



April 04, 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 (January, February, and March of 2021):

I am currently visiting two facilities regularly that will let me in with the Coronavirus restrictions. I am still trying to be very careful as I visit. The two facilities are Adult/Teen Challenge and Hope Inn Christ. I have also been able to work with some of the McFadden Ranch youth off campus mowing a lot in Grapevine.

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

- Update: As of the last of February, McFadden Ranch no longer exists. Due to not signing a new lease, they have decided to close McFadden. All the youth have been transferred to a halfway house in west Fort Worth called Willoughby House. Kind of bitter sweet. I have been with TYC/TJJD as of April 1<sup>st</sup> for 16 years now working with the youth there. They really aren't helping the youth anymore, so I have been wondering what my involvement should be. The Lord has graciously stepped in and said! Although these youth still need the gospel!
- As of right now, we still mow the lot in Grapevine for the Lions Club. But I think that will fade out as it's a long way to drive and just other logistics that are involved.

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

- Trying to get to see Jose. He got picked up by ICE, but has made bail. I don't think he is doing real well, but it's hard to catch him. In about a month, one of the other volunteers and I are going to try to go to Arlington to see if we can see him. Pray that we will be successful.
- 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 month. I pray for his salvation. His name is Angel.

#### **After Care:**

- Edward – still at Sam Houston State. He is still struggling. He knows what he should do, but has a real hard time doing it. Probably like most of us. I hope that he will again choose to 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 be going through a divorce. Please pray that he also will come back to following the Lord.

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

- They now have 2 youth, Justin and Hunter. 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 into the facilities.

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

- 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.

**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 Hope Inn Christ and 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 and Ismael – that they will get back on track.
- Pray for Angel, Cole, Jose, Fabian, and Dominic's walk and their salvation.
- Please pray that I may be a real blessing to these young men.
- Please pray for the staff, youth, and administrators at TJJD (Willoughby and Gainesville).
- 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 Hunter and Justin.
- 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.
- 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!