

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

From Socialism and Poverty to Freedom and the American Dream

A Personal Warning Against the Elites & the Growing Hand of Government

By Ricardo Rios, Elbert County Republican, Elizabeth

I am so blessed and proud to call myself an American and to live here in the land of the free. I have everything that I ever wanted, a beautiful wife, two amazing boys, my family, my health and my own business. Everything was possible by the grace of God and by a hard-working single mother of three, that had only one thing in her mind and was for her kids to have a better life.

I am originally from El Salvador. My family and I grew up during the civil war that started in the 80's. We lived under a dictatorship government and all I remember was suffering and death. Who suffered the most? the middle class and the poor people. The government slowly took control of everything. They started by reducing the amount of land someone could have, then they nationalized the banking, coffee and sugar industries. Who benefitted from this reform? the government and the elite. People who stood up against the government were killed and so were their family members. As the civil war started to gain momentum we had family members that stood for what they believed in and that was freedom from the government. We lost family members to the government "death squad" and others had to flee the country to avoid being murdered. We lived in fear, living day by day and hoping for another day.

My mother decided to leave everything she had, family, friends and job to move thousands of miles away to an unknown country, Canada. In 1994 we moved to Canada as refugees and the Canadian government helped us get on our feet. They provided us with a place to live, money for food, clothing, education, everything that we needed to be self-sufficient. My mother had up to 3 jobs to pay the government back for what they gave us and for us to live comfortably. We also worked and helped her with bills and went to school as well. All of us graduated from the University of Lethbridge and started our own lives. My two siblings stayed in Canada and started their own business, I moved to



Ricardo Rios with Wife, Moriah French, and sons, Zaydrian, upper right, and Cruz, lower left.

the United States with my job and later became a US Citizen.

I joined the Republican party because it is now my time to stand up and protect my family just like my mother did. To me socialism is very similar to a dictatorship. In a dictatorship the government tells you what to do and what not to do. If you disagree with the government they would hurt you, your family and friends. The government used terror tactics and voter intimidation to stay in power. The government attacked churches to keep the people under their control. Politicians made a dictatorship sound like it was the best for the country and its people. They promised the world but delivered nothing but chaos, death and suffering. Socialism is no different, it sounds good and fair but in real life, socialism is the true enemy of the people. Only the rich and powerful keep what they have while the rest of us get the leftovers. You can see right now those who want socialism and equality are the ones that are abusing their power. They get more security while the people they represent are being killed daily because there are not enough law enforcement. Socialism and Dictatorships are all about power and nothing to do for the people.

I have experienced firsthand what happens when the government takes away our freedom. This is what is happening right now in the United

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States and I cannot stand by and do nothing about it. We need to defend freedom and to recognize that government is intended to represent and serve the people and not to rule over us. My job as a father is to protect my family and I will not tell my wife and kids that I am sorry for not doing anything to protect them while I had the chance. I joined the Republican party because I agree for what they stand, and they are our last line of defense against the Democratic Party.

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