Grace to Youth, Inc.

Reaching out to Youth with the Hope of Christ

July 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 (April 1 thru June 30, 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!
- They matched me to 1 youth (although I asked for 6). (This is due to staffing.) I get to go in now every week! Finally! This is one-on-one mentoring and we talk about the Lord! The youth I was matched to got released and so I now have a different youth. His name is Gavin. Please pray for him as he is very confused. Trying to lead him to the Lord, but he has been exposed to some Satan worship. I need prayer as well with convincing him that Christ is the correct way.

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 has left the program twice but has come back both times – which is good. I have seen him change so much! He really wants to live for the Lord, but sometimes gets distracted with the world and how he was raised. Pray for him and me as well that I will be able to be a blessing to him.
- Part of the reason Cordy left was due to being laid off at his job. He was able to get a new job at Braums, but he doesn't make near what he was when working at Imperial. He is going to re-apply at Imperial to see if he could get back on with them. Hope he gets the job.
- Melody (the house Mom) finished her Masters! Praise God! She is concentrating on what Hope Inn Christ needs to do to be able to be certified and be able to take in youth before they are 18 years old. (We actually went 15 years before the state figured this out that we weren't licensed.)
- 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. His name will be Elias.
- The Gala that Hope Inn Christ had this past April did well, but since we don't take any money from the government, as you can expect, we still need more. They depend only on contributions from churches and individuals to keep things running.

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TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- Trying to keep in touch with Angel. Several problems have kept us from speaking together. They can go on lockdown for several months at a time. Then there is the company we go thru to communicate, but they have been lousy and so have created more problems. I look forward to the day when I can speak with him again. Have to wait for him to call me. Maybe he will call on his birthday, July 23rd. Please pray also that he turns to the LORD and gets 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, and that has been improving! I now go every Wednesday night to both pods! Please pray that it will continue. Have been able to have some very good conversations with the youth and they always listen and participate. That they participate and listen makes all the difference in the world. They even let me do individual prayer with the youth.
- 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 the summer break, but that hasn't happened so far. They did get a different Superintendent so that sets us back some. Hopefully it will happen soon.
- 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.
- Robert is another young man I about to begin mentoring. He is new and I have my first meeting with him this on the 14th. He is 45 years old. He wants to get closer to God, so I hope I can be of some help to him. 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. Been matched with Corey for a while now and he is doing great! Trying to live for the Lord! He works at Oak Creek Homes and is doing plumbing for them. He has had bumps along the way, but is doing really well now.

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 week!
- 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!

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 Robert, Jason, and Andrew 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 (new kid), and ministry), and Denton Freedom House, and Adult and Teen Challenge Dallas.
- 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 Gavin, Roland, Griffin, Stacey, and Govan in Gainesville State School.
- Please pray for Cole, Larry, and Corey at Teen Life Challenge.
- Please pray for Kayden, Raveon, Brandon, Jesus, Joseph, and Daniel at Tarrant County Juvenile Services.
- Pray for Angel – that he would give his life to Christ and reject this Muslim faith.