



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

April 10, 2020

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, and March):

As of today, I am not going to ANY facility due to the Coronavirus. Only one facility will let me in, but I am still taking care of my Mom, and don't want to get her sick. She is 93. So I am stuck at home like most folks.

McFadden Ranch (TJJD):

- We were able to mow the grass lot with the youth in the first part of February. All went well and the youth did a good job. We have since mowed the lot again, but the youth have not been able to help. We are currently (temporarily) working with a couple who have a riding lawn mower!!!
- Please remain in prayer for McFadden Ranch. The whole agency has turned upside down – which is NOT good. I have STILL been prayerfully considering my next move and future involvement with them. So please continue to pray with me that I will know if it is time to move on, or if my part in this would continue. 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. I am not very observant, so please pray for *crystal clear* direction! There is still no change in this situation.

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Cut down to working heavily with 2 youth at Gainesville.
- Got to go to a Family Day there in Gainesville. The youth was glad I was able to come.
- The young man that they wanted to send to prison early was doing well enough that they postponed his court date! Praise God!!! He will still have to see a judge at the end of his time with TJJD and will either be sentenced to prison or they will let him out on parole. Please pray that he will continue to do well. At least he does some Bible study with me!

After Care:

- Edward – Still at Sam Houston State. He almost has 82 hours of college and is doing well so far. He has a job working for Kroger. Please keep him in your prayers that he will do the right thing.
- Hunter – He was able to complete the program and got “blessed out” the first part of March! Praise God! He is currently living in Irving and has a construction job working with his uncle. Please pray that he continues to live for the Lord! I also got him started on tattoo removal!

P.O. Box 270037 • Flower Mound, TX 75027 • 972.529.7676

www.gracetoyouth.org • gracetoyouth@yahoo.com

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

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

TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- I made a trip to south Texas to visit a youth in prison. Well, he left early that morning for another jail. So even though it seemed like a wasted trip, it wasn't. I even tried to see a youth that goes to Sam Houston State, but he had gone to a physical therapist. It was good to get alone with God for the drive and peace of mind!!

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- Been able slowly to do more with the young men in Teen Life Challenge. It's taken quite some time.
- I had a meeting with the top man and they want me to be their Chaplain! They have never had one, and those are pretty big shoes to fill, so PLEASE pray with me that God will give me the right words to say to the right people – to encourage and to admonish.
- James is still doing well. He got a good job and is saving money. He also is walking with the Lord.
- I am still 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. This is the real test for them. Please pray they will continue walking with the Lord.

Cooke County Jail (Gainesville, TX):

- Been working with a youth from Teen Life Challenge. Looks like he will be in there for at least 6 months. Please pray for his salvation.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (Fort Worth, TX):

- Just got approved to go in!!! Praise God! But I haven't started yet. I will when the Coronavirus subsides!!! Looking forward to it very much!

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, 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. At least he is going to a church and some Bible studies while at college.
- Pray for Angel, Justin, Jose, Fabian, Daniel, and Roger's salvation.
- 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.
- Please pray that I will use the opportunities that God gives me for His glory and I don't mess it up.
- Angel took his GED. I am hopeful that he passed!
- Also, please pray for me as I try to fill the role of Chaplain at Teen Life Challenge.

Praises:

- Just for the opportunity to work with and encourage these youth and young men!
- For Teen Life Challenge letting me work with the young men in their care - and making me Chaplain!
- Continuing to work with youth at Gainesville State School and McFadden Ranch.
- Praise for the protection God has afforded me over many miles while traveling to these places.
- Praise for the opportunity to return to TDCJ.
- Also a praise that I can get in Cooke County Jail. These county jails are getting harder and harder to get into to see the people I need to see.
- Praise for the youth/young men that have been released and are still walking with the Lord!