



Sept 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 (May, June, July, and August):

**TDCJ:**

- Juan checked into a 90-day treatment center at the end of August. I am hoping that this will help him with his drug addiction. I also hope that he will come back into a relationship with the Lord.

**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 have a lot of competition with other things scheduled on this night.
- Successfully “parked” cars with the youth for Main Street Days in Grapevine. Will do it again for Grapefest this next week. Hope it goes well and we raise a lot of money for the council.

**Youth Village:**

- Group Bible studies **STILL** 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:**

- Edward – He left McFadden at the end of January of last year. Early this year, he gave his life to the Lord! He has really turned his life around! He started college this semester. I speak with him on a daily basis. We speak about life, school, and the Bible. He has read Matthew, Proverbs, and is now reading Mark. Praise be to God!
- 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 now have new house parents and are actively seeking youth!

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

- Praise! I have been going to Teen Life Challenge for over a year now. They finally started letting me be more involved with the men that are there! I have done a few Bible studies with them so far!
- Andrew has a job and started college this semester!
- I went to Oklahoma to pick up a youth that I know and bring him there. He has given his life to the Lord as well! Praise God!
- I am currently working closely with several of the young men and trying to be an encouragement to them. A couple have graduated the first part of the program and are now in the re-entry phase.
- I got to take one of them to Hamilton (where he lives) a couple of times over the past few months. Our conversations have been real good – concentrating on life, school, and God! Also got to help him buy his first car – thanks to a Countrysider!

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 new house parents and that youth who want to change their life and will make the Lord the center of their life will 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 Edward as I try to help him take care of hospital bills he has from last year. Praying that the debt will be forgiven.
- For the young men who are starting college.

**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!
- For Teen Life Challenge letting me work with the young men in their care.
- For new house parents for Hope Inn Christ.