



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

July 15, 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 (April, May, and June of 2022):

Still waiting on Tarrant County Juvenile to open up for volunteers. They have a new building and have moved the youth, but are not ready for volunteers just yet. They think around August/September.

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. So far, every time that we have tried to set up a time, something has come up. So at this time, my time with Willoughby is very minimal. They have moved to the other side of Fort Worth, which also accounts for the logistics problem. Also, they have a new Superintendent and a new Assistant Superintendent. I have not met them.

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 at the end of the summer. Waiting for 2 audits to be complete.

After Care:

- Edward – has dropped off my radar. Have not spoken with him since January of this year. The last times I spoke with him, he was going to change careers from a biologist to being a truck driver. 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. He took some classes in south Texas and did REAL well – Like 2 A's and a B. He is still employed as a truck driver trainer. He is hoping to be able to go back on the road in October when he gets his license back. Hope that happens! Please pray also for his spiritual health – he knows what he should do.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Hope Inn Christ in the last couple of months lost the 2 youth there and the house parents -again. They just recently got a new house parent that has worked with youth in the Juvenile department so that will be good.
- They also got another youth just recently. I have not had a chance to meet him yet. Hopefully he will be willing to give his life to the Lord and walk in His ways. His name is Marvin.

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TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- In April, I was able to go see Angel in the Ferguson Unit in Midway, Texas. He is doing well and adjusting. I have worked with him in the Juvenile system. I hope and pray that he will come to true saving faith while there. I hope he stays away from the never-ending drama and garbage found in the prison system.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- I am still working closely with several of the young men and trying to be an encouragement to them. The executive director is leaving this year, after serving 40 years in that position! So please pray for a VERY smooth transition as speaking with some of the staff they are concerned about change.

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 – they are saying now at the end of 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!
- Todd is doing great! Got a promotion and on staff! I have seen a REAL change in his life.

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, Gainesville, 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, Marvin, Nicholas, and David – for their salvation.
- Pray for Alex, Ray, Kerry, Jacob, Paul, Wesley, 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 parents and family of one of the youth I used to work with. He was shot and killed July 6th.