



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

July 08, 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 (April, May, and June):

As of today, I am going to the two facilities that will let me in due to the Coronavirus. I am still trying to be very careful as I visit these facilities. One is the Cooke County Jail and the other is Adult/Teen Challenge.

McFadden Ranch (TJJD):

- We were able to mow the grass lot in Grapevine with the youth in the first part of June. All went well and the youth did a good job. They are still sequestered pretty much. I am thankful that the Ranch is allowing them to come and help. We try to mow about every 3 weeks.
- Prayers are still needed for McFadden Ranch. The path the agency has taken to 'help' the youth in their care is NOT one that will help these youth in the short term nor long term. Pray that the people that are able to change this will recognize the error of the program that they have chosen and will choose one that WILL help the youth. Pray also for me to determine my participation / role in this venue. My goal is to honor God in this decision. I am not very observant, so please pray for *crystal clear* direction!

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Only one youth remains that I have been working with at Gainesville. I may be getting another soon.
- The other youth had to go before a judge in June. I was able to testify again for him to stay out of prison, but the judge had other ideas. He has been sentenced to 12 years. He will get credit for the two years he did in juvenile. So sad. I will try to stay in touch as he moves to the adult system.

After Care:

- Edward – Still at Sam Houston State. Recently lost touch with him. Have been working with him for several years and hope we can get back in touch. Please pray that will happen.
- James – He was able to complete the program and got “blessed out” at the end of May! Praise God! He is currently living in Richland Hills and has a job as an apprentice doing electrical work! Please pray that he continues to live for the Lord! I have been working with James for several years and I really hope he does well in his new career and continues in his walk with the Lord.

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Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

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

TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- I have written to the people in TDCJ that I am working with, but for now they are not letting visitors / chaplains come in the facilities.

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 – like 4 years!
- My new 'position' with this group is to do some counseling. So far it has gone real well. But I still need your prayers! It is a difficult position to fill. Only time will tell if I am the right one to have this position!
- Richard is a new young man to the program. He has had some ups and downs, but right now I think he is listening to 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):

- This is another facility that I can currently go into. Still working with Fabian. He says that he will be there for a while. He is doing better and getting the others around him to discuss the Bible! That is good news!

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (Fort Worth, TX):

- Still approved to go in!!! Praise God again! But I can't start until the Coronavirus subsides and they start letting people in. But I am 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 and in county jails, 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 – help me be able to re-connect with him again.
- Pray for Angel, Justin, Jose, Fabian, Jacob, 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 that I don't mess it up.
- 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.
- 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!
- Angel took his GED and passed 3 out of the 4 tests! (only didn't pass the Math part)