

A caring relationship, plus a job...

# Transformations



## Description of a Hope Now youth: Part 1

More effective than government programs in curtailing gangs.

### *Success since 1993.*

Two steps and you're up:  
*A caring relationship plus a job,  
lifts a gang member from the street  
into a life of hope and success.*

### **Employers Wanted**

There are benefits to hiring a Hope Now youth: First, you help our community by providing employment for one in need of hope. Second, there is a support team behind each Hope Now young man you hire. Working together, we will help you make sure your new hire succeeds. Call our office for more information.

### **Odd Jobs Needed.**

**Executive Director and CEO,  
Since 2004**

**Pastor Roger Feenstra**

**Founded 1993**

**Rev. Roger Minassian**

It only takes about \$5,000 per year to guide and assist one young man.  
Your gift goes a long way!

Thank you for giving monthly!

What does a typical gang member who comes to Hope Now look like? He is about 20 years old (our brochure welcomes ages 16-24), maybe Hispanic, black, Cambodian, Hmong, or Laotian, and well attached to a gang. He has shown interest by calling the number on the Hope Now business card he received. He calls because gang life is not what he expected, and he is considering changing his lifestyle. It was exciting, full of parties and girls, but seeing a friend shot or die was not fun. When he was in trouble, the homeboys often weren't there to help. And then there was the new live-in girlfriend (part of the fun) who said she was having his baby. He never wanted his kids to grow up like he did, without a father. His own father was either drunk, in prison, or absent.

The typical recruit does drugs but doesn't really want to admit it. "I just do drugs once in a while for fun." When was the last time he smoked pot or did meth? Probably last weekend. He ordinarily has a facial or neck tattoo, plus one or more on his arms as well as some hidden ones. Usually, several of these tattoos are gang-related. Others refer to a girlfriend or a family member.

The typical recruit has never worked steadily for more than two months. He is anxious to talk about his hard work, but usually it was short-lived and ended poorly. Jobs have been difficult to find due to his lack of experience and education. Most of these young men dropped out of high school around grade 10. Many do not understand how to work hard. They have never seen a man work hard. We invite them to receive job training. Odd jobs provided by friends of Hope Now give these young men a chance to earn clean money for doing yard work, moving boxes, or cleaning windows for minimum wage with a counselor's oversight. This helps them to understand the expectations of an employer and to know how to work.

Next month we will give a further description. Thank you for your support and prayers.

## What's In Your Garage?



Do you know we take donations of usable items like cars, refrigerators, washers and dryers, men's clothing, beds, furniture, and more? The donated items are distributed to approved youth and their families in need. Your gift may be tax-deductible. We will provide a receipt and the donor determines the value. Call our office for more information.

## Cambodia Corner



Piseth and Chantha

Over 600 deportees from the United States now live in Cambodia. Our Hope Now ministry there helps these men (and some women) get on their feet and find a job, and assists them with other personal needs. Sadly, for some, drugs and alcohol are an escape from the harsh environment of this developing country. One such struggling young man is Piseth. Not long ago he was moving forward in his life, but now has hit rock bottom and is homeless. It is not good to be homeless in Cambodia. There are no social services or government programs to assist them. But Hope Now is there. We are working with Piseth to get him off alcohol and back on the road to a successful life. Please keep our small Cambodian staff in your prayers.

