



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

October 11, 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 (July, August, and September):

I am still going to the two facilities that will let me in with the Coronavirus restrictions. 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. I am also able to work with some of the McFadden Ranch youth off campus mowing a lot in Grapevine.

## **McFadden Ranch (TJJD):**

- We have been able to mow a grass lot in Grapevine every 3 weeks since the beginning of April. All has gone well and the youth have done a good job. They are still sequestered pretty much. I am thankful that the Ranch is allowing them to come and help. Other than a Zoom meeting with one of the youth every week, it has been my only interaction with this group. Believe it or not, I enjoy getting to mow with them and the interaction we are able to have.
- But 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):**

- The one youth I was working with lives in Arlington, but upon his release ICE came and picked him up. So sad. I have to write him as he is now in Washington state. Please pray that he will be able to get some 'bond' to where he can stay in the US until his case comes up.
- 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 am able to speak with this youth about every two weeks. He is in the Dallas County Jail.

## **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 – is doing real well! He is still in the position of an apprentice electrician. What a praise! He is currently living in Richland Hills. Please pray that he continues to live for the Lord!

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

- Still no youth at this time.
- They have found new house parents, so we are praying that the youth will come.

**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):**

- 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 will probably do all his time in the county jail. He probably has only a few months left to go. He is doing OK 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](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 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, Cole, Jose, Fabian, Dominic, 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.
- Hope Inn Christ has new house parents, but we are praying for the right youth to come who will be open to changing their life and walking with the Lord.

**Praises:**

- Just for the opportunity to work with and encourage these youth and young men!
- For Teen Life Challenge letting me work more 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!