



January 06, 2021

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 (October, November, and December):

I am currently only visiting one facility regularly that will let me in with the Coronavirus restrictions. I am still trying to be very careful as I visit. The only facility for the past 3 months is Adult/Teen Challenge. I have also been able to work with some of the McFadden Ranch youth off campus mowing a lot in Grapevine.

I would like to greatly thank Countryside Bible Church for allowing me to get Christmas gifts for McFadden Ranch, Adult/Teen Challenge, and Hope Inn Christ. Their generosity is so greatly appreciated, and especially now as others have backed out from helping or are now unable to help. Again, thanks go to Countryside Bible Church!

McFadden Ranch (TJJD):

- We were able to mow the grass lot in Grapevine about 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.
- One of the youth I was 'zooming' with has left to go back home. I pray that he will continue to come to know God better this year. He lives in Aledo. His name is Morgan.

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- I was working with Jose who lives in Arlington, but upon his release ICE came and picked him up. I have had to write him as he was in Washington state. We were praying that he would be able to get some 'bond' to where he can stay in the US until his case comes up. UPDATE: He made bond and was released on December 31. I am trying to stay in touch with him.
- The other youth is now in Dallas County awaiting going to TDCJ. I get to speak with him by phone when he calls, which is about every other week. I pray for his salvation. His name is Angel.

After Care:

- Edward – still at Sam Houston State. Heard from him just yesterday. He dropped out of this semester. Please pray for direction and that he will follow the Lord like he knows he should.
- Ismael is going thru some hard times right now. Please pray for him. He is a truck driver and will probably be going through a divorce. Please pray that he continues to live for the Lord!

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- They now have 2 youth, Shawn and Justin. Please pray for their salvation.
- Please pray for the new house parents. This is an extremely difficult and demanding job!

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 or chaplains come in the facilities.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- One of the young men I am working with I know from McFadden Ranch. He has really made some good progress in life and in his walk with the Lord! I was able to take him to get a marriage license and then I was able to attend his wedding! His name is Dakota.
- 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):

- Fabian was finally released in October from the Cooke County jail in Gainesville. Please continue to pray for his salvation and walk with God.

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, Hope Inn Christ, 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 – that he will get back on track.
- Pray for Angel, Cole, Jose, Fabian, Dominic, and Morgan'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, and this is a difficult role. Please also pray for Shawn and Justin.
- Pray for Dakota as he tries to walk with the Lord – that he would grow in his love for Him.
- Ismael – pray for strength during trying times and that he also would grow closer to God.

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.
- Jose got to go home. Please pray for him to come to know and love the Lord!
- Praise for the youth/young men that have been released and are still walking with the Lord!
- For Countryside Bible Church being generous to the young men and youth I work with this past Christmas season!!
- Dakota – following God's direction in matrimony and growing closer to God!