



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

October 06, 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 (July, August, and September of 2023):

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- In July, I was able to witness 9 of the youth getting baptized! 4 of them asked me for a study Bible which I was able to give to them in August! Right now, they only let us in once a month, but I am trying to be able to go once a week. I want to work with the young men who just recently gave their life to Christ and got baptized. But things work REAL SLOWLY at this facility, so it may be a while. But it was exciting to see the young men get baptized!

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- Major accomplishments have occurred at Hope Inn Christ! They finally found a young couple who have accepted the very difficult job of being the house parents. It is a VERY demanding job and VERY stressful. Please be in prayer that they would be able to make a real Godly difference in the youth that they will serve.
- Hope Inn Christ also received two new youth in late September. Please pray for Andrew and Onyx. Andrew is 16 and Onyx is 15. Both got baptized shortly after coming to Hope Inn Christ. They will go to public school in Decatur. Just got to know them some at the time of this writing, but both seem to be trying to follow God!

TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- Still keeping in touch with Angel. He is still in a unit in south Texas. We are still communicating when he can call me. I still would like to visit him – haven't been able to recently, but hopefully I will soon. He currently works in the warehouse for a job while there. He likes it a lot. But I am trying to help keep him focused on taking the second electrical class – if they have one. He has already completed the first electrician program! They are STILL trying to get a more advanced course (hopefully in October) that he would be able to attend. I think he has found his trade! 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):

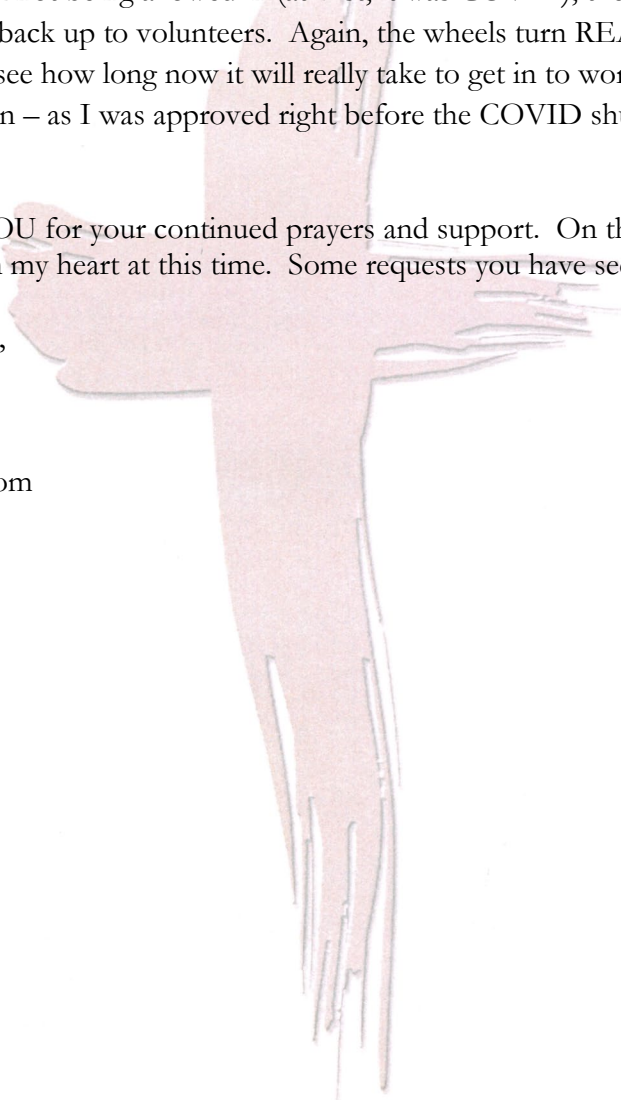
- After YEARS of not being allowed in (at first, it was COVID), they are just now STARTING to open the doors back up to volunteers. Again, the wheels turn REAL SLOWLY there as well. So we will have to see how long now it will really take to get in to work with the youth there. Anxious to get in – as I was approved right before the COVID shutdown.

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!
- Praise for the protection God has afforded me over many miles while traveling to these places.
- Praise for the opportunity to return to TDCJ and Tarrant County Juvenile Services.
- 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.
- A lot of the men continue to grow in their walk with the Lord. I have been able to see quite an improvement in most of them! So proud they are walking with the Lord – But please keep them in your prayers!

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 the new guys at Teen Life Challenge and Hope Inn Christ.
- Pray for Onyx, Andrew, Shane, Jonathan, and Braden 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!
- That the Lord would continue to use me for His glory!
- Please pray for the 9 young men at Gainesville State School that recently got baptized.
- Also pray that I would be able to work with those who would like to do Bible study there on a weekly basis. (Right now only allowed to go in once a month.)
- Pray for Angel – that he would give his life to Christ.