



“STAYING IN TUNE WITH TODAY...”

What's going on everyone! How's everybody doing out there in the free world? Wow! isn't it something when you turn on your television sets and all you see is "Occupy New York, Occupy Oakland, Occupy Long Beach, Occupy here and there? What is really going on with our society? Is it time for the people of this Great Nation to stand up for what they believe in and do what is right for the Country (United States) that has said from way back when - "One For One, One For All..." Yet, we are allowing our Government to create damage that may be irreparable when it is all said and done. Those who will be suffering will be the young adults that are in high school right now. Those that wish to pursue their education to have better careers!

I may be incarcerated but I watch the news on a daily basis and when I see that there are people suffering and getting ready to suffer more, my heart goes out to them! Immediately I think, "How can I be of any assistance to my country?" It may sound ridiculous because I committed a crime to get where I am at today, right. However, I accept full responsibility and accountability for any wrong that I may have caused to anyone and today, after being incarcerated for approximately seventeen (17) years, I have grown to become a humble person and more understanding to the human-being. I can't even watch a mere television show like "Extreme Makeover - Home Edition" without shedding a tear! I love helping people and I do this on a daily basis here at the institution I'm currently serving my sentence.

I have assisted in the development of a great twelve-step program, "Criminals & Gangmembers Anonymous" (CGA) (www.CGAnon.org), I conduct the twelve step study workshops, various other recovery related workshops (e.g. Communication Skills, Beliefs, Anger Awareness & Reduction, Domestic Violence, and etc.) sponsored by CGA. I am currently in the process of starting a Toastmasters/Gavel Club program here on the facility I'm housed on. Our Gavel Club group name will be named, "Talk of the Town."

Oh, we were just authorized to participate in the college program and of course, I have enrolled again. I want to further my education in psychology and sociology because whenever I am released, I want to become a motivational speaker. I want to travel around the country speaking to the troubled youths. I don't want them to make the same mistakes I've made in my life and I know I have a lot to offer our communities. However, I do owe society a big debt and that is my current incarceration. I've hurt a lot of people emotionally, mentally and financially. I've hurt my loved ones so much and there is nothing that I can ever do to repair the damage done, for the exception of doing what is right today! Live the way people in society live, self-supportive, independent, trustworthy, and a law-abiding citizen. I can only do this through example and as I tell everyone, "Don't listen to what I say, just watch what I do." I talk the talk, but I also walk the walk!" I actually feel better about my accomplishments and myself today.

I am hoping that society can get it together and that the problem with Wall Street and our Government comes to some type of resolution, if not - I believe we are in for an ugly outcome. If there is anyone with the answers to our current problems, it's the organizations that step up to assist in resolving major problems as we are presently being faced with. Think about folks - who better to speak to those out on the streets protesting? Who? Would it not be wise if those in charge of what caused all this chaotic stuff step up to the plate, admit their wrong and ask the citizens of this Great Country to be patient. Allow them some time to repair what has taken place and at least set a deadline so that our people can expect when to see some change?

Well, until my next blog. Time is precious and we all deserve that quality time to express our feelings. Therefore, I await to hear yours...

Gratefully & Curious,
Librado (Chuco) Clemena, Jr.