



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

January 07, 2022

*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 of 2021):

A great big thank you again to Countryside Bible Church for stepping up and providing some Christmas goodies for Hope Inn Christ, Willoughby House, and Teen Life Challenge! Some new sports equipment will go a long way with these residents! Again, my thanks and theirs for making this a memorable Christmas.

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

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

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

- At this point, Gainesville is still not open to most volunteers. Still trying to decide my options for Gainesville.

## **After Care:**

- Edward – still struggling with life and work and school at Sam Houston State. I don't know if he will be able to finish. He dropped out of his classes this last semester. He will have to go back to junior college if he is to continue. I think he wants to drop out completely. Hopefully he will also start attending church there and return to following the Lord as he knows he should.
- Ismael is still going through some hard times right now. His divorce was finalized in December. He is still looking for a job. Please pray that he also will come back to following the Lord. In June, he picked up a DWI case and his truck driving may be over. He is still struggling with depression.

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

- Both young men left Hope Inn Christ at the very end of November. Both young men know the right way. Please pray for their salvation! Justin and Jonathan
- The house parents are doing an outstanding job! Definitely a praise as this is a difficult and VERY demanding job. Please pray for them as well!

**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):**

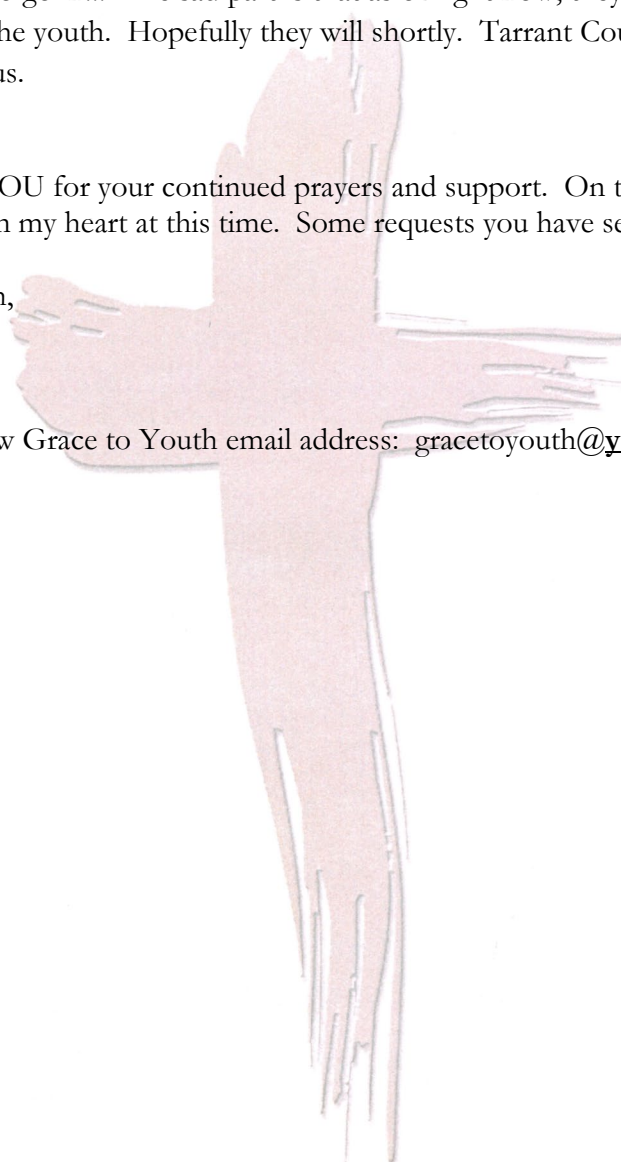
- Still approved to go in!!! The sad part is that as of right now, they still will not let the volunteers back in to see the youth. Hopefully they will shortly. Tarrant County has still been a hot spot for the Corona virus.

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](mailto:gracetoyouth@yahoo.com)



**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!
- For the new house parents at Hope Inn Christ – doing a great job!

**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, Willoughby House, 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, Christian, and Fabian – for their salvation.
- Pray for Todd, Cody, Chad, Dakota, Jeremy, and Juan for their continued walk with the Lord.
- 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 Jonathan and Justin.
- Ismael – pray for strength during trying times and that he also would grow closer to God.
- Pray for the young man getting out of prison – that he also would follow the Lord.