



# Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

April 07, 2026

*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 1 thru March 31, 2026):

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

- Monthly Bible study with the whole dorm continues. Able to encourage them. But it's also matched to birthdays. They are being more consistent than what they have been in the past – which is great!
- Finally, they matched me to 1 youth (although I asked for 6). (This is due to staffing.) I get to go in once every two weeks. But this is one-on-one mentoring and we talk about the Lord! Maybe they will later let me come once a week and also let me work with more of the youth. Please pray that this will happen soon. (This is in addition to the monthly Bible study). Daniel is the young man I am currently matched with.

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

- Cordy is the only youth there at this time and he is in Phase 2, which gives him more freedom as he is more on his own and makes more of his decisions.
- He is learning a lot, and sometimes the hard way (which we ALL have done). He bought a car that 3 people told him not to, but he did anyway. He is now on his second car and is doing MUCH better! Didn't lose too much, which was good. But for him, it was a BIG eye opener!
- Cordy was laid off from his job in January as the company he worked for lost the contract he was working on. So he now works at Braums. Please pray with me that he will be able to get a much better job – and soon!
- Melody is almost finished with her school (one of the house parents). She went back to TWU to get her Masters as the state of Texas recently told us that we have to be licensed with a person who has a Masters. (Only after we have operated for 15 years without a license being told just now that we need one.)
- Melody and Joel are still expecting to have a new baby around the middle of July. So your prayers for them would be greatly appreciated.
- Also, please pray for Hope Inn Christ's gala that is set to take place this Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Hope Inn Christ takes no money from the government and is dependent on individuals who believe in their mission.

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### **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. He is still working in the kitchen preparing dinner. He hasn't been able to call me lately because they have been on lockdown. Lockdown can take over a month or two, depending on how deep they go. He still says that he is Muslim so please pray for him. Wishing he would come to faith in the LORD and get out of the Muslim faith.

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

- Have been working with C and D pods when I can. This has gotten better over the last couple of months. I still try to go to both dorms, but very rarely does that happen. Please pray that I will be able to go to both dorms. Again, it is hard for relationships to happen and build when I can't be consistent. These youth don't stay too long since this is a detention center, so I really try my best to make a good godly impact while I am there.
- The staff seems to be coming around to letting me do other things in speaking to the youth. This is GREAT progress. This helps give the youth knowledge they need, but also goes a LONG way in establishing them to trust me and what I say. I was supposed to speak to them during February break, but that didn't happen. Still praying for the youth and more access.
- I got to speak to them recently on buying a car (end of March). As you can expect, they were all ears! Again, this goes a LONG way for them to trust me when I speak about God and the Bible!

### **Denton Freedom House (Aubrey, TX):**

- Still going to Denton Freedom House and mentoring men there. Again, this is a Christian discipleship program – just like Teen Life Challenge in Desoto where I was for 7 years. It of course is run differently, but it's a great program for people on drugs, alcohol, or just wanting to get closer to God. I try to go to some of their activities and they also run a Coffee Shop in Denton. I sometimes get to work with the men there. Pray that I can be more actively involved with them.
- Bobby is another young man I about to begin mentoring. He is new and I have my first meeting with him this Thursday. He is 47 years old. He also has been in Denton Freedom House before, but has relapsed. Please pray that I will be effective in helping him get back on track with God.

### **Adult and Teen Challenge (Desoto, TX):**

- Still working with Teen Challenge to get this new program for the second phase to work. Just got matched again with one of the young men. It has gone well so far. His name is Corey. He works as an intern for Teen Challenge. He had some bumps along the way, but is doing real well now.
- I got matched with Ryan as well. It's been a little harder with Ryan as he doesn't think this part of the program will help him. So it's more challenging. Please pray for him as well! AND ME!

**ONLY** in HIS strength,

Ernie Black

And again, THANK YOU for your continued prayers and support. Below are some areas of prayer needs that are on my heart at this time. Some requests you have seen before as they still apply!

**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. NO facility is close.
- Praise for the opportunity to spend more time at Tarrant County Juvenile Services!
- Praise for the new opportunity to go to Gainesville State school every two weeks!
- Praise for the youth/young men that have been released and are still walking with the Lord!
- 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!
- Even got to speak extra in Tarrant County Juvenile! Would like to spend more time with them, though.

**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, Denton Freedom House, Hope Inn Christ, Adult and Teen 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 Cordy at Hope Inn Christ.
- Pray for Riley and Bobby at Denton Freedom House.
- 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 (especially Melody, as she juggles family, school and ministry), and Denton Freedom House.
- Please pray that I will use the opportunities that God gives me for His glory and that I don't mess it up!
- Please pray for Jordan, Daniel, Donnel, Aydin, Kalub and Preston in Gainesville State School.
- Please pray for Ryan and Corey at Teen Life Challenge.
- Please pray for Der'ion, Davis, and Markel at Tarrant County Juvenile Services.
- Pray for Angel – that he would give his life to Christ and reject this Muslim faith.
- Pray for Hope Inn Christ's gala this week. They depend on individuals giving to their ministry.