



May 09, 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 (January, February, March, April):

McFadden Ranch (TJJD):

- Chuck Grice STILL continues with me in leading Bible study at McFadden Ranch. He has been doing this Bible study for over 10 years with me! He is a great blessing!
- In March and April, we took youth to mow the Grapevine lot where we hold our fundraiser for Main Street Days in Grapevine. Hopefully we will mow again this weekend. The youth have always done a great job.
- Things have been a little crazy at McFadden since the first of the year. In my 14 years there, normally they have 48 youth. They now only have about 20. But most of them are not doing well at all. A real different environment – and not for the better.

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Still going to Gainesville State School. Still working with several people on Thursdays and sometimes on Sundays. One even keeps in touch since he was transferred to Harlingen.
- Still working with Francisco. He is from the Dallas area – so I might get a chance to work with him when he gets out – which is in 2020.
- On Thursdays, I mainly tutor the youth in Math. Sundays we try for Bible Study.

After Care:

- Edward – Just finished this semester at Sam Houston State College in Huntsville. He should make 2 As and 2 Bs! He will take 3 courses during the summer. He still hasn't found a church there he is comfortable with. I am hoping he won't give up looking.
- Obidiah – lives in New Braunfels and was working as a mechanic. He is doing well, but has slipped recently. Please pray for his salvation.
- Was working with a youth who got shot and was paralyzed from the waist down. Worked with him in a Dallas hospital and then in rehab. I started working with him at his house once he got out, but have lost contact. Please pray for his salvation and that I may give him encouragement.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Still no youth at this time.
- Still looking for NEW house parents.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

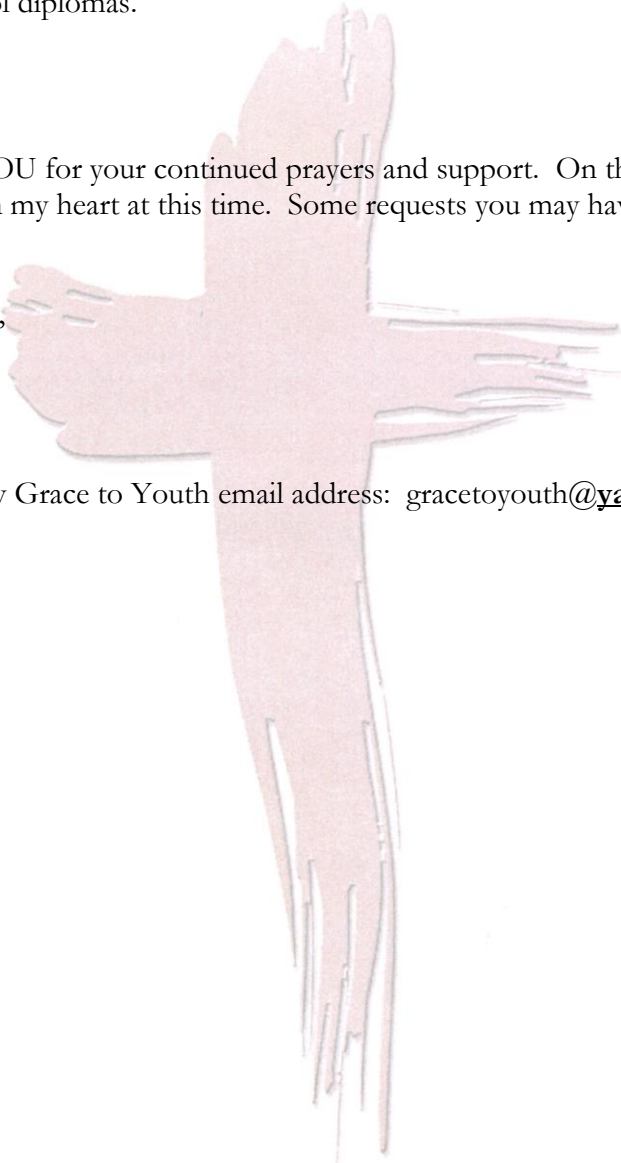
- Been working with Teen Life Challenge for almost 3 years now! I have done more Bible studies with them as I am a substitute teacher.
- Andrew has done well at UTA. He works with a professor in research for a job. He has about one year left at UTA in Electrical Engineering! He is doing well.
- James is still doing well. He had some problems, but thank God he is back on track now.
- 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, driver's licenses, GEDs, and High School diplomas.

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 the young men at McFadden, Gainesville, 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.
- For the other young men who are starting college.
- Pray for Juan, Edward, James, Andrew, Justin, Ismael, Chris, Fabian, Izayah, and Eli's salvation.
- Also please pray for Johnathan, Obidiah, Tommy, Dylan, Abel, and Francisco's salvation as well.
- Please pray that I may be a real blessing to these young men.
- Please pray for the staff, youth, and administrators at TJJD (McFadden and Gainesville). The culture has changed and not for the better.

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.
- Francisco has started reading the Bible I gave him!
- Praise for the protection God has afforded me over many miles while traveling to these places.