!

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 – Haven't heard from him since January. Please pray for his salvation. Last I heard, he hasn't had a job since he moved back to Mission and he totaled his car. 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 is doing well, but please pray for his salvation.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- There is no one at Hope Inn Christ right now.
- Praise – they think they may have new house parents. Please pray for God's direction.

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, Jorge, Robert, Bubba, Isaiah, and Carter.

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 as they still apply!

ONLY in HIS strength,

Ernie Black

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Hope Inn Christ – for the prospective new house parents, and for youth who desire to walk with God will be willing to come.
- 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 and the youth there.
- For more time with the men at Teen Life Challenge

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 young men!
- Andrew is really getting into God's Word! We try to speak on a weekly basis! He is thinking about going into the Navy. Please pray for God's direction and timing.