



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

September 11, 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 (May, June, July, and August):

## **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 11 years with me! He is a great blessing! And keeps me on track!
- Please remain in prayer for McFadden Ranch. The whole agency has turned upside down – which is NOT good. I have been prayerfully considering my next move and future involvement with them. So please pray with me that I will know if it is time to move on or my part in this. My heart is for the youth, but they have taken a direction that is not good for the youth in the long run. My goal is to honor God in this decision.

## **Gainesville State School (TJJD):**

- Still going to Gainesville State School. Still working with several people on Thursdays and sometimes on Sundays.
- Working with 4 youth at this facility. One has no place to go when he gets out, the others are from the Dallas/Fort Worth area and I hope they will keep in contact with me once they are out.
- Please pray for their salvation.

## **After Care:**

- Edward – Still at Sam Houston State. He almost has 60 hours of college and is doing well so far. I have been praying that he will find a good church and that he will be making good Christian friends there.
- Obidiah – lives in New Braunfels and working now as a remodeler. He is doing well. He recently started going to church there. Please pray for his salvation too!

## **Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):**

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

### **TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):**

- **PRAISE!!!** After almost 10 years of being 'kicked out' of prison (and asked not to come back), I have now been re-instated – or at least partially. Most people are welcomed by TDCJ with open arms, but not me! I was kicked out on a technicality, so I was able to convince them to let me back in. It only took 10 years. I have been seeing a young man there and have been able to visit him twice so far. He is doing well.

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

- Been working with Teen Life Challenge for over 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.
- I am hoping for more involvement with this group.

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](mailto: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, Teen Life Challenge, and those in prison, 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, Cameron, Justin, Ismael, Josue, Fabian, Daniel, and Eli's salvation.
- Also please pray for Johnathan, Obidiah, Sebastian, 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.
- Praise for the protection God has afforded me over many miles while traveling to these places.
- Praise for the opportunity to return to TDCJ. It's been a long time.