

July 07, 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 (April, May, and June of 2021):

Willoughby House – (formerly McFadden Ranch) (TJJD):

- My only interaction with Willoughby House is that we have been mowing the grass lot in Grapevine for the Lions Club with some of the youth there. I don't know how long this will last as it is way across town and it has been increasingly difficult to schedule with them.

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- At this point, Gainesville is not open to most volunteers. Still trying to decide my options for Gainesville.
- The one young man I was working with that got picked up by ICE has now returned to Arlington. Another volunteer from Gainesville and I have tried several times to reach out to him but neither of us has been successful. Hopefully he is doing well.

After Care:

- Edward – lost contact with Edward due to the coronavirus. Last time I spoke with him he was still attending Sam Houston State. I hope that he will again choose to follow the Lord like he knows he should.
- Ismael is still 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 Dony. Please pray for their salvation.
- The new house parents are already gone! 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):

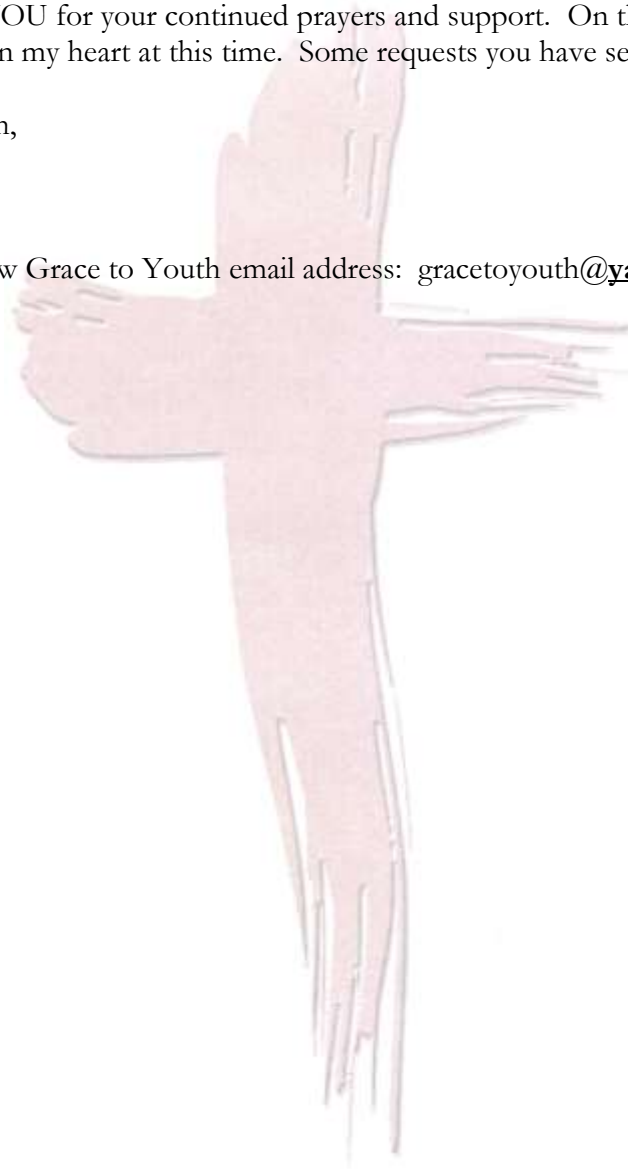
- Still approved to go in!!! Praise God again! I heard that as of June 1st we were supposed to be let back in to see the youth, but as of right now, we still have not been let back in. Please pray that we will be soon.

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 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 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, Dakota, Fabian, Kevin, 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 - please also pray for Dony 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.
- Praise for the youth/young men that have been released and are still walking with the Lord!