



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

October 05, 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 (July, August, and September 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. NOW they think around the first of the year. Been pushed back twice now.

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. Same as last letter. No change.

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 sometime in the fall. Waiting for more staff. Lot of commotion at this facility. Still waiting.

After Care:

- James – still is working as an apprentice electrician. He likes his job and is doing real well. He is progressing and learning a lot. Still goes to night classes once a week. As of the last time I spoke with him, he still has not found a good church to go to. Pray that he will be diligent in looking and find one soon. And that he will walk with the Lord as he knows he should.
- Ismael is still going through some hard times right now. He was laid off from his job as a Truck Driving Instructor/Teacher. He is hoping to be able to go back on the road in late October when he gets his license back. Hope that happens! Please pray also for his spiritual health – he knows what he should do. Also, please pray he gets his license back.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Hope Inn Christ now has one youth there. His name is Marvin. He has been there I believe for maybe two to three months now. He DOES like bible study! He is working at the Jack in the Box in Decatur and likes it. I was able to see him for a while, but now that he is working, I have not been able to see him as regularly as I used to.

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TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- On August 21st, Angel's brother in Dallas was murdered. So sad as I also worked some with his brother. He couldn't go to the funeral but we were able to get the service for him on a Zoom meeting so he could at least watch. Took a LOT of effort. He was VERY close to his brother. Angel is 21 and his brother was 20. Please pray for Angel. Also, Angel just passed his GED!!! He was in a race with his brother to see who could get it the fastest. Had to encourage him not to quit now.

Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- I am still working closely with several of the young men and trying to be an encouragement to them. Since the executive director is leaving this year, (after serving 40 years in that position) we are going thru a transition. 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 beginning of next year. Also, they have recently been in the news, and it hasn't been good.

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 still 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 James and Ismael – that they will get back on track.
- Pray for Angel, Marvin, Alex, Kerry, and David – for their salvation.
- Pray for Kerry, Jacob, Paul, Wes, and Shane 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.
- That Ismael would get his CDL back October 20th.