

Transformations

A caring relationship, plus a job...



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.

We take donations of cars in good running condition. We pass those cars on to young men and families in need of transportation who have proven themselves worthy.

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!

Executive Director and CEO,
Since 2004

Pastor Roger Feenstra

Founded 1993

Rev. Roger Minassian

Description of a Hope Now Youth: Part II

This month we continue to describe what a typical gang member coming to Hope Now looks like.

The typical recruit has one or two babies with a girlfriend. He has no role model to follow, but he wants to be a good father. He wants different experiences for his children than what he experienced. That is why he appreciates classes on parenting.

Typically, this Hope Now youth lives in poverty. The only money he has received is illegal. Drug money goes fast – either for more drugs to sell or to use, to give to family who are desperate, to buy clothes to look cool, or to pay off a debt. He wants a car. Stealing one will get him locked up, so he goes to one of the *schlocky* used car dealers in town and buys a car, at too high a price with high interest and payments, that doesn't run well. Or he buys a junker from a friend who really just wants his money. Regardless, the car payments get squeezed out by the big screen HDTV. He's gotta have one by football season.

On top of all of this he is angry (for good reason – no active father – mother overworked and hurting and maybe doing drugs). His family is split. He has enemy gangs to be at war with. Some have killed or shot or stabbed his friends. His girlfriend is always pushing him to get a job to help pay for the baby. He tells her she should get a job too, since it's half her fault. Then they can fight about child care!

Does it make sense why these young people respond so readily to genuine Christian caring? Sure, they are nervous the first time they experience it. They often go through a period of not believing it is real. But eventually they become open and respond well to short, simple teaching about Jesus. They are willing to hear the gospel message of Jesus' gift of grace and forgiveness for those who believe that He is God, that He died for their sins, and that He rose from the dead. Like most people, they are initially cautious about making a commitment to Jesus. Respecting their dignity and knowing that pushing them is not in God's plan, we present Jesus and allow God to work in their lives.

Ministry to gang members sounds impossible when you read about all the problems they bring to the table, but we have witnessed time and again the opening of hearts and genuine belief when we approach them with the truth and simplicity of God's love.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Summertime at Hope Now

Summer is not only a time to find jobs for young men desiring to escape gang life. It is also a time for creating bonds that will last a lifetime. Our annual family barbecue and our staff versus youth water volleyball championship are just a couple examples of the summer events we hold.

In addition, summer is a good time for you to hire some of our youth for an odd job around your home. We ask that you pay each youth the minimum wage of \$10/hr and use them for at least three hours. You will find the young men courteous and willing to work. We will also provide a staff member for supervision if needed. For more information, call our office at 559.237.7215 and ask to speak with Sergio. Odd jobs provide money for a young man to pay for his I.D. or drivers license. Plus they allows us to measure his work ethic and help him improve in areas where he may be weak. Thanks for caring!



Cambodia Corner



Our staff in Cambodia (all deportees) are diligently reaching out each day to other young men like themselves who were deported to Cambodia due to a crime committed in the U.S.A. We now have a potential ministry to around 600 men and a few women throughout the country. Our work has expanded from the capital city of Phnom Penh to the city of Battambang in the north. Please

pray for our staff of three: Chantha, Mout, and Van. May they help many young men find hope and jobs. If you would like more information regarding our work in Cambodia, please sign up to receive our executive director's articles from his personal website at www.rogerfeenstra.com. Roger will travel to Cambodia in October to conduct training and encourage our staff there. Any gift designated "Cambodia" will go to furthering that work. It is helpful for your Cambodia gifts to be above and beyond your giving to our primary work in Fresno, California.



559.237.7215



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