"I was born in jail," he said. Corey's mom was the youngest of eighteen children and was in and out of jail. When the time came for him to be born, she was in.

Corey was placed into the custody of his grandma, who did her best to raise him until he turned five. Then Child Protective Services pulled up to his home, loaded him into a van, and took him away. It would be a journey that would take him to over fifteen foster and group homes throughout the course of his childhood.

During one foster family stop, when Corey was in 4th grade, he began to excel. It was a black family, and he felt at home. He loved school. His grades were good, and he was enrolled in the GATE program. But for some reason, he was moved again.

In middle school he entered multiple group homes, and he began to get angry. By high school he was fighting and stealing. One group home turned a blind eye when Corey would go up on the roof to smoke weed; he needed to escape reality. By age 16 he was stealing from stores and doing "run-outs," where he and some friends would grab merchandise and run out of the store with it.

He came to Hope Now eight months ago on the recommendation of a friend who had been in our program several years before. Corey is trying hard. He has been placed in several jobs over the past months, but he has not been able to find his stride. Hope Now continues to help him. Corey told us, "I'm not going to give up. I want to find the right job, keep it, and make something of myself." We believe he will.

Will you pray for Corey? His life has been a roller coaster, and he carries a lot of baggage with him. But he is an intelligent young man with potential. Once he recognizes that, he will go far.

Roger Feenstra, Executive Director
Reserve a Table and Invite Friends

Our 24th Anniversary Banquet is on! Coming SOON: 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 (see insert with this newsletter).

The Great Flood of 2017

We experienced a flood, due to a broken water heater that leaked in the middle of the night, winding its watery path through our entire building. No worries...our work continues and young men continue to be helped!

Cambodia Corner

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

Bible study is an important part of helping young men get out of their depression and discouragement from being deported, to realizing God has a plan for their lives. Chantha is faithfully working each day with young men who are lost in their new world. Our Cambodia ministry, located in Phnom Penh, is a small part of our overall work, but it is important to the young men there in need of hope. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Our board member, Dr. Marty Martin, is visiting Chantha this month. We will post photos of his visit next month.