



Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

October 07, 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 (April 1 thru September 30, 2024):

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. They had a baptism, but I am not sure all the youth really understand what it is for and what it means. Please pray for them.

Hope Inn Christ (Decatur, TX):

- The house parents are still doing an amazing job! This is a very demanding job and it is hard to keep good house parents. So far, they have done great and have a passion for helping the youth entrusted to their care. They have really connected with the youth and have a heart for God!
- We have had 8 young men come thru there, but 5 have been asked to leave for one reason or another. The youth that has been there the longest is Josiah. He just got his high school diploma! Another is Cordy. He is doing well and coming along great so far. The newest youth is Michael. He just came in September. All three youth are doing well so far. Which is a HUGE praise! They still go to church on Wednesday and Sunday, and also go to a group (kind of like Celebrate Recovery) on Tuesdays. Josiah and Cordy 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 lunchroom for lunch. He likes it a lot. But I am trying to help keep him focused on taking the second electrical class – if they ever 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. He even got trained to be a mentor for math! (Which was his worst subject!) He enjoys being able to help others. Also, he recently came up for parole, but was denied. Please keep him in your prayers that he doesn't give up. He has made great progress! Now he needs to be saved! Please remember him in prayer as well.

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

www.gracetoyouth.org • gracetoyouth@yahoo.com

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (Fort Worth, TX):

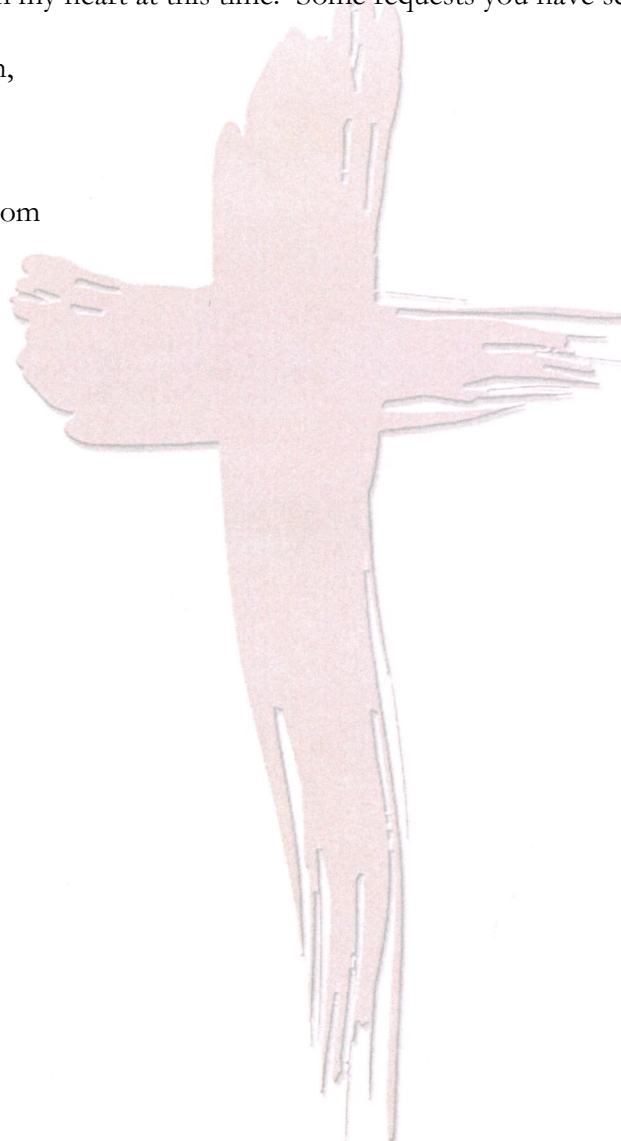
- Miracles never cease! After being shut down for COVID, here only 4 years later I have been allowed to go into the facility! As of right now, they only let me in twice a month on Wednesday nights. So far it has gone well. I am looking forward to hopefully being able to go in at least once a week. They have 6 boys' dorms and they rotate me around to the different dorms. So there is no good way to encourage them on a week-to-week basis. Please pray that they will change this! Again, this is a huge praise I have been waiting for!

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! He left the Teen Life Challenge staff to go back to his old job (praise) and got married last month! I have gotten to see God really do miracles in his life – like relationships being restored!
- 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 young men at Gainesville State School, Tarrant County Juvenile, and Hope Inn Christ, 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 all 3 of the guys at Hope Inn Christ: Josiah, Cordy, and Michael.
- Pray for the young men who have given their lives to the Lord that they may continue to walk in HIS ways – Cordy, Andrew, Shane, Todd, and Josiah.
- 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 Tarrant County) 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.