

Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry
www.littlelambsinc.org

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DECEMBER 2014

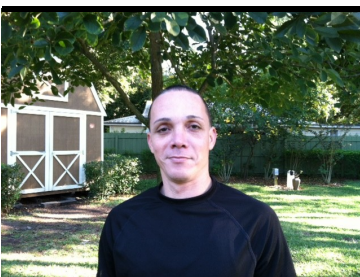
Testimony From Overcomers Group As I approach the Christmas season, I am reminded once again of God's great love for me through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ. A year ago, I was confronted with my addiction to alcohol, my extreme codependency, and the fact that I was living in bondage to these sins. In his great mercy God convicted me and brought me to repentance. There was, however, no magic wand to erase the consequences of my sin or to free me from the long road I had to walk to achieve recovery. I suffered through withdrawal, grappled with a daily battle not to succumb to the temptation to drink, endured the collapse of a 22 year marriage, and moved from the only home my children had ever known.

There is no magic formula for recovery. But God did bring me to Little Lambs and through them to the Overcomers Addiction Recovery Program. And what I found there was a group of wonderful men and women who were struggling just like me. They accepted me just as I was, loved me, prayed for me, encouraged me, and simply walked alongside me on this very difficult road. I made the commitment to take the 23 week Overcomers class. Commitment is the key word. I attended class weekly, watched all the videos, did homework daily, memorized scripture, and honestly answered probing questions about myself. Change was the other key word. I had to be willing to make hard changes in my life or I would wind up right back where I started. It's a concept known as "working your program."

I was especially struck by their reminder that in any successful recovery there are two key ingredients – you need God on one side holding you up and you need a friend and mentor on the other side holding you up as well. You have to have both. And in Overcomers, that's what I found. So for Christmas this year, God has given me my life back – the one he wants me to have. It's the best Christmas present I ever got.

This testimony was written some years ago and I came across it today. I was moved to include this letter as Dean Keppen and myself went to Avon Park Prison yesterday, Nov. 25, to start a new Overcomers Addiction Recovery class there. Dean's own testimony, now 10 years sober, was very moving. He has a lot to give these men through his own experiences as well as a tremendous foundation in the gospel. But the sentiments in this letter are echoed also by the Wednesday night Overcomers being held at Bible Fellowship Church. Having developed a close community among themselves they are able to surround a newcomer and give them the support and hope that they need.

Little Lambs will be having three classes every week at Avon Park Prison. Phil Esposito will be teaching the "Spirit, Soul and Body" Bible Study and Dean will work with the Overcomers. I will be starting a new Marriage, Family and Parenting/Anger Management Class on Dec. 2. Please continue to pray for all these inmates at the sound of our voices, that they have the courage to live for Christ in or out of prison.



I thank God and Hogar Resa BY JONATHAN SAAVEDRA

My name is Jonathan. I'm 36 years old. I'm Puerto Rican where I lived for 21 years of my life abusing drugs and alcohol. I can describe my life as one of much suffering and loss because I began using drugs at the age of 12 even though I had caring parents, very responsible and loving me every day, even when I was using drugs. I went to jail for sale of drugs but that did not make me change, it made me worse. I lost all respect from my family; I stole from my parents and my younger brother. I started going to different Rehabs and psychologists but nothing helped me. I returned to jail for the same thing again. But this time when I got out I met a young woman whom I fell in love with. I had a son with her. Everything was going well but once again I started using drugs. I started losing my family for different reasons. I only had custody of my son, but that did change me.

That's when I made the decision to leave Puerto Rico and start treatment at Hogar Resa in Avon Park, Fl, where I met Jesus Christ and I allowed Him to take control of my life. And now I understand that with God is the best way to restore your life back. I have been in treatment four months already. I'm clean and happy. I have won back my family's trust once again. Now I can be the father my 12 year old son needs in his life very much. I am going to give him all the care and love he deserves. Thank God and Hogar Resa for being the key to my recuperation (restoration). God bless you all.

Jonathan lives full time at Grace Place and has been helping keep the gardens up. When the cassia trees bloomed so beautifully this year, he said he told his parents that he found his own little bit of heaven. He is also one of the cooks for the delicious pies and cheese cakes that they sell for income. Please continue to pray for these young men, especially for those leaving the program and returning home.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

To the Salas.....First of all I'm very sorry I'm just now writing you to let you know that I received my Graduation Study Bible a few weeks after I received this card. I somehow misplaced where I put this information. So I'm letting you know now, I did receive my Bible. My wife has put it up until the Lord releases me from prison. I thank the Lord for you and Little Lambs Bible Study and how you all was a great blessing to me. I have learned so much about the Lord, studying the Bible with your lessons.
New Castle In.

To: Little Lambs, Inc...My name is Sabino D. and I want to thank God for the Sala Ministry, Y'all have been a big help on my spiritual walk with the Lord, helping me understand the word of God, Y'all been a blessing. I also I am happy, for I have received the beautiful Bible that y'all send me, a gift from God. One thing I have understand, is that I am nothing with out my Saviour Jesus Christ, He is the vine (source) of my life, He is the author and finisher of our faith, He is my everything (joy, peace, hope, love, way, life...). I thank y'all for praying for me, I love y'all and God bless Little Lambs, Inc.....from: A found lamb -Sabino Thank you!!! Covington La.

Dear The Salas.... I am writing this letter to your wonderful family to say to you, thank you. My thanks to your family are unlimited since I will continue to appreciate your contribution to my growth in my knowledge of God through His words a long as I live. In other words, I will continue to look at the Bible, "The Open Bible", which you have given to me with certificates upon my completion of your organized Bible Studies, and I will continue to thank God for His blessings upon your life. What I have understood of your doing is that you have been living your life to glorify God.

Based on my knowledge, I know that what you have been doing so far is not by your physical strength or ability or will alone. In fact, there is anointing of God on you. Let me say that I really appreciate your time, money, and energy that you have been using to reach me so that I can know and benefit from the love of God. Moreover, you still gave gifts and certificates. All these are invaluable to me and my God. Therefore the invaluable blessings from the Lord God who created me and sent you to me will search you again and again and continue to shower upon you for ever. Your Brother in Christ, David. Brooklyn NY

Dear Salas, It was a great joy to have done Little Lambs Bible Study. I have received The Open Bible NKJV, from you and I can tell you it had brought tears to my eyes. I do thank you very much. It could not have come at a better, because I have just had my 70th birthday. Again I thank you from the depth of my heart. And, yes, it is wonderful to be close to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And I also thank you for being here for me. This bible means the word to me. Your Friend and Brother, Donald, Mt. Pleasant, Ia.

Dear John & Eileen, I know you have truly blessed me. In more ways than I can count. I just want you to know that you are very well loved and appreciated and how much I am enjoying your bible studies. You are also very well needed. We need more people like the two of you. Your studies have helped me to decide that its time to move up in God. I have always been comfortable where I was, but not any more. I am applying to Nations University in New Orleans, La. I will be going for my masters degree in Religious Studies. I know my Father in heaven will get my tuition paid. So see you have truly blessed me more than you could ever know. Thank you for what you do. I can't thank you enough for what you have done in my life. Things are really looking up for me. I owe it all to your obedience in God. Praise God, thank you Jesus. I will keep in touch. Your Brother in Christ, Samuel, Tx.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE 2014

Mon...Spirit, Soul & Body Study
Avon Park Prison
Tues...Marriage, Family & Parenting
Avon Park Prison
Tues... Overcomers Addiction Recovery
Avon Park Prison
Wednesdays... Overcomers 6 pm
Bible Fellowship Church
Thursdays... Anger Management &
Biblical Boundaries 7 pm
710 S Eucalyptus St. Sebring

**Counseling: Call for Appointment
863-273-7388**

Dear Partners, The Christmas season has started off with a bang for us! We are enjoying a work load of 40 new students a week as Jan sends out all those lessons. Our 3 classes in the prison are very well attended and our new class has a sign up of over 30 inmates that we will shepherd for about 6 months.

We are excited as Tanglewood Community Church does the annual Christmas magic supplying each anger management class member children with gifts and a DVD with the children's gospel on it. They have supplied one DVD player as well. As we put out bibles for class attendees, they are picked up and we are glad to be able to show them what the Word of God actually says! I am glad to report that my voice is getting stronger every day. I think the rest was good for it and all the prayers. Thank you for that. I had also begun taking communion every day as an assurance of my healing about 3 weeks ago. So my God is soooo good to me. I am excited to be back full strength. God bless you all this Holiday Season and may you experience an abundance of His love. Eileen