



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

January 08, 2023

*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 2022):

Want to thank Countryside Bible Church for again this year supporting with Christmas gifts the places that I minister. Some individuals received gifts, but also some of the facilities received gifts that everyone will benefit from. So again this year, much THANKS to Countryside. Because some of the people I work with have very strained relationships with their family, sometimes even a small gift really goes a long way.

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

- Because of the McFadden youth being moved to the west side of Fort Worth, and the times we are allowed to visit, my interaction with them has been minimal. This may change, waiting to see.

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

- At this point, Gainesville is still not open to most volunteers. Since we are in a new year, I think they may allow me to visit once a month. Not real encouraging. Waiting to see how it goes. A new Superintendent and lack of staff are some of the problems contributing to the wait.

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

- Hope Inn Christ still has one youth there. His name is Marvin. He has been there since July. He DOES like Bible study! He is working at the Braums 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. He has had his struggles, but seems to be doing better now.

## **TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):**

- Still keeping in touch with Angel. He is in a unit in south Texas. Back in August his brother was murdered in Dallas. He is 20 and his brother was only 19. He took this pretty hard as they were very close. Trying to make sure he doesn't give up on life. He was enrolled in a class to teach him woodworking, but the instructor quit recently, so we will have to see what happens. I am hopeful he keeps busy because that takes his mind off of things.

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**Teen Life Challenge (Desoto, TX):**

- I am still working closely with the young men and trying to be an encouragement to them. Since the executive director left last year, they are still going through a transition period. In fact, they lost a total of 4 of the staff. So please pray they will be able to adequately fill the positions that are open with very good Christian men.

**Tarrant County Juvenile Services (Fort Worth, TX):**

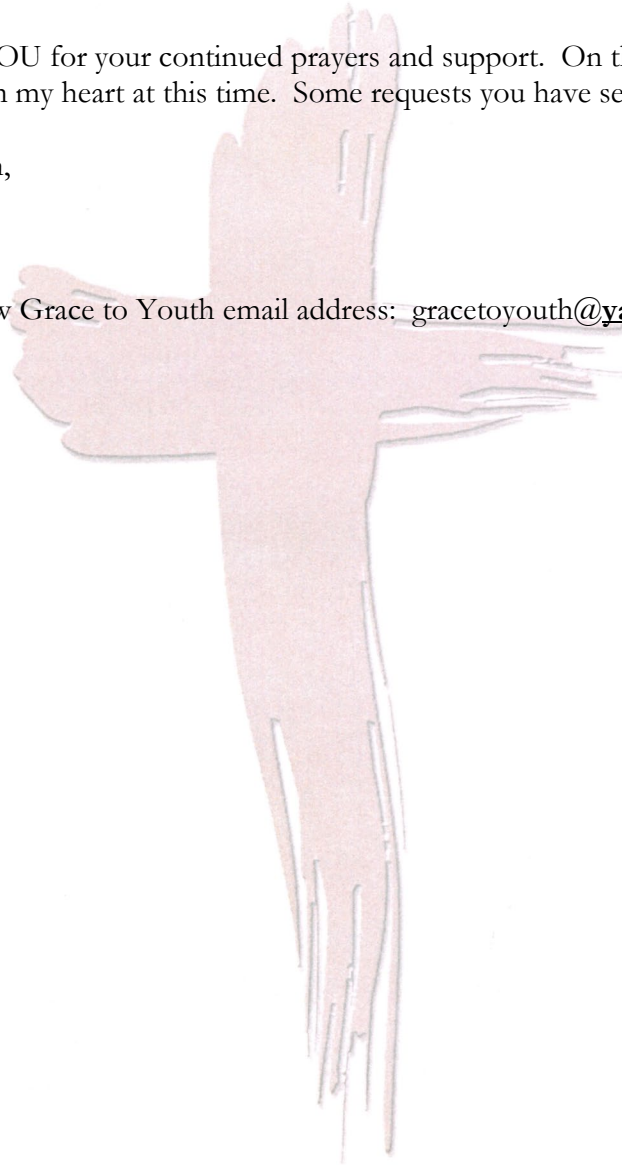
- Still approved to go in!!! The sad part is that as of right now, they **still** will not let the volunteers back in to see the youth. Hopefully they will shortly. They have recently been in the news, and it hasn't been good, so I think that has to do a lot with when we can go back in.

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!
- Todd is still doing great! Got a promotion and on staff! I have seen a REAL change in his life.
- Milton, an older gentleman, continues to grow in his walk with the Lord. I have seen quite an improvement in him!

**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.
- Pray for Angel, Marvin, Bernard, and the 4 new guys at Teen Life Challenge – for their salvation.
- Pray for Josh G, Josh N, Fred, Wes, 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/Counselor at Teen Life Challenge.
- Pray for the parents and family of one of the youth I used to work with. He was shot and killed July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for the leadership team at Teen Life Challenge.
- That the Lord would continue to use me for His glory.