



“MY EYES ARE THE WINDOW TO MY SOUL...”

“MY LIFESTYLE WAS...”

Hi everyone! How's everyone been doing? Here I sit wondering why it has been quite some time since I've heard from those of you who are out there in the free world. Those of us that are incarcerated don't have so much to say to those of you out there and especially if we don't really know you, this is due to the fact that we are in an isolated environment, know what I mean? However, once we can start a relationship/friendship with whomever, then and only then can we really get off on carrying lengthy conversations...

Since my last blog, I've been awaiting to hear from anyone out there, 'cause I do like to write and I do have some interesting stories to share with anyone who will give me the opportunity to. As I had shared in my initial blog, I come from a background of being involved in gangs and I've been in & out of "you name it, I've been there."

But, today - all I ever think about is helping the troubled youths of today's generation in any way possible! I do not want to see the youngster's make the same mistakes that I made in my life and I would like them to hear my testimony that there is more to life than gangs, jails and/or prisons! If you're reading this, believe me, as quick as you're accepted into a gang - that's as quick as you're rejected for anything! You can best believe that when you're busted, there isn't any homies, homeboys, road-dogs, comrades, ace-deuces, brotha's, or anything of a sort! The only people behind you in this situation are **YOUR** family!

Recently, I was watching a talk show and the segment was on "What Can We Do To Impede Crime?" The fact of the matter is simple, "our legislatures and community leaders need to strive towards implementing the C.E.T.A. Program as we once had back in the 1980's." This program was quite successful. It assisted so many ex-cons and the under-educated to have the opportunity to go to a Trade School or work at designated companies on an On-The-Job-Training basis. Today, there is no such program(s) out in the communities, which leads those people who are fresh out of a jail or prison, with no type of financial support, straight to the life of crime. This is not making excuses for them; it's only me being 100% honest because I've gone through it several times myself. Besides, this is what "we" know best and this is what we are changing today!

In the program that I belong to, "Criminals & Gangmembers Anonymous (CGA)" I emphasize as much as I can, our motto - "One Less Crime / One Less Victim." I'm telling you, this twelve step program has really helped me come to terms with understanding that there is something called a "Lifestyle Addiction." I'm a witness to it and I lived it as well... Today, I am content and really at peace with myself. However, I really do miss my family!

I'm not quite sure if I ever shared this in any of my blogs, but I am a victim of this destructive lifestyle that I once lived. I say this to say - I have a beautiful daughter that is caught up in the "Lifestyle Addiction," she had two beautiful little girls by "who knows?" In addition, my babygirl at 27 years old seems to not understand that there are several family members that do care for her but she insists on believing what she wants or what those who claim they're her friends tell her. Bottom line, she's caught up in the "Cycle of Addiction" and there is nothing I can do to help other than do my best to give her some fatherly advice whenever I possibly can, this goes for the rest of our family as well. She just will not listen! "Sound familiar?"

Well, until my next blog, take care and I shall continue with sharing more on CGA's concept. I have a lot more to tell all of you...

Gratefully,  
*Librado (Chuco) Clemena, Jr.*