

# Redemption

I struggle with redemption because I didn't know what it meant to repent for my sins. For along time I didn't accept my way of life as being wrong because that was the only life I ever knew. People outside of my communities were the idiots that allowed themselves to be victims of crimes, and work 80 hrs a week for nothing. Therefore, how could I repent for sins that I never found to be sinful in the first place.

However, as grow and learn I began to realized that I was the one living a sinful life. Even with that knowledge. I didn't know where to began because my sense of right and wrong is completely messed up. I tried to change on my own and believed that I myself could fix all the wrong I had done in life. I quickly learned that I couldn't do anything myself and I only made things worst. I got stabled 5 times for walking away from the gang life that I only knew, and every time I tried to be good it was never enough. I also began to see the face's of all my victims as if it just happened yesterday, but my crimes reaches as far back as when I was 9 years old. I didn't even think of the consequence of my action when putting a knife to the trroat of another 9 year old kid. The damage I done to that kid is unimaginable at the time because I myself was a victim of gang recruitment. Overwhelmed by guilt and my constant failure at trying to be good, I began to relapse back to the only life I once knew.

However, before I completely lose myself back to a life of sin, God had other plans for me. God placed me in the hands of Calvin CPI program and through them I was introduced to Jesus Christ. I know it sounds crazy for someone like me to talk about God and accepting Jesus Christ in my life, but it happen. I finally realize that only Jesus Christ could wash away my sins and make right all my wrongs. Even with that knowledge I still made bad choices that lead me to be removed from the program by the adminstration

Regardless if I'm still in the program or not, no one could change the fact that the people at Calvin CPI program saved my life by introducing me to God.

Therefore, I am here today to share with everyone my story of repentance through this painting. I was a man that had lost my soul in the dept of hell until Jesus Christ washed away my sins through his sacrifice on the cross. Hopefully my story would give hope and courage to those who find themselves in similar situation as I was.

Hang Phong Quang

## New Ways - Old Ways

I made my painting to be funny, However "Telling" is not a light hearted issue. Its a struggle many formal gang members have to deal with. The gang Lifestyle is not to "Tell", but that beliefs are in conflict with walking away from the gangs. I cant hold true to not being a rat and want to walk away from the gangs. The simple thing of speaking up when I see someone that is being victimize is a struggle for me, and many people like me.