

*Thanks for your prayers...
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Eldridge, AL*

To Shannon, Katie, David and Eric who were able to respond and let me know you were praying, it's a special encouragement. When I returned home, I also heard from several others that were praying. Thank you.

I arrived on Friday at the cottage of Chris and Beth Willhite. After lunch together, I had a tour and gained a little better understanding of the Children's Home and their cottage life. After school I met the 6 teenage boys all between the ages of 13 - 16; Brady, Chris C, Dustin, Garrett, Jeremy & Justin. What a great bunch of guys.

We had an initial experience, a change of location and a unique supper, I then asked the guys to share some of their life story, including their best Christmas memory, their worst, what brings a smile to their face today and what makes them sad.

I had asked you to pray that this group would experience freedom from the past that weights them down, that they would learn greater responsibility for themselves and each other and that God would spark a love between them that only He can foster. Those were my goals. I had also asked that we pray that God will bring about His best purposes for each of us during our 27 hours together.

We moved toward getting the guys to discover what would make a better life. Here are their answers:

Not arguing	Not putting each other down	Don't pick on others,...constantly
Don't blame	Listen	Take responsibility for your own actions
Trust / earn trust	Help each other when you're down	

I asked the boys to take some time to agree on a word that they would like to describe their cottage. In just a few minutes they had chosen the word: HONEST.

May God continue to make Himself known through the lives of Chris and Beth and through each teenage guy as they live. Thank you for your prayers for God's grace and kindness to be on us.

