



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

April 5, 2024

*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 1, 2023 thru March 31, 2024):

Sorry for missing the last newsletter that was supposed to come out back at the beginning of January. My Mom passed away on December 24<sup>th</sup>, so I took some personal time. I hope you will excuse me. Not a whole lot went on during the last 6 months anyway.

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

- At this time, we are still only allowed to go in once a month. But I keep getting told that this should soon end and maybe we will be able to have Bible studies and mentoring on a weekly basis. They have been saying that for a while, and with all of these facilities, the progress is always REAL SLOW. But I am still trying. Please pray that we get approved to where we can hopefully make a difference in some of these youths' lives.

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

- The new house parents are amazing! They started I think around the end of the summer and it wasn't long until we had some youth out there. This is a very demanding job and it is hard to keep them. So far, they have done great and have a passion for helping the youth entrusted to their care. They really connect with the youth and have a heart for God!
- We have had 5 young men come thru there, but 3 have been asked to leave for one reason or another. I think it's the original 2 that are still there! One is Andrew and the other young man is Josiah. I got to work with Josiah when he was in Gainesville, so I already knew him. (He was one of the youth that got baptized in Gainesville.) I also got to encourage him when I had found out that he applied to go to Hope Inn Christ. Both young men are doing REAL WELL! They go to church on Wednesday and Sunday, and also go to a group (kind of like Celebrate Recovery) on Tuesdays. They have both been baptized and are trying to live for the Lord! Praise 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 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.

P.O. Box 270037 • Flower Mound, TX 75027 • 972.529.7676

[www.gracetoyouth.org](http://www.gracetoyouth.org) • [gracetoyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:gracetoyouth@yahoo.com)

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

- I ended up having to leave Teen Life Challenge at the end of October. It was a VERY difficult decision that I had to make, but the new management were doing some things that would not be considered 'above reproach.' I hated leaving the guys I worked with, but they had been asking me about things that were going on and it began to look like I supported what the management were doing. I do however stay in touch with several of the young men.

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

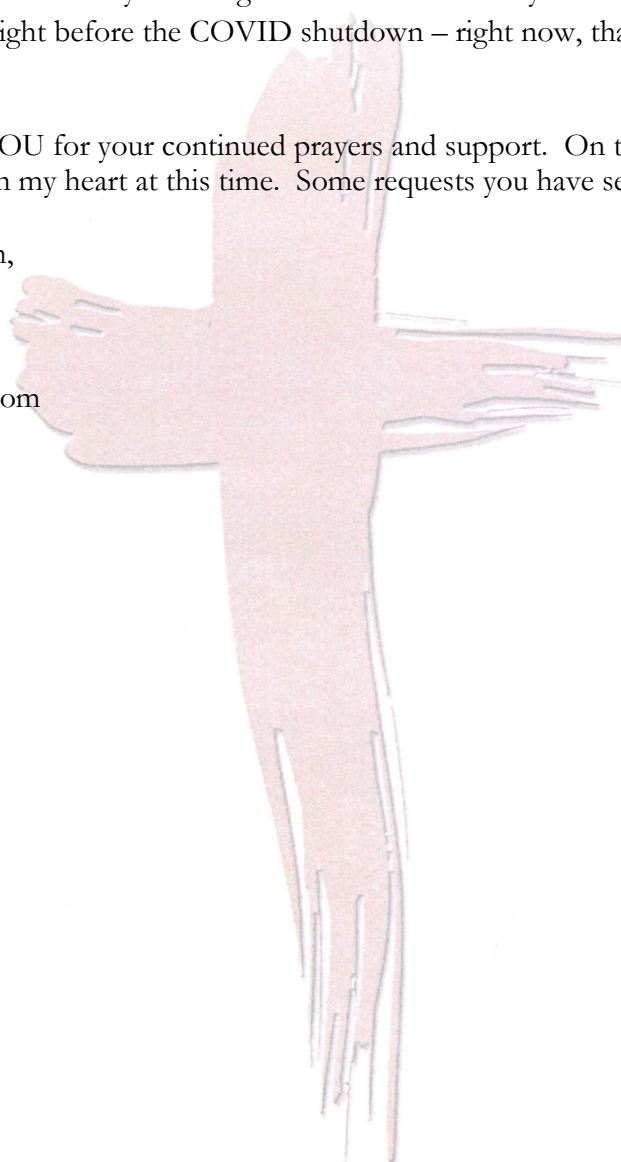
- At the beginning of the year, I took the training that was required in order to be allowed to go into the facility. Again, the wheels turn REAL SLOWLY there as well. So we will have to see how long now it will really take to get in to work with the youth there. Anxious to get in – as I was approved right before the COVID shutdown – right now, that's been 4 years!

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

gracetoyouth@yahoo.com



### **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 Hope Inn Christ.
- Pray for Andrew, Shane, Todd, and Josiah 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 Hope Inn Christ.
- 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!
- Also pray that I would be able to work with those who would like to do Bible study in Gainesville 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.