A new year is supposed to bring expectations of better days, but for many young men, a life of hopelessness is all they can see. The idea of a job is impossible to imagine, and the thought of even trying seems futile and pointless. In fact, one of the greatest characteristics we see in the gang youth we assist each day is hopelessness. It manifests itself in many ways:

✦ No sense of the future.
✦ Living in survival mode.
✦ Do not care if engaged in future-wrecking behavior.
✦ Do not care about school because it is too future-oriented.

These hopeless young men live a destructive lifestyle, fueled by feelings of insignificance and anger at society. Their deep anger is misdirected toward the community in general because it is too painful to believe they were unloved and have no rightful place in the world.

How do we help a fractured young man find hope now? Caring adults must provide the love that was never there, and a job, so that he finds a rightful place to harness his energies for the benefit of his own life.

We become the gang youth’s responsible role model to help him through the turbulent season of hopelessness.

I am honored to be a part of this task for 2017. It is not just a duty, it is a mission, and I am glad you are there to join me. Together we can bring hope to the hopeless.

Thank you for being a part of this great and worthy endeavor.

May the Lord bless you in 2017,

Roger Feenstra, Executive Director
Reserve a Table and Invite Friends

Our 24th Anniversary Banquet is on! Save the date: February 23, 2017. The banquet is free; however, sponsoring a table and bringing friends helps us get the word out about Hope Now. Table sponsorships begin at $275 for a table of ten. Add February 23rd to your calendar and plan on attending. You will be glad you did. Individual invitations will be mailed next week, but we would love to have you reserve a table today!

Cambodia Corner

[For more information on our Cambodia Hope Now program, please go to our website.]

It is a busy time in Cambodia. Our field director, Chantha, not only works with young men who have been deported from the United States, but he also works with children at the YMCA and in the community. He teaches drawing and participates in various neighborhood events. Your prayers are greatly needed for this work in Phnom Penh. Life is stressful and burdens are great. Thank you for your support of Hope Now Cambodia and our efforts there.