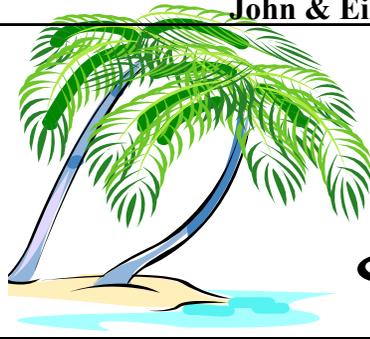




John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>



# Little Lambs Inc.

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626

**MARCH 2011**

## Clothed in splendor....like the Tabebuia Tree

Out for our usual walk, my friend and I noticed a beautiful yellow Tabebuia Tree. Yes, that is the name, Tabebuia (taba boo a). This tree flowers early in the spring, before even the leaves come out. It was a gorgeous site. Instantly, we both knew what that tree represented. She said, 'write about the tree.' As I thought about that tree, I thought how much like our lives it was. There are times when we go through trouble, trouble that wants to kill us, to test our faith. We think that we may not make it. We struggle but we hang on. This drives us to the Lord like nothing else does. It seems that we have nothing left to lean on but Him and it becomes total surrender. Like the total surrender that is the winter for the Tabebuia tree. All the beauty, all the life, all the energy has been drained to weather the winter in our lives. Sometimes that winter lasts for years! Just like the Tabebuia tree, all our leaves are gone and we feel alone and naked in the storm.



As we hang on and fall on God, we become almost oblivious to the seasons going on around us. The seasons continue, but we are stuck in our pain and our plight wanting and waiting for a way out. We don't even see or notice the beautiful flowering of trees in the spring. Survival is all we can handle. As we surrender and wait on the Lord, He changes us! Yes. We start to get our priorities straight. Things we thought we couldn't live without, we can. People we thought we could count on, we learn we can do without. God is growing us up and healing us.

Finally, we heal. Suddenly, it is Spring again in our lives. We notice the changes. We celebrate them. We see the Lord, His purpose for our pain. And as we respond to His love, we flower, just like the Tabebuia after a hard winter. Big, bright flowers appear as we celebrate our new life in Him, like the beauty of a Bride before her wedding. The bright showy flowers last for a time then give way to sturdy leaves that clothe the tree. These leaves and the tree then serve with shade and wood for building. They say the Tabebuia is good decking wood. After the burst of new life, we, too, settle in to Serve the Lord. Our newfound love, having been renewed in the furnace and through his unyielding care for us, becomes the motivation to serve Him more. We want to share the beauty of His love through our story and our suffering in hopes of helping others.

So many young women come to us in a winter season in their lives. The storms are raging and they feel all alone and so confused. Our mission is to show them the love of Jesus during this time. My particular joy is seeing the beautiful flowers after the winter! Each one is so unique and so different. Just like in a bouquet of different flowers, each one of holds a special place in the heart of God. I think that I will need a Tabebuia tree at Grace Place!!

*My beloved spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land; The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Song 2:10-13*

### Update on Grace Place: A whole new look with our fence!



Security is a big issue with the Ladies Home. Ed Akers has diligently worked to fully enclose the spacious yard and give us a beautiful setting. Thank You, Ed



Dear John & Eileen (& Staff), I've written notes to you on some of my lessons but I feel I should write a short letter to you. I have been doing many different bible studies on different doctrines and from many different part of the country. I want you to know that, from the first lesson I have sensed something special about your lessons. Even though you write very little on my returned lessons— maybe it's the little cards you send, I don't know. But I sense a compassion and a love for people that I do not sense in our other bible studies.

This prison is filled with men who have no hope, and many of these men are silently crying out for help. People like you, who put love and compassion and caring into each lesson are the answer to that cry. I appreciate you so much. I pray for everyone connected with your ministry every day to not only bless you in every way possible, but that the Holy Spirit, through your efforts will change hearts and lives so that more will be ready for the Lord's return. I am in a 47 man barracks and very few show any indication of serving God. I have seen 5 men die within the last 1 1/2 years and only 1 that I am aware of was ready to meet the lord. I ask that the Holy Spirit would use me or anyone to tell these men about Jesus and I ask that you pray with me about this need. Please pray for the lost in this prison and Barracks 8B specifically. Larry

**My dear brother, I took your bible study over three years ago. It was wonderful. I had told many inmates about the study. They love it. I am writing you to let you know that I am reading "I'm Not Coming Back, The John Sala Story." john, what a life you had. God must really love you to keep you alive all those 40 years. Wow, you were hardheaded! It's really hard to believe all the things you been through. Can you tell me how old are you now and how long you been saved. I know you were in and out of prison ,but I didn't know a book was out about your life. As soon as I seen the book I got it right away. Sometimes it is hard to read because it really don't look like you was never going to get saved. What do you look like now. You see I want to know more about you now so I can share your new life with inmates. I am sure they would love to know how you are doing now. Please write me. I love you all at Little Lambs and I thank you all for helping me. In love, Mark Ca**

John Sala, I just finished reading your book. I don't know where to start. I'm a backslider that for sure. For a period of 8 years I was a minister here in Texas. It's hard to explain what I'm doing in the county jail. I just know that my faith has been attacked. I want to get right with God so bad I don't care about the ministry or saving souls. I just want to get my life in order first. See for 8 years I understood sacrifice for the things of God putting aside my son, my wife and my family. Being without so others can have. Putting aside responsibilities so other fellow Christians can have. Was I right by doing that? I'm so confused now I don't know how to believe no more. While I was reading your book, one thing stuck to me. It was what Mickey Evans said, that you need to grow instead of crossing the world. I did want everything at that moment. Now I understand when this one pastor told me, "Stand still and listen!" I lived that disbalanced life. I'm just trying get my life back in order. John pray for me not to get out, but for God to do what he as to do with me. Thanks for listening. Baldemar. Tx

**OPENING SOON  
GRACE PLACE**

Watch for Date in April  
Little Lambs Inc 501[c][3] Non Profit Organization

**MARCH 2011 SCHEDULE**

**7th, 14th, 21st, 28th 7:30 – 9PM  
Little Lambs, Inc. Sebring, Fl.  
Overcomers in Christ Recovery – John**

**1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd - 6:30 to 8:15 PM  
Avon Park Prison, Avon Park, Fl.  
Christian Overcomers Class – John**

**1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd -6:30 to 8:15 PM  
Avon Park Prison, Avon Park, Fl.  
Biblical Boundaries Class – Eileen**

**2nd, 9th, 7 to 9 PM  
First Presbyterian Church Sebring, Fl.  
Biblical Look-Anger & Parenting –  
Eileen**

**March 20th– Concert Avon Park Prison**

**Third Thursday 6:30 – 8 PM  
Sexual Integrity for Men – Larry**

Dear Beloved Folks,

We feel like we are on the home stretch with getting Grace Place on line. As you can see, our lovely fence is in! This week, we'll be adding a deck around the steps on the east of the house. Our glass brick window is being completed today as I write. In March we will be putting the irrigation and sod in.

A very nice surprise is that the large dorm room has enough space to hold 4 sets of bunk beds rather than just 3. We plan to have the oldest most mature student in the small room and the newest admit will spend her first week of the program in the room with her. Sort of a new admit ward!! New admissions have lots of adjusting to do and they are likely to want too leave soon. Having the buddy system to help them get oriented is a good thing.

We will be needing:

- Towels
- Sheets
- Pillows
- Small kitchen appliances
- Hair dryers
- Heavy pots and pans
- Yard and garden tools
- Landscaping trees & plants
- Clocks

**Our love & thanks**

