



January 07, 2019

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):

McFadden Ranch (TJJD):

- Chuck Grice continues with me in leading Bible study at McFadden Ranch. We have switched to Tuesday nights. Still very noisy. Getting an average of 4 to 5 youth.
- In September, we took youth to mow the Grapevine lot where we hold our fundraiser for Grapefest. The youth did a great job.
- Then also in September, we did have Grapefest parking for our fundraiser. We raised more money than we ever have! This was a great blessing!

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Still going to Gainesville State School. The two youth I was working with left in December to go to a halfway house in Harlingen. Still working with one of them over the phone.
- Picked up another youth at Gainesville. He is from the Dallas area – so I might get a chance to work with him when he gets out – which is in 2020.
- This young man is new to the Bible and learning about Christ. Please pray for both him and me as I try my best to present the gospel to him. His name is Francisco.

After Care:

- Edward – finished this semester at Lone Star College in The Woodlands. He made a B and a C in his classes. He is transferring to Sam Houston State in January. He will have to find a new church there, so please pray for him. Hoping he does well there.
- Alejandro – currently in Justin and now working at a warehouse. He is doing well, but please pray for his salvation.
- Finally heard back from Ismael, from about 2 years ago. He is struggling and we have begun working together again. Praise to the Lord! He wants to get on the right track. Please pray he can find a good church there in Mission.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- No youth at this time.
- Looking for NEW house parents.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- Been working with Teen Life Challenge for over 2 years now! I have done more Bible studies with them as I am a substitute teacher.
- Andrew has done well at UTA. He works with a professor in research for a job. He has about two years left at UTA in Electrical Engineering! He is doing well.
- James is still doing well. He is in the second stage of the program and works at a local church.
- I am currently working closely with several of the young men and trying to be an encouragement to them. A couple more have graduated the first part of the program and are now in the re-entry phase.
- I have also been able to help some of these young men get IDs, permits, and driver's licenses, GEDs, and High School diplomas.
- Austin got released from the program just last month and is back in Abilene. Please pray that he may continue walking with the Lord. He has come a long way.

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

P.S. Please note the new Grace to Youth email address: gracetoyouth@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests:

- 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, Gainesville, Hope Inn Christ, 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 and young men.
- For Edward as I try to help him stay on track with God and college and work.
- For the other young men who are starting college.
- Pray for Juan, Alejandro, Edward, James, Andrew, Austin, Skyler, Chris, and Brandon.
- Also please pray for Johnathan, Skylar, Obidiah, Tommy, Dylan, Ismael, and Francisco.

Praises:

- For Chuck Grice who **continues** to help with Bible study at McFadden. He is a great encouragement and blessing 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.
- Continuing to work with youth at Gainesville State School in Gainesville.
- Francisco has started reading the Bible I gave him!