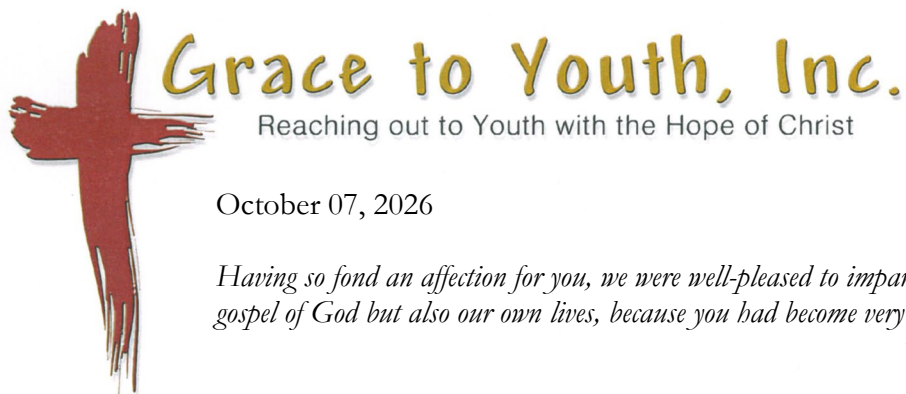




October 07, 2026

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 (July 1st thru September 30th, 2026):

Gainesville State School (TJJD):

- Monthly Bible study with the whole dorm continues. Able to encourage them. Able to see some increased participation with the youth. They seem to be paying more attention and are more engaged. Also, staff are being more consistent than what they have been in the past – which is great!
- They matched me to 1 youth—Gavin. I am supposed to see him once a week during lunch on Thursdays. He has come a long way, but there is still such progress to be made. At least he is listening and asking questions. Seems to still be confused on some parts and we only have one hour each week. Still 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 still 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 got a new job and is a stocker.
- We got a new youth who is 18. His name is Colby. Seems to be doing well as he just recently came. Only time will tell, but I think he wants to live for the Lord, but sometimes he 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.
- Hope Inn Christ is still trying to get certified to take youth under 18. This has been quite the project! Melody (House Mom) got her Masters degree which was the first step. But now going thru all the paperwork to apply to be certified is more than a headache as you could imagine!
- Please pray for both Melody to be certified as Administrator and for Hope Inn Christ to be able to pass all the hurdles they need to be certified. (Can you believe we actually went 15 years before the state figured this out that we weren't licensed?)
- Melody and Joel just had their third child, Elias, in July. Prayers needed as well for this – trying to raise 3 young ones as well as the youth that are in the house.

TDCJ (Adult Prisons, all over TX):

- Have been able to speak with Angel a couple of times. He is still working in the lunchroom for dinner. He also is taking classes for college. At this time, since he is working in the kitchen, he is allowed to take only one class. Also, he is still a Muslim. 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 SO much 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. They did get a different Superintendent so that sets us back some. Hopefully it will happen soon.
- I just recently got to go to start a third dorm. They let me do a very short speech and pray for the youth! So now I try to go to all three dorms on most Wednesdays!

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.
- Have recently been matched to Chris. Just got to meet him a couple of weeks ago. I will try to see him 3 times this month. He is 56 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.
- They even let me speak to the men there at a roundtable type gathering a couple of Saturdays ago. The feedback was very positive and I hope I will be asked back.

Adult and Teen Challenge (Desoto, TX):

- Still working with Teen Challenge to get this new program for the second phase to work. Corey has left and I have lost contact with him. I am sure I will be matched to another young man in the days to come. Please pray for Corey as this is the hard part when he gets released.

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! – a 3rd dorm!
- 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 and Colby at Hope Inn Christ.
- Pray for Chris, Noah, 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, Jordan, and Sebastian at Teen Life Challenge.
- Please pray for ALL the youth in C dorm, D dorm, and G dorm at Tarrant County Juvenile Services.
- Pray for Angel – that he would give his life to Christ and reject this Muslim faith.