



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 **AUGUST 2013**

“Thank you for giving to the Lord.”

Meet Chris Cleveland. Chris was a drug addict at 16 in New Mexico. Arrested often, he avoided real trouble until 2002. Facing 69 felony charges and an 8 year old son, he entered prison. He had shaken his fist at God, but later found his way to a faith based dorm. “The first time I heard the worship, it was 80 hardcore prisoners. It sounded like angels. My heart just broke at that point.” He accepted the Lord and signed up for Little Lambs School of the Bible. He enrolled in 2004 and graduated in 2006. He was then transferred to a high risk prison which was on 23-hour lockdown. When someone slid an Angel Tree pamphlet under his door, Chris thought it might be a way to reconnect with his son. His son received the gift, a basketball and reconnected in a very big way. Through the Angel Tree program, he was mentored by Prison Fellowship and released in 2006. His ex-wife gave him custody of his son and they have been a real team for the Lord and for the Angel Tree Program. He has his own business and is deeply invested in his local church.



Chris’s story was told by CNN and shared with 1200 radio stations and the front page of the Prison Fellowship Newsletter in 2010. Chris sent me this newsletter with this picture on the cover with a short note and offer of help if we need anything. **He will have 10 years since his graduation by 2014! Yet, he seemed grateful for having been a student of Little Lambs. Another success story. Commenting among ourselves, we wondered how many others we will see that day when we stand before Jesus! Like the song says, “Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that been saved. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave.”**

Many people struggle with letting go and repenting!

I saw another miracle this week. But let me tell you another experience of years ago. We found a young ex-marine in the parking lot just out of jail for domestic violence: brutal rage and choking the victim. We invited him upstairs for our Marriage, Parenting and Family class which happened to be the class on Boundaries with your Spouse and Domestic Violence. This young man sat in quietly—and cried throughout the class! After class, he cried and repented. For the first time he saw himself as he truly was, as God saw him and his behavior and his real sinfulness and selfishness. He saw it in ways he had never seen before, even while he was in jail. He has an awesome experience with the Lord. He went through all the classes and stayed in touch. He redeemed himself with his child, but his marriage did not survive. He went back to school and became a God-fearing successful man and father.

This week another man came – to be broken by the Lord. Just out of jail again and sitting through the class on Spouses and Domestic Violence, after class he tearfully recognized ways he offended that he had never realized before. He saw himself in a new light, God’s light and recognized his need for God, repentance and new life. He said, “I need to change me!” I said, “No. You need to let God heal you and His love change you.” Because of a bad family situation in his youth, he had become an “adult” (responsible for himself, super-responsible) at a very early age. He became successful, but inside was lots of anger and pain at the loss of a normal childhood and normal loving parents. For this he needed healing. But he is on his way to healing with the Lord. Before he can address all these other issues, he must let go of the past, give it to the Lord to heal, and become a free man in the Spirit. Only then can he truly love his family as Christ loves him. I saw it again in the Hispanic man in my class at the prison. He volunteered he did not like anyone near him...since he was sent to a school counselor at a young age. He had become angry at the school system thinking they were out to get him. But in talking we discovered his real anger and hurt. His family system was bad with parental drinking and violence. But he had the ‘don’t talk rule’. It says, “Don’t tell anyone what is going on at home. That could be dangerous for the family.” “Don’t talk to the authorities or outsiders, because of something bad happens, it will be your fault.” He felt so challenged by the counselor to give up the truth that he guarded himself by not letting anyone get close to him the rest of his life. He became a ‘loner’ in the true sense of the word. But he refused to give up the family secrets. Now he understands and realizes the need to be healed of his woundedness by the Lord. The Lord says, “Get wisdom, but in all your getting get understanding.” We can say, now he understands and can see his need. We see these small miracles in the lives of people God sends our way—and we are blessed. And so are you! Thank you, I am so glad you gave. Eileen Sala



Graduation Day at Avon Park Prison

Phil Esposito graduated a class of eight men at Avon Park Prison on June 25, 2013

Dear Ms. Sala, Hello. Hope your day is going well. I want to extend my condolences and prayers to you in the passing of your husband John. I also want to thank you for the Graduation Bible. I received it on March 28th. I do hope that with John's passing that the wonderful work you all did through Little Lambs study course will continue. I feel it is a wonderful program for those of us who are incarcerated. It gets us into God's word and gives us hope for a future while examining ourselves and learning God's way for us. I want to say thank you for the enlightenment and encouraging words. God bless you. Sincerely, Ansel, Tx.



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I feel very happy with my God upon having been able to study these exams. I hope you understand that it is an honor to know that there are persons that God uses to rescue persons like me, lost and although in a place like this, God loved us and wants me to serve like you. I appreciate your patience and effort. I am greatly thankful for you for taking me out of darkness. Of course it was God, for if you did not have this ministry which God gave you, I would not have studied. I have no words, but what I am saying from the heart. Continue to pray for me that God may guide my steps now that I am learning to walk in the Lord. He has changed my life, has taught me what is good and what is evil before His eyes. May His love be always with us. Santos, Tx

It has been an honor to do this study with Little Lambs, Inc. and I do not want it to end! This was my first time doing bible study and I learned much and I give thanks to God that He used you to instruct and feed me with spiritual milk. Only Jesus saves. However, only Little Lambs helps us understand this beautiful mystery: the love of God manifested through Little Lambs and your servants. With much love and patience you have taught me what is to be a true follower of Jesus. A humble servant, Nasario, Tx.

Dear Little Lambs,

I am a prisoner in SC, that Jesus has given a second chance at life, amen. I am writing to ask you to consider me for your bible study. I come from a broken home, was sexually abused at nine years old by my own brother. My mother verbally and physically abused me for many years, until at sixteen I ran from home and began my attempt to run from God. At the age of forty-four my life of drugs, motorcycles, alcohol and two failed marriages came to an end by my killing my adulterous wife in a blind rage.

God's hand is far-reaching and in a jail cell after reading about how Jesus died for my sins I gave Him my whole heart. That was over eight years ago, and I have not looked back. I've been called to be a lay preacher for Jesus and the gospel, Hallelujah!

If possible a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for my answer sheets would be nice. I am indigent and only get two envelopes per month. I use them to write to the lost, sick and terminally ill, widows, church youth groups and pastors and their families to encourage them to be good shepherds to their flock, recovering addicts and alcoholics, etc...Anyone the Holy Spirit leads me to write and encourage for whatever reason. I tell the youth, of the path I chose and how it led to prison for me and the loss of life for someone I still love to this very day. I tell them how sin will take you farther than you want to go, amen.

SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2013
 Mondays.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
 Little Lambs Inc @ 7:30 pm
 Tuesdays.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
 Avon Park Prison
 Tuesdays.....Marriage Family & Parenting
 Avon Park Prison
 Wednesdays.....Overcomers Addiction Recovery
 Bible Fellowship Church @ 6 pm
 Wednesdays..... Anger Management/
 Biblical Boundaries
 First Presbyterian Church, 6:45 pm
 Pastoral counseling by appointment : 471-2626

I do need a good Bible to use in ministry and am willing to earn it through diligent study. I never tire of studying the God-breathed scripture to man. I have been forgiven much so I love much, amen. It is God's word that has changed me into the man of God that I am today, a workman who need not be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth. I would sure like a good study bible to use to reach the lost men inside this prison. It is a huge harvest field. Ever watchful, Bobby, SC