



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

April 07, 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 (January, February, and March of 2023):

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

- Got a note from TJJD on January 25th that they are closing Willoughby House and that all volunteer activities will be cancelled immediately. Since this has closed, there are no longer any TJJD half-way houses in the DFW metroplex. The closest one is San Antonio. I had been at McFadden half-way house since 2005, so about 18 years!

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Gainesville has slowly started opening up to volunteers. Very slowly. Have been there once this year with a lady that I have worked with at McFadden ranch. We are only allowed to go in once a month right now due to staffing. So we will see how this goes.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Hope Inn Christ lost the one youth that was there in late March. He has gone back to live with his family in Houston. His name is Marvin. Please pray with me that he will continue in his walk with the Lord. I hope that I made some kind of difference in his life. He has had some 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. We are still communicating when he can call me. I hope to visit him – hopefully soon. His younger brother was murdered in August last year. So we still talk about that. He has completed a program there at the prison on being an electrician! If you know me, that is dear to my heart! So I have tried to encourage him in that. He seems to be doing well, but still has not given his life to Christ at this point. Please remember him in prayer as well.

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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. I have the opportunity to counsel with the men to try to encourage them – some are already Christians, and some aren't there just yet. I enjoy what I am able to do for this program. Please pray for them! Also, please pray for me as well, that I am able to adequately take them to God's word with the truth of the gospel.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (Fort Worth, TX):

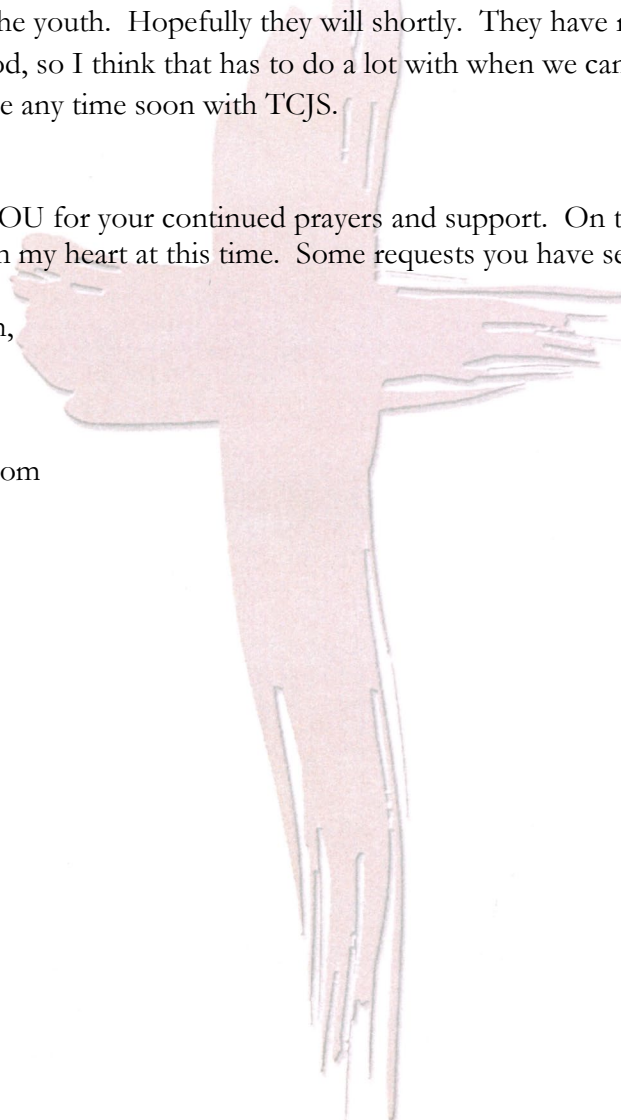
- Still approved to go in!!! The sad part is that as of right now, they **still** will not let the volunteers back in to see the youth. Hopefully they will shortly. They have recently been in the news, and it hasn't been good, so I think that has to do a lot with when we can go back in. As of April 1st, still doesn't look like any time soon with TCJS.

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

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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 men at 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 and the new guys at Teen Life Challenge – for their salvation.
- Pray for Josh G, Josh N, Fred, Wes, Jacob, Kyle, James, Jordan, Marvin, 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 and administrators at TJJD (Gainesville) and Teen Life Challenge.
- 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.
- That the Lord would continue to use me for His glory!