



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

April 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 (January, February, and March of 2022):

Still waiting on TDCJ and Tarrant County Juvenile to open up for volunteers. TDCJ looks real promising at this time, but not sure about Tarrant County Juvenile. Please pray with me for them to open up soon.

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

- My only interaction with Willoughby House continues to be mowing the grass lot in Grapevine for the Lions Club with some of the youth from there. We were supposed to mow this past weekend, but there has been much going on with the staff turnover at Willoughby over the last month or so. Even one of the supervisors just passed away last week. They also got both a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

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

After Care:

- Edward – have not been able to contact Edward since early January of this year. Last I heard, he will be quitting school and trying to go into truck driving. This is pretty hard to do as he has passed his half-way point to finish his degree. He also has MUCH student loan debt. I just pray that, no matter what he does, he would follow 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 working for a trucking company as a trainer. This is all that he can do right now as he picked up a DWI case last June and his truck driving career may be over. Please pray also for his spiritual health.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Hope Inn Christ got two new youth in February! Right now, only one is there. The other had some issues and will hopefully be back soon. Please pray for both of them: Marco and Colby.
- They are again looking for house parents as the last ones decided to do something different. This is a VERY demanding job. Please pray that they will be able to find new ones.

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. If everything goes as expected, I am going to try to go down in the next couple of weeks to Midway Texas to see a young man there that I worked with in Gainesville State School.

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. A few have left and I hope and pray that they will continue to walk 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 – supposedly sometime in the summer.

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

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 two youth that are in Hope Inn Christ.

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 Juan, Christian, Colby, Marco, and Michael – for their salvation.
- Pray for Todd, Dakota, Kerry, Jacob, Robert, and David for their continued walk with the Lord.
- Please pray that I may be a real blessing to these youth and 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.
- Ismael – pray for strength during these trying times and that he also would grow closer to God.
- Pray for the young man just getting out of prison – that he also would follow the Lord.