

# Second Chance Outreach

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## Got A Sec?

*The Newsletter from Second Chance Outreach*

*June 2020*

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying life and feeling blessed. We are continuing on our journey to reach out to gang-affected and marginalized homies with the love of Christ and find ways to lift up people who are hurting.

I was asked years ago when I got released why I would want to help out homies. "Aren't they the ones who hurt you?" "Didn't they make you do things you never wanted to?" and so on. My response is this: Yes, they did, but God loved Apostle Paul and forgave him for persecuting and murdering His people. Haven't we as Christians used Paul's verses to reach others and help others see spiritually better? I know a lot of people get confused about gangs. As much as they study gangs or read up on gangs, they will never get more than 2nd hand facts, probably mixed with fiction as well. Often people see the structure and destructive habits of gangs, but forget that gangs are made up of real people. And real people are never one-dimensional. So in this month's newsletter, I want to give you a glimpse of a homie I enjoy swapping letters with and speaking to: Michael. Maybe one day his story will help shape another homie or adolescent kid stuck in confusion as Paul was when he lost sight of his path to destruction. Also in this newsletter we give a special shout-out to our beloved tattoo removal volunteer and give you a glimpse into what she does for us. You'll also meet David Garcia, who will be joining our board this June, and hear about the development of our Hope for Homies farm project and special partnership with Milltown Gardens.

As always, I am forever grateful for the love you give through conversations, concern, prayer and financial support of Second Chance Outreach. None of this would be possible without you.

Sincerely,  
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Michael - in his own words

hey homes, I wanted to sit down and write. I have to say that sometimes it's hard as we tend to be hard on ourselves. but I want you to know this and I know you have heard it before and have been disappointed, but I will never lie to you nor will I be fake. so I will begin.

I am a man who has learned to own mistakes of my past, not to allow my past to define my future or my positive progress through life, I am a man who has learned to appreciate relationships and life itself, I live by a value based life. the top five values I live by #1) my family, #2) education, #3) employment, #4) faith, #5) to live with honesty, integrity and loyalty to these values, these are the things I truly care about and to recognize I was living so many years with all the wrong values. so I have to say that I love hard and see the good in people even if they don't see it in themselves. I believe with the right person to believe in you it could be the encouragement someone needs to turn their lives around. I am a man who struggled with who I was for many years of my incarceration as a youthful offender. I tried to be someone I wasn't to fit into the prison environment. I tried to get the approval of homies and those around me at any cost. I had no identity through the encouragement of a few good friends (homies) that truly believed in me and the support of Rueben - sis gang unit Olympia headquarters and a few others within my family. so we come back to who I am. I am a man that learned things the hard way and I value human life, laws and I know people can change. I am compassionate and caring and I want to use my testimony to help change someone else's life who is struggling like I was.

I came to Washington state from el cajon San Diego where I resided with my mother as she suffered from drug addiction and couldn't take care of any of her five kids and all the kids were split up to go live with their fathers. we all had different fathers. San Diego was all I knew as a young kid and I was sent to auburn Washington to live with my father who was an alcoholic. soon after I came to Washington my father lost his marriage and his drinking spiraled out of control. I was put into a friend's home and eventually into a home of the sister of the man who was with my sister. I then was stable for awhile and was successful as I was an all state wrestler and I went to two state tournaments in the Tacoma Dome. my sophomore and junior year then I returned to live with my father and he drank from the minute he awoke til he passed out and worked graveyard and I began to drink and party and get involved in gangs. I was put on to a gang.

I met my crime partners and my life was gonna change forever.

In 2008 I went to WSP walla walla. I came off of a program in imu for slicing a rival gang member with a razor knife and I had a high promoting of the stg mentality and gang violence. i had so much hate built up as this man that i never met had nothing against other than he was a opposite gang and when i was charged with assault one with a aggravated weapon enhancement and the only deal i was offered by the prosecutor for a whole year was 220 months on assault one and a 60 month aggravated enhancement for being a felon in a correctional center with a deadly weapon. i went pro se and i was informed by the prosecutor and given the reports of my own so called homie informed on me and the victim didn't.

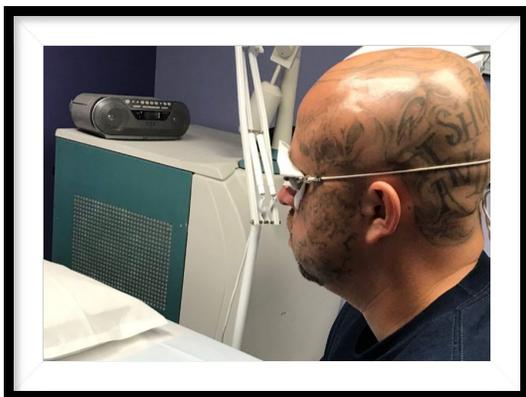
Because the victim didn't file a report, my penalty for the assault was lower and I had a second chance at life. i respect that man tremendously for his sacrifice and am remorseful as he didn't deserve what he got. then I was put in the west complex and was asked to supervise a Sgt to be hit "assault". I denied to be apart of it. I was also targeted. so I made an issue of how all it is is a popularity contest, they want to see you fail before you gain, they want to see you in the hole "Solitary" before they see you go home, they want you to do things that they wouldn't do for themselves. the truth is misery loves company. I live by "show me your friends, and I'll show you who you are." a man name David Lujano

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ambition to change and do right and grow as a person. think as a man and not an inmate." if he could do it I knew I could and I have. many homies in here hate me as they are still active or they are better or whatever their reason is, but I ignore it and surround myself with like minded homies that want to change their lives for the better. to do it in this environment is hard as there are so many that will try to pull you down with them. so I ultimately changed as I fully seen that alot of these guys where still in the same place, I wanted better for myself and my family. I decided to put my family first for once in my life and to make mature desicions that would allow me to grow and to become successful with my transition out of and away from the gang life. it was the hardest decision of my life but was by far the best choice I've ever made. I've spent going on 20 years locked up and I am only 36 years old...

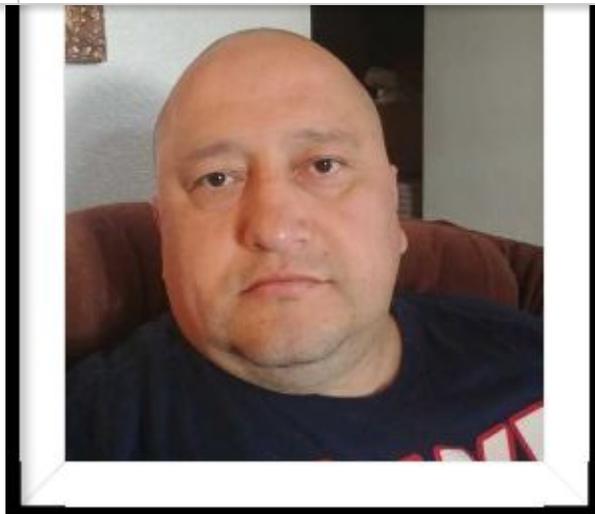
***This is only the first part of Michael's story. To read the rest of his story, visit our website at [www.HopeForHomies.org](http://www.HopeForHomies.org)***

**Visit [HomeForHomies.org](http://HomeForHomies.org)**



#### **A Special Thank You!**

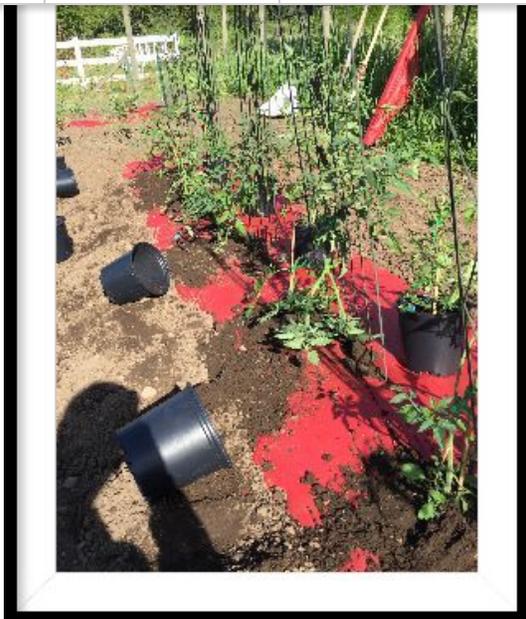
We want to say a very heartfelt thank you to our tattoo removal lady for continuing to support and help homies as they work through the long and painful process of having their tattoos removed. As you may know, the facial tattoos of many homies get in the way of them unbranding themselves from their past lives. Tattoo removal gifts them with fresh faces to match their fresh intentions. Thank you D. You are the best, and have given Hope to every homie who's life you have touched. We bless you and your company for all your love and support!



**David Garcia to Join SCO's Board**

David Garcia was raised in central California working in labor fields from a young age. As a preteen boy he was exposed to drug dealing. As a teenager he started to sell drugs under his older brother. Being around a diverse group of people David was forced to join a gang for protection. David moved to Washington state his Sophomore year of high school in 1992. Not long after being enrolled in school he became acquainted with local gang members. David (aka P-WE), his brother CHOLO, Skywalker and his brother Freddy started to jump in (initiate) other male youth to their gang, South Side (SS), which grew rapidly and gained notoriety throughout Skagit County. As SS became rivals with other gangs, David got expelled from Burlington high school and went back to California. After barely graduating High school in Visalia California, David moved back to Washington State. Wanting to change his life around after hearing of the murder of his best friend and right-hand man in California, Brujito, David became involved with a woman who had two children. David was on a trip back to California from New York when he and his partner got pulled over in Utah. At this point in David's life he realized his life as a free man was over. David prayed not knowing what to say to a God he did not believe in. His current relationship ended. David's prayers were answered but he in return did not keep his promise to God for over a year. Then David met the woman who would become his wife and spiritual mother, Barnabe. Bernabe introduced him to God. David did not know that through this introduction he would gain a relationship with the Creator of the universe. David made a complete 180 degree turn in his life with the help of his new wife, sister-in-law, and late mother-in-law. God has transformed David from head to toe and inside out. David has finished his associate's degree from Advantage college, Discipleship course from IPHC Ministries and is the lead pastor alongside his wife Bernabe at Iglesia Pentecostal Nueva Jerusalem.



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### Hope for Homies - Partnering with Milltown Gardens

After 10 hour shifts of work every Monday thru Thursday, I head to the farm to plant and harvest for 1 to 2 hours with my friend Jodie. Usually tired and ready to head home, I'll muster up the strength to get a short project done - like getting something put in the ground. Today I planted this row of tomatoes, which Jodie had raised from seed in her little greenhouse. As I planted, I got a collect call from Spooky, a homie in prison, and talked with him about getting saved. Just hearing his real heart was good - that was the day's abundant harvest.

Many of my friends have heard my dream of one day having a farm, a safe haven for guys like me, people who just need to disconnect from the world or reconnect to the world when they are releasing back into the community. The vision came to me one day in solitary confinement when I was struggling through an anxiety attack. The farm I envisioned was going to be called Hope For Homies. It would be a place to grow, heal, form community, and put some good into the world.

Now SCO is partnering with my good friend Jodie, who owns a small market farm called Milltown Gardens. We are using her farm to slowly building this safe haven. This year we will grow food and flowers, both to sell and to donate into the gang affected and marginalized community. Our goal is to grow twice what we are able to sell, so that a significant amount goes to help the local community. So far we have planted potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes, zucchini, kale, and radishes, and hope to have greens, peas, carrots, and other typical garden vegetables added this week. When the weather warms just a little bit more, we will add pumpkins, cucumbers, gourds, and melons. We have also installed over 200 dahlias and will soon be seeding large wildflower patches. All this is in addition to the fruit trees and berry bushes already at the farm. We are converting a portion of an outbuilding into office space for SCO, hold our daily devotion at the farm, and hope to one day install a prayer walk around the property and the gardens. It's exciting to be finally creating the safe and healthy space I've envisioned for so many years!

Second Chance has been slowly building over the past year, and we feel we have recently turned the corner and started trusting in God more: spiritually, physically and financially. We are praying to find the additional monthly financial support to allow me to move from my full time job to a part time position so I can spend more time building the farm; so we can feed more people, be able to handle more volunteers, and reach out to more homies. We think it will take about \$1,500 more in monthly donations. If what we are creating sounds like something you would like to help build, we would warmly welcome any level of financial support or any leads you might know of to grants that seek to help fund ventures like ours. We also invite you to join in praying that our efforts produce fruit that God can use to heal those who are hurting and inspire those seeking a new walk in life.

**Donate to Second Chance Outreach**

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We invite you all to join us in praying for everyone facing hurdles during this Covid situation. Please pray for all those who are struggling with addiction, loneliness, and fear; those who are locked up or are dealing with unhealthy problems; and for God to show us mercy and lead us through this crisis to a bright new day.



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