

Florida's Young Men Need Our Help

The young men in Florida are being neglected. Whether it's due to a lack of positive role models, or whether it's due to a lack of father figures, our young men are not being nurtured. This void is being filled by street gangs and is having dire consequences. Our young men are easy prey for these nefarious groups because they offer them something that our young men long for: a sense of family and belonging.

Nationwide, MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha) is the largest and most dangerous gang. Statewide, MS-13 is joined by the following groups in trying to recruit our young men: the Bloods, Crips, 18th Street, Mexican Mafia, and the Aryan Nation. In addition, some local gangs such as the 39th Ave. North Boys and the 25 Street Folk compete for the services of our young men in Pinellas County. These gangs offer "employment" in prostitution, human trafficking, narcotics, and contract killings. In addition, these gangs provide "family protection and support" to their members. Our young men are being tricked into joining these gangs because they have been let down by their families and our educational system. Their families (particularly their fathers) need to start behaving according to the Lord's command in Ephesians 6:4 "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in training and admonition of the Lord." However, our education system must also do a better job of supporting our young men. Studies show that young men enter higher education at a lower rate than women. In addition, those who actually enter higher education have much lower graduation rates than their female classmates.

We need to have programs specifically tailored to getting our young men into college/university, and then mentoring programs to help them graduate. If we start giving our young men meaningful assistance at receiving a college diploma (and the meaningful employment opportunities that go with it), then maybe we can help them live the American dream. Otherwise, they will be left with the nightmare of MS-13 and other gangs, and that is an unacceptable result. Finally my message to MS-13 and other gangs comes directly from the Lord when he says: "Now upon you I will soon pour out my fury, and spend my anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations." (Ezekiel 7:8)

God Bless America,
John Giotis