



Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626 August 2016

STATE OF OUR MISSION FIELD

Saturday, Willie Hubbell, Phil Esposito and myself attended the Volunteering Training Day at Avon Park Correctional Institution. It was a chance to meet our 4th and hopefully last Chaplain in the last year! Chaplain Paul Joria is a younger man and we hope he stays a long time.

Just how big is our mission field? On December 31, 2014, there were 100,873 inmates in 128 Florida facilities alone. 32,441 of those came in that year while 32,921 were released. The great news is that the recidivism rate has dropped to 26.3% from 30% in 2012. However, 45% of inmates admitted in 2012 had already been to prison and 1 in four will return within 3 years. Inmates live in dorms that are not air conditioned and some work in the community. Inmates provided 5.4 million hours of work in communities saving \$76 million in 2014. It costs Florida \$18,064 a year to house an inmate while the national average is \$23,000. 65% of all inmates have a substance problem, while 80% of those will leave prison without any treatment. 17% of male inmates receive mental health services, while 47% of females receive treatment.



CHAPLAINCY AND VOLUNTEERS

In 2013 there were 53,000 volunteers in the state of Florida providing 313,968 volunteer hours a year to inmate services. Each month approximately 42% of inmates participate in at least one chaplaincy program. Inmates participating in chaplaincy programs receive significantly fewer disciplinary reports than the state average. During 3 months, 88% of those **not attending chaplaincy services** receive disciplinary reports. If 1-3 programs are attended, only 66% receive disciplinary reports. Increase that to 4-9 services attended it, drops down to 48% getting disciplinary reports. Now for the man who attends 10 or more services in 3 months, only 29% will receive a disciplinary report. **This is the effect of God on a man's soul and spirit!**

GRADUATION AT AVON PARK CORRECTIONAL!!

Tuesday night, July 26, we graduated more great classes at Avon Park Correctional Institution. The Overcomers class graduated twelve men after 6 months of recovery classes. The Marriage, Family and Parenting as well as Anger Management Class graduated 25 men also. We had to disappoint the men as we were not allowed a graduation picture with them. It was an exciting night with refreshments provided by the prison kitchen. We thank the Chaplain for that. The ceremony was filled with testimony and edification. One man, a lifer, testified it was his third time through the class and yet he needed it as he is facing devastating problems in his family. He told us that his wife has relapsed again and his 13 year old son is now being forced into foster care and it was breaking his heart. He feels responsible, as he should, as his offense is costing his family untold pain and heartache. His son is innocent yet he is suffering so much. We took time to pray for him and his family and other requests as well.

Through these two chaplaincy programs we are affecting inmates not only with substance abuse problems but severely dysfunctional families providing a place for a man to learn how to be a man, a parent, a husband, a father, a friend. Not only do we affect his physical and social life, but we have an opportunity to profoundly affect his spiritual life as well. Not only do many now profess Christ, but many have renewed their commitment to actually follow Christ. We hope that you will continue to lift up all our students in your prayers, in and out of prison, for a profound spiritual change in their hearts and minds. You will be reading some of their essays on the following pages as part of their last week exercises.

Graduation
Marriage & Family
Avon Park Prison
July 26, 2016
ESSAYS

Our lone Egyptian, AE, writes.....Before I experienced this class with you, Ms. Sala, I thought I knew about many of the subjects we covered in class because of my life experiences. During my 40 years I have experienced extreme loneliness, especially as a youngster, between 5 to 15 years old. I was the only child of a single mother. Also my mom and I moved around a lot between 5 to 7 years old. Then things got really bad for me with extreme loneliness, isolation and awkwardness

around 7 to 9 when I went into foster care. By the time my mom regained custody, abandonment, loneliness, isolation were huge issues for me. I prayed and prayed to God all the time to bless me with a woman I would latch on to. A woman I could call my own. A woman I could start a big family with. In hindsight I feel that I have co-dependency issues. I was not only extremely lonely but my father physically abused my mother. I really did not feel good about myself, not confident, self deprecating and insecure. I chose to seek approval from a woman, I over-extended myself in relationships. I **learned about my codependency**. My stepfather did drink a lot. Our family had obedience to false rules, and spiritual striving using the bible to de-self people.

And addiction: In 2011, I went through the Behavioral Health of Palm Beach treatment center for 30 days and 90 days in after care follow up. But you really reinforced the notion that to recover from drug and alcohol abuse successfully one must develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship must be nurtured, embraced and cherished amongst all else. The cost to my insurance company for BHPB treatment was over \$20,000. However I can honestly say, I learned so much more valuable, life-changing information in your Family Class. I learned about the brain and drug abuse. The film showed the drug abusers brain had various places where holes and cored out spots occurred. He also had noticeable speech problems, slurred speech, slow response time. But you told us that damage to the brain can be repaired somewhat over time by the human body. I plan to marry a woman who is waiting for me and would be honored to get guidance in the future!

Reginald.... In the beginning I was unaware of what this program offered. I heard through other participants that this program was very good. But throughout these classes I've learned that this is not a program or a class, it's about becoming a better Man, Husband, and Father. Words cannot explain how our teacher Ms. Eileen has really made all of us aware of the way we were living, the way we hurt our love ones and the way we hurt ourselves. Before I go on I want to thank you Ms. Eileen for your belief in us and for continuing to be an Ambassador for Christ. People don't understand how dedicated you are, all of the preparation that goes into this class. Once again I say to you, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

What I've learned about myself is that first I must be honest and admit that I did not be the man that I was supposed to be and I see that I was a controller. I didn't have any boundaries and I was a manipulator. All I cared about was me, mine and I. The love tank was empty and all I cared about was getting with Scotty and the gang, 211, and the malt liquor "bull". As the saying goes misery loves company and the company that I kept was just as miserable as me. I remember that the most important person in the relationships is the man, but if he doesn't have God first in his life than the life he's living is empty. I've learned that God must be first in all of our lives in order for us to live a successful life. As the saying goes, it is possible to gain everything and still not have Christ, but it is impossible to have Christ and not have everything. Respect is one of the key ingredients in the relationship followed by communication and of course putting God first in our lives. I cannot begin to tell you how blinded I was to the way I was treating people and the way I was living. I'm Very glad that I took this highway to become a better man and to realize that once you are real with yourself, you'll see your old self in a lot of these topics that we talked about. Taking this class was not about getting a certificate, no, taking this class was about becoming a better man and looking back at all that I've been through, now looking at all God has brought me through, and allowed me to become the man he intended for me to be so that I may live out my purpose on this earth that he has planned for me to do. Once again I would like to thank God for Ms. Eileen and giving her the Wisdom, Knowledge, and Courage to continue to push us to open our eye's and become the man God has intended for us to become. If anyone would ask me about this class, I would tell them it will make you become the man God has intended for you to be but you must be true to yourself. In all the courses that are discussed you'll see yourself in them, the only answer to those questions are YOU....

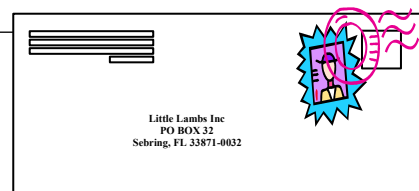
Essay Darien..... So, what I have learned is to set boundaries with whomever, to keep them in place cause this is what's going to keep balance in my life maintaining my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and understanding and maintaining a healthy family relationship with my kids, mother and friends. Learning how to control my anger and aggression towards my relationship with women and making better decisions before I respond or act on the situation. Understanding my anger by practicing control while I'm in the situation now because it does produce a lot of emotions. Even trust issues and that was one of my biggest faults. After my first marriage I couldn't trust anyone and once a woman showed those signs of distrust that's when things would go wrong inside my head. It would start to show in my actions, mostly a lot of withdrawal. Not talking, making myself less available and not showing true emotions. A lot of times that was adding fuel to a starting blaze. I realize I was more non-confrontational than I understood. Because those relationships all lacked confrontation. This is how I believed two people should be, the 'normal'. I have also learned that I should pay more attention and understand the person who I'm meeting, making sure that we both have our priorities right and values. What I like most was codependent relationships and how they can bring on anger and depression out of two people. Again my relationship with my last girlfriend was very codependent and now I understand it more. I didn't make things any better, matter of fact I made things worse by not setting any boundaries between us. The relationship just ran rampant and out of control. The detachment came once I went to prison, which turned out good for the both of us. This would have caused a lot of stress for both of us. She was feeling that I was controlling and me feeling she was too needy. All and all I really appreciate this class and I'm going to keep working on me and when there is a program that I feel can help me, I will definitely take it because I wanna make a 100% success rate for staying out of prison!

I have a friend that I talk to about Jesus. He had a regular Bible that good but he didn't read the bible. His birthday was the same day the NKJV came. I ask him if I give him the NKJV Bible he will read and study more. I said Little Lambs bless you. I think I did the right thing to help people come closer to Jesus, the same thing Little Lambs done for me! God has truly blessed Little Lambs. You passed love down on me and I passed love down on Mark. Love James (graduate)

Follow up? *Its hard to follow our people, rather we trust God. These students wrote to update us and it's a blessing! Ps, one's studying his Hebrew roots now!*

John & Eileen, Shalom Aleichem, May the grace of God be with you at this time in your life and forever. I am one of your Little Lambs who have grown up into a powerful man of God. Thanks to the grace of God in your life and ministry. It has been a long and hard journey for me these last 17 years of being locked up. I graduated from your program around 2004/2005. I am on my way out of the system now so pray for my re-entry and Elohim's guidance on the outside. I know that He is faithful who promised and through His son Yeshua all the promises are yes. I am 33 now and in good health. I can't wait to spread the word of Elohim in our lost and hurting society and world. This is the last hour and the beast system and spirit of the anti-Christ is taking over the world to prepare for the leader of the wicked system. But Yeshua will come and destroy him and his kingdom with the breath of His mouth. And set up His Kingdom and throne from the temple in Jerusalem. We will rule with Him in clean white linen. And be at peace and free from sin. HalleluYah! HalleluYah! HalleluYah! Holy, Holy, Holy! Forever and ever. Stay strong and be encouraged and if not here I will see y'all in the Kingdom. I was writing to let you know that I am still growing strong in the faith and ready to go into society. So let us pray and rejoice together in the Spirit before the Lord. Shalom! Marcus aka 'a Little Lamb Forever', Va.

Mail Bag



Follow up?

Dear John & Eileen, I am writing this letter in regards to the five certificates I earned during the course of Bible Study I had with you.

It is with sad regret, that I no longer have *my most precious certificates*, due to the utter stupidity that I experienced with my ex-cellie. He took it upon himself to steal and destroy them because I refused to convert to Jehovah Witness. I tried every way possible, in explaining to him that I am a confirmed evangelist but he refused to except that and in the course of the event, while I was involved in a much needed Kairos, my ex-cellie took it upon himself to do the destruction. I did manage to save the diploma but didn't notice until later that my certificates were missing. I received my diploma January 10, 2006. So I should have received my certificates during the years of 2004-2006. I am requesting that it is at all possible, could you please replace my certificates? I will be eternally grateful. Yours in Christ, Earl, Wi. *Earl's Chaplain called and verified his story and we sent him all new certificates.*

Dear Partners,



It has been a whirlwind summer thus far. I have returned from a lovely 'family vacation' with my oldest daughter, Julie and her daughter, Sophie. We got in two very hot days at Disney then drove to Durham, North Carolina, to see one of the new grandsons, Emmett with his mom and dad.. We had a great time getting to know the little one refreshing ourselves in one another. Coming home, we were able to make a day with Sophie at The Holy Land Experience! It was great. I have not been to so many 'theme parks' in years!

Back home now, after writing to you, I will be boarding another plane on Monday, the first, for Kansas City. I will be babysitting my little granddaughter Hanna for a week. I have made up a "Nanny" package of books and games to take with me now for my visits to all the grandchildren. Even found a

book titled "How to babysit Grandma!"

We are excited this week as Willie and I graduated our classes after 7 months of meetings. It was a big encouragement to hear them and know that we have changed not only lives, but families. My biggest push is to help them develop a regular daily time with the Lord. It is so easy to say, well, I'm in prison. I don't have the time, or the privacy. But as Merlin Carothers shows us in his book "What do you have on your mind?", at any cost, keep meeting with God. He talked about climbing a hill behind his house every day at 4 am to pray and meet God for a personal revival. It took two months of perseverance before the power of God came down on him and restored his vigor and revived his ministry. We took the example too of Israel having lost the book of the law (bible), only to be found by the reformer Josiah in 2 Chron.34., when they were cleaning the temple during a revival. Where are your bibles? we asked. Do they use and read them everyday or have they lost them in their property or under the bed like Judah? Are they running to God only when they are in trouble? Or do they truly have a relationship with God. Hopefully we fostered a new spiritual awareness in them and the fruit of that relationship will be evidenced in them.

We all want to welcome a new volunteer living in the SIM Village. Dr. Ed Danielson has volunteered to help us grade our Spanish lessons. Here he is with Evangeline Johnson getting a little orientation. Dr. Ed served with Central American Mission in Honduras for 13 years church planting and running schools. Then 15 years with MAF in the Philippines working with missionary children. From there 14 years at Christian Heritage College. He is an author and very fluent in Spanish as well. He was recruited by our Moni



Schedule August 2016

Mon...Avon Park Prison Bible Study
Mon...Overcomers with Hogar Resa
Tue...Overcomers Avon Park Prison
Tue...Marriage & Family/Biblical
Boundaries Avon Park Prison
Wed...Anger Management/Biblical
Boundaries First Presbyterian
Church @ 7 pm NEW CLASS
Wed... Overcomers Bible Fellowship
Church @ 6 pm
Thurs..Released to Love, Women Co-
dependent recovery @ 6:30 pm
@ Little Lambs Inc
Counseling by Appointment
863-273-7388

and very fluent in Spanish as well. He was recruited by our Moni Motis. This is a great boon to us! I might add that Moni herself is our ambassador to a lot of our graders. This bring our total Spanish team to 4! WELCOME DR. ED!

God is very good to us and we are so excited to be serving Him with you all. Please pray for our Lambs! Please pray for our country and for the peace of Jerusalem and for persecuted Christians.



Your servant, Eileen Sala