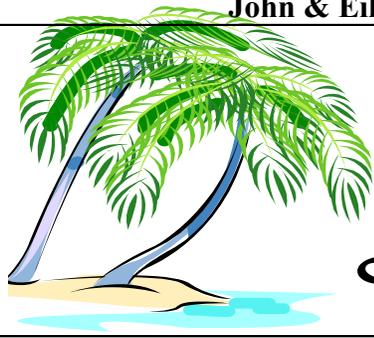




John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>



Little Lambs Inc.

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Liberty, Free on the Inside- Rejoicing

As we approach the celebration of our country's independence from slavery to England, we are reminded of our own Spiritual liberty won for us at a great cost, the blood of Jesus Christ. These men at Avon Park Correctional are celebrating that liberty as they graduate for our current Overcomers and Marriage and Family Classes. We graduated 60 men on June 22 after 6 months of study and discipleship.

Because we were not born in a 'slave' culture, we fail to seriously appreciate the fact that we were in bondage to sin, enslaved in its grasp and serving it daily. Paul said, *"Know you not that to whom you yield yourselves servants (slaves) to obey (its master), his servants you are to whom you obey; whether it sin unto death, or to obedience unto righteousness. Ro 6:18*

In Overcomers, these men who are no longer 'free', but incarcerated, have come to the full realization that they have obeyed and served sin unto death and their lives and souls are at stake. They needed a new master because *'for when you were servants of sin, you were free from righteousness.'* Rom 6:20 Now many of these above and below are Free Indeed on the inside.

We who have liberty in Christ are free on the inside! We forgive and we are forgiven. We rejoice in His mercy because *'now being made free from sin we become servants to God, We have our fruits unto holiness and the end everlasting life.'* Ro 6:22

The irony or the mystery of all is that we were freed to become slaves! *Slaves of righteousness, slaves of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 2:16. Submit as people who are free, but not letting your freedom serve as an excuse for evil, rather submit as God's slaves (Gal 5:1 & 5)* We are also a prepared and privileged heir.

In America, we were freed from England, to serve the United States of America. In the Spirit, we are freed to serve the Lord. What great responsibility. Our freedom in the Lord is not to be taken lightly. Galatians 5:1 says, *"What Messiah has freed us for is freedom! Therefore, stand firm, and don't let yourselves be tied up again to a yoke of bondage."*

The Cross is our Statue of Liberty



Letter from Class: What I have learned— I have an open mind and will admit, if begrudgingly, when I am wrong. I was abused by one of my uncles from an early young age up until he died in a car accident when I was 15 years old. I have carried and still do on occasion some of my military mentality about rules and strictness. And above all my family comes first to me.

Now, I have realized through the weeks and this course that while I have meant well, it seems that I had double standards concerning boundaries. Before my wife died, I relied on her stability for me to develop and enforce our household rules. Since I am or try to be fair to everyone, it doesn't always happen because I want things done my way and now I realize how wrong I was in enforcing my rules on my family.

I have now begun to listen more to my children and my new girlfriend. I ask more than I tell, and I do give ground on the issues of boundaries. Hard as it has been, my son has begun to talk to me and socialize more due to the fact that I have tried from week one to utilize this class and learning material in my family and every-day meaning of life..

While I still want to relapse back to my old ways of thinking, I find it easier to think and then act. So my detaching, even for a few hours, has increased my self worth and esteem. This I know will not be an overnight success and I guess that anything worthwhile, is a work in progress.

Since my drug and alcohol addictions have been put past me for almost 18 years, I see where I can still make progress through always rereading this material if I see or feel and need reminding of past regressions.

I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF and what I have been doing wrong. I have been the aggressor, the codependent, mother, father, advisor, baker, cook, cleaner, taxi, teacher and I have been lost. Now I feel as if I have found my train and can find my way home.

This has been hard for me to look back and reflect on all my failings as a parent and an adult. I always had trouble with figuring out if my children were to be punished or disciplined. Now I give them the speech of why parents must do this and for what they did wrong to get their discipline, not punishment. This class has taught me so much more about myself that I once again feel comfortable enough to start reading the bible again. Thank you for that if for nothing else. I have learned to open my heart, my mind, and my Soul to God and the overall development of my Spiritual self, for I was lacking the forgiveness for the loss of my wonderful wife. It has taken this for me to actually open my eyes and heart back to God and to my children.

With all my heart and honesty I thank you, Little Lamb and GOD for helping me see what I thought I was doing right, was all wrong and the corrections have made my last 9 weeks seem bearable again. Thank you for I am sure you do not get the just due and credit deserved. And you do deserve it for doing this.

The man above seemed like a hard case of self righteousness and week after week he questioned, he thought, he listened. It was a pleasant shock to see the total affect of the classes on his heart and those of his children. He was very estranged from his oldest son, the cause of his arrest, and from God. Now that has been restored. PTL



Dear Friends,

We have just come off of a grand round of graduations. At Avon Park Correctional we had two large classes to end their session with tests and graduations. The men are so excited having worked hard for these honors. Changes in their lives are evident and we hear stories of it affecting their families also. We also had a graduation for the folks taking the Anger Management Class with us at the First Presbyterian Church. Almost half of that class, generally running 31 or more people, is made up of people from our community seeking answers to

their problems. Our next class will begin on July 13. Another thank you to Pastor Darrell Peer and the church for letting us use their well equipped facility!

Summer has hit us really hard. We have had a grueling week painting the deck with 94 degree temperatures. But it is all done. Although we thought we could open the home and were rushing to accommodate a young lady, we soon realized she was not ready to commit and we were not ready for her. We have been actively seeking a house-mother for the home. Because of the need for 24 hour structure, we are seeking a woman familiar with the program to help us in this position. We hope to get a graduate from one of the Christian programs. We have solidified the curriculum and gotten our workbooks and other needs. We are going to use the logo of the house above for the tee shirt uniform.

We fully sympathize with everyone on the economic front. We have decided to stay with black and white print in our newsletter as a cost saver and continue to look for ways to pare down. Income is falling and expenses are rising for everyone. When I look around the world, I still believe that being born in America is one of the greatest benefits, even in these troubling times. God bless America and have mercy on her.

Much love, John and Eileen

JULY 2011 SCHEDULE

**11th, 18th, 25th 7:30 – 9PM
Little Lambs, Inc. Sebring, Fl.
Overcomers in Christ Recovery – John**

**11th, 18th, 25th 7:30–9 PM
543 Magnolia Ave
Women's Overcomers**

**Overcomers and Marriage Class
At Avon Park Prison on Break
JULY 13, 2011**

**NEW CLASS STARTING
Anger Management/Boundaries 7-
9pm
First Presbyterian Church Sebring, Fl.
CALL 382-3325 TO REGISTER**

July 14 Lake Placid Rotary