



Jan 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 (September, October, November, and December):

TDCJ:

- Juan is currently working in Rockport (which had major damage due to hurricane Harvey). He works with a demolition company. Please keep him in your prayers. He continues to struggle just being out of prison. I am hoping 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 Grapefest in Grapevine. Will do it again for Main Street days in May.
- Have been able to help facilitate getting the youth their IDs. They have changed the way in which we go about getting them.

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 – In December, he finished his first semester of college! Thru a lot of difficulties, he has been able to keep focused. We speak several times a week. I went to the Houston area to take him to several hospitals where he had outstanding balances. He broke his arm skateboarding. I left just a few days before Hurricane Harvey hit.
- 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!
- The agency that would send youth there has temporarily suspended sending youth to Hope Inn Christ. Please pray they would change their minds.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- Praise! I have been going to Teen Life Challenge for over a year and a half 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 working at a Jiffy Lube and has finished a semester of college!
- James is doing real well. He was able to finish his High School diploma while there! He is doing real well. Please pray for God's direction when he leaves.
- 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 have also got to help some of these young men to get IDs, permits, and drivers' licenses.

A very special thank you to Countryside Bible Church as they have again stepped up and provided some Christmas gifts for Youth Village, McFadden Ranch, and Teen/Life Challenge. We were able to give clothes, gift cards, and sports equipment to some of the youth and the facilities as well. Again, thank you Countryside Elders for providing the funds for this.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support. On the next page 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 – that the powers that be have decided not to send youth to the program there. We would really like them to reconsider. Lot of misinformation.
- 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, Youth Village, and Teen/Life Challenge 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 – now all we need is youth to come!