

Little Brother,

May 30, 2023.

You may be wondering why I call you brother. It's because, when I think of you (guys) and the situation you find yourself experiencing and facing, I think back 28 years ago when I was you...

In some ways, I see myself in you... it's almost as if I am writing a young me. So I care about what you are going through and want to answer your questions in a way that will help you, not only if you unfortunately come to prison but, also if you get out.

"What would've I done different in my life before I came to prison?" I would never have got involved with gangs. I was looking for love, respect and loyalty because I wasn't getting it home. Well I didn't get it with gangs. I got betrayal, a broken heart, problems bigger than I ever imagined. I got my brother murdered because of my association to gangs, I got a life sentence because of gangs and drugs. I would never get involved with gangs & drugs, not even a little.

There was no love or loyalty. Gungo gave me nothing good. It's all bad!

"How is prison and how do I get through it?"

Prison is like being stuck in high school, for ever, and never being able to leave, no matter how old you get or, if you out-grow it. I say High school because no matter how old people are in here, mentally they never grew up and have very little desire too. The only difference is they are violent. Prison is boring, and nothing ever changes. Everyday is the same. I deal with it by staying busy with work, school, reading, drawing. I don't hang out with any one anymore because everyone is just trying to use one another and pull each other down. "Did I have to fight a lot?" I didn't have to! I did, because I was angry, sad, stubborn and I got involved in other people's problems. I regret that. In prison the only problems you'll have, are the ones you create by getting in the mix. The best way to defend yourself is to mind your own business. Don't get involved in what other people are doing. Even if they ask. Be strong and say no!

In prison strength comes from being your own man. Do what's good for you! no one else. No one will pick a fight with you just because. That's how you defend yourself.

What helped me get through every thing. Remember, there is always

someone else who's situation is worse than yours. If they did it, so can you! If I did it, so can you. Nothing in life is forever.

Everything changes eventually. You have to be positive! The people I see struggle the most are the negative ones. Stay busy, stay curious, stay loving don't become hateful, it will destroy you before it does anyone else.

Was I scared? Yes! I went to the Main in Santa Fe, after the riots. It was dangerous! There is nothing wrong with being scared. Everyone! gets scared. I promise you. If they say "no" they are lying.

A strong person controls their fear don't let it control you. Allow yourself to feel it and little by little, it will go away.

when you are scared. its good, because it helps you think of all your choices. let the fear work through you and let your mind decide whats best for you.

Don't ignore or supress your fear because you will make a bad decision that you will regret.

Think of all the times you ~~are~~ got into trouble. were you scared? Did you allow yourself to feel it and let your mind decide what to do? or did you ignore it!

Lastly, prison is full of people with regrets. You are not gonna find what ever it is you are looking for in here. You are too valuable to end up here. You have talents. (we all do) don't be someone who waste it in here. Believe in yourself always! Even if you feel like no one else does.

Believe in yourself!

Your big brother,
A.