A caring relationship, plus a job...

The Psalmist asked the question, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" Solomon, in his great wisdom, commented that many young men "lack sense." Once, a young man asked Jesus, "What do I lack?" There is no question that young men need direction, guidance, and hope for a future they do not even know exists.

This summer, I began my thirteenth year as executive director of Hope Now For Youth. In those thirteen years, I have learned much and have observed young men who have succeeded and young men who have failed. The successful ones have many things in common.

Here are the top ten reasons young men succeed:

• They listened to the right message.
• They believed in a hand-up, not a handout.
• They embraced good character and ethical values.
• They realized government programs keep people poor.
• They began to serve those who were worse off than them.
• When they stumbled, they got back up.
• They realized that many who are rich are there to help them.
• They took responsibility to care for their own children.
• They began to fight for duty, not for rights.
• They believed in the American dream.

I am grateful and humbled by your support over these years. Thank you for being a part of this vital ministry.

Thank you for your support.

Roger Feenstra
Executive Director
"I miss the smell of manure!" As several of us rode through the streets of Phnom Penh, Chantha’s (our Hope Now Cambodia director) question was, "Do you know what I miss about the United States?" Another in our our group chimed in, "I miss the smell of freshly cut grass." Another said, "I miss walking into Walmart." Then, one young man mused, "I wish I would have paid more attention to the world around me and appreciated it more."

The consequences of mistakes made in life are sometimes philosophical--they roll around in our minds like a billiard ball, never finding a pocket to rest in. I looked at each of these young men and said, “You can look at your surroundings today, right here in this city, and pay attention to the positive things around you. It is never too late to pay attention.”

Our work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia is difficult. Every young man is dealing with depression. Every young man is lonely. Every young man is longing for the touch of a family member. But we are there to bring hope from God’s Word, and to tell them and show them that there are people who still love and care for them.

While these young men were deported because of their own willful actions to break the law, they still need hope. They need our help to smell the manure and the cut grass right where they are. Thank you for your support of Hope Now in Fresno and the small work we do in Cambodia.

~Roger

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