

As I sit at my desk tonight considering 2021, and where God has taken and used us this past year I am overwhelmed! We've traveled nearly 100,000 miles and preached 137 times in 29 churches and 67 addiction ministries in 17 different states. This is more than twice what we've done in any of the previous 3 years. What's even more overwhelming than that is the ways and people that God used to get us to every event. It's no secret that many of the places that God calls us to are not able to pay visiting ministers, yet we were able to make every invitation! I am reminded of Paul's words in II Corinthians 9:9 "And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." God uses people to Bless! This month we've decided to let some of the one's God has used this past year to share their reasons for being part of what we do.....

*Merry Christmas
from In His Grip*



We met Jeff and Connie when he came as a student to Teen Challenge in Azle. We watched the restoration of his health and their marriage. We watched as they were called to this ministry and through all of it we've seen the hand of a Mighty God use honorable people to minister God's love, mercy, and forgiveness to do the same thing in hundreds of lives. We love partnering because we aren't called to go. We are called to send them. We are honored to call them our family and be able to help them in this awesome ministry.

~Lisa Still~



Jason & Caleb McCall-Brenham, TX

Jeff and Connie of In His Grip Ministries have played a huge part in my growth in Christ over the past five years. They're not only great ministers, but wonderful friends. Through all of my ups and downs over the past five years, Connie and Jeff have been there for me to pray with me, build me up, and strengthen me in the Lord and knowing Him in times when I felt down and distant. They've also been there to rejoice with me in the victories. Thank y'all so much for everything y'all do. Y'all are a blessing to so many.

~Jason McCall~



Danny & Lisa Still-Azle, TX



John & Beverly White-Hico, TX

I often wonder why Connie & Jeff do what they do! The first thing that I think of especially this time of the year (Christmas) is gifts. I worry about what "things" I can get for my wife, kids, grandkids, friends, etc... How foolish to worry of such gifts. Think about the gift that arrived over 2000 years ago. This Gift arrived with no material presents, no home to live in, no food-nothing! Then some 30 years later, This Gift provided the ultimate gift. You can't earn it, can't buy it, don't deserve it- It's Free. It came by the Grace of God thru Jesus Christ. We have no way to conquer the sins we deserve, but we are saved (if we choose) by The Gift. So what do you do about the worry of the gifts? Do what Jeff & Connie do! Tell the story of Jesus-what He did for you and I and that person will receive the greatest gift ever. Your Christmas will have more meaning than ever before. ~John White~

As I work in the trenches in the battle against addiction daily, I am often inspired by your efforts as comrades in arms in the battle and I support your ministry financially monthly in reaching the next new guy like me. After all you touched me in a special way that I will never forget and God healed me and gave me hope through you and therefore, I am a by-product of your ministry. When I stumbled into Green Country Adult & Teen Challenge in Sapulpa, OK, Feb 1, 2019, after the State Mental Hospital let me out, I had no hope. After coming off suicide watch and I literally stumbled through the front gate because I was on crutches with a broken ankle. That first night in the TC Program, God placed you and Ms. Connie at the center to minister to me. You anointed my broken ankle with oil and gave me a word and prayer of hope that I reached out and clung to because it was the only lifeline anyone was throwing to me and I wasn't going to let go of it. After Jeff got down on his hands and knees to anoint my ankle, he told me: "An important part of faith is acting and walking in faith and the Holy Spirit tells me you're going to do this program without pain pills or surgery and each day will be better than the last." I was high on pain pills at that time and I didn't know how it was going to be possible to do the program without pain pills or surgery, but I was willing to do whatever you guys told me and from that point I got better and I finished the program and graduated without pain pills and surgery. Almost 3 years from the date of my drunken injury, I am sober as well as healed in my mind, spirit and body and share my testimony regularly with men in my TC Program in Oklahoma.

As long as ya'll continue to carry the message of deliverance through salvation in Jesus Christ to wherever you get an invitation, I'll gladly continue to do my little part to help support your great ministry.

~Glen Hyden~



Glen Hyden-Business Manager-Central OK Adult & Teen Challenge

I will always fail when it comes to properly articulating just how amazing Jeff and Connie Johnson are. They are nothing short of divine miracles sent from Jesus Himself, on a mission to advance God's kingdom and to liberate the weary soul. My wife, myself, and our five children have been blessed by the Johnson family and "In His Grip Ministries" in ways that could ONLY be God Inspired. In this evil and confused world we live in, they help remind me that there ARE good people out there, with the heart of God, laboring to bring Light to the darkness. Thank you Jeff, Connie, and the IHG Team for your obedience to the Kingdom. May the Lord keep you In His Grip and continue to use you for His Glory.

~Destrey Brown~



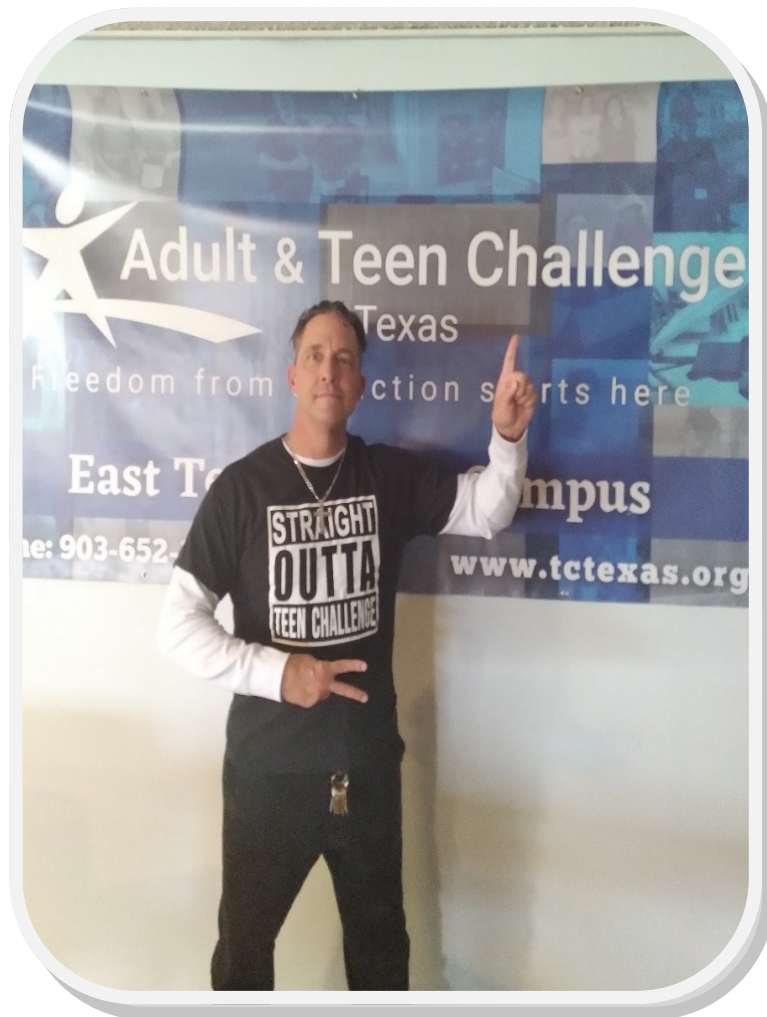
Destrey & Ashley Brown-Columbus-IN

On May 15 2020 I went to Ohio Valley Teen Challenge for restoration. I was there for a few weeks & to be honest I just didn't want to be there and had my exit plan conjured up and set. Jeff & Connie Johnson showed up in mid- June to minister for a week. I listened to their testimony & responded to a few of the altar calls that week. God started to deal with me & chisel away at my heart through this powerful Godly couple. I definitely had an encounter with Jesus through them. I felt revived and full of passion & purpose for the Lord.

Jeff and Connie and I became great friends & I felt a leading of the Lord to sow into In His Grip Ministry. From my own personal experience I realize that ministry is challenging.

When you get to hear & see first hand a life lived out and a testimony shared from a couple who has been through addiction and answers the call of God and continues to let God work through them as Jeff & Connie do it is powerful. I believe and know I wouldn't be where I'm at today if I wouldn't have met them. I love them and so believe in their mission and what they selflessly do for these young men and women. I wear my In His Grip Ministries shirt like a trophy because that's what we are trophies of God's Amazing Grace.

~Paulie Lampiasi~



Paulie Lampiasi-Staff-ATCOT-Deport Campus

Almost 2 years ago, the Lord thought it would be a good idea to bring great friends of ours to our community and our church in Texas. He also thought it was a good idea to move them really close and make them our next-door neighbors which has paved the way for a much deeper relationship with one another. Of course, these new neighbors that we are discussing are Jeff and Connie Johnson. We have had the pleasure of being intricately involved in most areas of their life for this time. Jeff and Connie are two people that carry joy in their hearts, not just normal joy but a joy that comes from deep within that carries through difficult days and pulls out of dark places. How can two people have such joy in their hearts, I wondered. Scripture says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We read and quote this scripture often during the Christmas season and know how true it is but how rarely we actually live, experience and witness this truth. Jeff and Connie sit down at our table on almost a weekly basis asking us to pray for them as they prepare to head back on the road to minister and we know that means they will be “giving” of themselves from the beginning to the end. We sit a few days later as they come home and listen as pure joy pours out of them about lives that were changed through the work of Jesus while they traveled. They never come home and hide away to rest but always meet us with the words, “What can we do for you or the church while we are home for the next couple days?” They come in ready to “give” of themselves even when it is not expected or required of them. We watch them “give” traveling, “give” in our church and “give” to individuals who need care. All this “giving” is of themselves and their time, love, care and energy. Since the word “give” is so often used to refer to money, let me go ahead and tell you that they use their finances wisely so that they are able to give financially any time there is a need. They are first to buy clothes for a student going into Teen Challenge or any other like program, the first to buy food for families without groceries or anywhere else a need arises. So, from all this, a discovery is made on my part. The joy that surrounds them is not something that everyone has because not everyone is willing to give ALL of themselves to ALL of the people around them ALL of the time. Their unexplainable joy comes not from what all life has handed them but it comes from what they hand to those around them. Do you need joy this holiday season, let me encourage you to “GIVE.” Give of yourself, give your time, give love and give financially and let God fill you to overflowing with that unexplainable joy. If you are receiving this newsletter, then you have most likely “given” to In His Grip Ministries at some point. As Jeff and Connie Johnson’s neighbor and pastor’s wife, I thank you for giving and I pray that God fills your heart with JOY this year and for the years to come. ~Faith Kelley~



Pastor Chris & Faith Kelley

Gospel Lighthouse PCG

Powderly, TX

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5-7, 2022 Mercy House Men’s TC Spiritual Emphasis-Georgetown, MS
January 9, 2022 Mount Vernon Baptist Church-Luka, MS
January 10-12, 2022 God’s House of Hope-Kilmichael, MS
January 13-15, 2022 God’s House of Hope-Nettleton, MS
January 20, 2022 Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas-Azle, TX
January 23, 2022 Hope Bible Fellowship-Bluff Dale, TX

In His Grip, Inc.

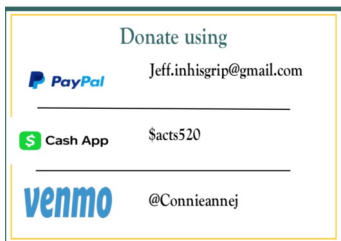
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