



John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry



<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

Little Lambs Inc.

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Surviving, even thriving, through hurricane IRMA

As we all know, hurricane Irma took that fatal turn into Florida just to give us a visit. And visit she did with 100+ mph winds and much devastation!

But as all of the people I have encountered, we are all thankful and praising God that all are safe and only material things suffered! The eye of Irma passed over Sebring and gave all our trees a much needed clipping, uprooting some. There are massive amounts of tree debris and roof damage, similar to our "Blue Tarp City" after hurricane Charley in 2004. Everyone lost power for days and there was some flooding.

In our personal experience, after 2 days of intense yard clearing of big branches and debris, I kept checking the ministry office. I continue to marvel at God's provision for Little Lambs. In 2003, God selected this 91 year old house for us. It is made of hardwood pine and solid as a rock. The marvel though, is that it is on the grid with the jail and sheriffs office and comes online after a storm very quickly! We had power at the Ministry on Tuesday night! On Wednesday Jan and I and her sister moved to the Ministry and began processing the mail and doing studies. Mary Tinberg joined us a day later. The mail was delivered on Wednesday and we had unusually heavy volume all week, tons of lessons. We graded 10-12 hours a day and printed and generally did the work of the Ministry. Jan processed over 56 new students from the 12 to the 16th after Irma landed on the 10th. Our friends and graders at SIM continued to come in for lessons although none of us had power in our homes. They said it kept them focused! Graders started coming in by Tuesday and Wednesday of this past week so we are back up and running. Although we need a new roof at Little Lambs, we are dried in and proceeding with Ministry.

The Avon Park Prison was closed the week of the storm. We returned to prison on Monday and Thursday and we were met with quiet a site! The gate or entrance borders a lake and in the storm the lake flooded and completely covered the road and much of the area near the prison. The lakes remains very high as all our lakes are and there is lots of water still standing. The road like a scene from World War II. However the men were in good spirits and eager to return to class. PTL!

Personally, my own home, prepared for us in 1998 is again, 92 years old! Although I wondered what such old buildings and upkeep would cost, I am now totally grateful. My son calls it my 'castle' as the walls are almost a foot thick, built to last with concrete block and plaster and lathe! I hardly hear the storm passing! Even my 20+ year old roof lost only a few shingles. God sees our future as well as our present need. I did not consider hurricanes when I purchased the house, but God did!

We want to thank everyone who prayed for us, our partners, and friends who helped us through this time. The spirit of kindness and generosity in the community was unbelievable. The greatest testament for me was the picture of the long line of women in the dusk lined up to receive a basket of lineman's dirty laundry to take home and clean. They had their power restored and wanted to give back. How can a lineman work 16 hour days and then do his laundry!!!! They expressed our thanks for all the efforts these valiant men did to get us back on power. To the men for New York, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana and all the other states, our humble thanks and God bless you so very much.

Dear Mrs. & Mr. Sala, My name is Christina. I'm an inmate in Mississippi. Today I had the pleasure of reading "I'm Not Coming Back." thank you for sharing your story, an all too familiar one which I can relate to. I'm 40 years old and was baptized for the first time ever on August 29, 2017. It was a huge step for me because it became the difference between a goal and a commitment for me. I'm writing for a specific reason. I'm not sure what to do. I've prayed, always the first thing I do. I'm stuck! I'm hungry for the word and learning. I was actually on fire at one time. The only way I know how to explain it is I feel like my flame, my fire is gone and I'm just coals slowly burning, barely staying lit. I do not want to become ashes. I've felt a strange numbness come over me. It's strange, I suppose part of it is adapting to the surroundings. One other inmate even asked me the other day if I was ok because I wasn't my happy spunky usual self. Truth be known, I'm exhausted. I've spent the majority of the 9 months I've been incarcerated helping others find and trying to impact as many as possible during my time here. I've only got 8 more months which is hardly enough time but even the preacher needs fed sometimes.

I've stopped attending our church services here on the compound. Unfortunately the messages had become the same each time. "If you are not saved today you can change that." Mrs. Sala, don't get me wrong. I agree with what they're doing but I need more. The ones that are already saved need to be fed. I need some help before my coals burn out, so to speak. Any suggestions with my limited resources??

Thank you again for the encouragement from your story. I plan to return to Arkansas upon my release and become a woman with A BIG MOUTH. Something I've always possessed. Daddy said I even talked in my sleep! But upon my release my BIG mouth will be to help others and be an advocate helping my local community and let God lead me the rest of the way.

Thank you in advance for any literature you can send and advice. Christina

We have written Christina with helpful advice about moderation and study and how to keep her commitment throughout her life and started her in the bible study. Pray for her.

Inmate Mailbox

Greetings Salas, I was raised by my Grandma in a Christian home but would never listen to Granny when she spoke of Jesus. Granny would get so fretted at me and tell me I was ignorant (out of love of course, I know that now). She'd say, 'Son, those drugs, alcohol, 'friends' and women will get you in trouble.' I'd say 'Naw, Granny, you're the fool believing in a dead man and that book. My 'friends', women, drug alcohol etc will be with me till the end!'

The first couple of weeks of January, 2012, I'd got so far out there I'd cussed officers, threw urine & feces on them, etc. I was terrible. I was sitting in segregation on suicide watch on Jan. 10th, 2012... I look back now and chuckle, not because of any of it being funny because it wasn't. But I chuckle because everything Granny said was right and I've found that I was the Fool!

Why you ask? Because the drugs, alcohol, friends and women, due to jealousy has sent me to prison. And since Granny went to be with the Lord on Jan 8th, 2012, guess who has written me? NO One! So I was wrong all along.

Granny went to be with the Lord on January 8, 2012 and I didn't find out till Jan. 10th. That night it was too much for me to bear and I chose Granny's way. Even though I didn't commit suicide I still DIED that night. I knew that I wouldn't be able to go on in my strength alone and knew I has to have a source of strength, hope, peace, etc. stronger than myself and reflected back on Granny and how she made it through her tough times — Jesus is the only way! I threw in the white flag and surrendered my life to Christ. What's crazy to me now is if I'd have done it and read the bible I'd not be here. But there was a purpose according to Rom 8:28. I don't know if Granny knows one of her prayers were answered before she went to be with the Lord and that prayer was for me to be saved. I can't wait to see the look on her face when I walk through those Heavenly Gates :) I now know how Granny felt when I wouldn't listen, because it pains my heart to try to tell people about the truth and they won't listen!!! I'm doing my part according to Eze. 33, their blood won't be on my hands. Hope to hear from you soon. God bless you and keep me in your prayers. I'll do the same. Shalom & Agape, Ricky, Va. *Ricky also tells us how he tries to witness to Muslims.*

Dear Family at Little Lambs, Hello, and wanted to say my prayers and thoughts go to God during your leaving for these hurricanes coming your way. I give you all my heart felt prayer in recovery and hope in all blessings the storm just calms and dies down to a few drops of precious rain for harvest time. This is one of your new family members from Louisiana, Michael Glenn, and I wanted to say thank you in bringing me into the family and that we are all seeking Christ and are following his righteous path. I have completed every lesson with you. I enjoy my baby photo in Jesus Christ becoming a mature sheep-herder to souls for Christ Jesus and to continue growing in God's word during the lessons you provide me. Please take care during the storm, but always remember to stay and keep focused on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first and there will be blessings to come. Your student and brother in Christ, Michael, La.

Greetings be to you in the Lord

My name is Steve A. I currently find myself at a California prison. I'm doing a life sentence. I've been in prison for 12 years. I came across your address while in a different prison. I enrolled and did only 2 books of the first series. I do apologize for my lack of consideration to not write and advise you of my dropping out in an abrupt manner. I would like to say since then I've stayed consistently studying the bible. I've been fortunate to have been released from the Segregation Housing Unit. I was there over 10 years, but by the grace of God I was released to a main prison where I attend Christian services. I've continued steadily in my walk with God one step at a time. I've always kept this 3rd lesson because I said I wanted one day to finish what I started here and in another study. So today I'm writing to request humbly to restart and re-enroll in your bible school. Thank you for time and patience. Steve, Ca.



Segregation (Secure Housing Unit): inmates are separated because of crimes in prison, or gang connections. Inmates here spend nearly entire days inside 80 sq ft concrete cells. The few freedoms afforded to prisoners in the general population—such as handcuff-free time in an open yard under an open sky are mostly stripped away. Here, they eat in their cells, food slipped through a slot. They get no phone calls, except in emergencies. Visits with family and friends are strictly no-contact. Social interactions, even with other inmates, are limited to nonexistent. Steve was in a SHU in California, which has recently began a new program to better certify gang connections and a quicker release into general population. Some inmates have served as much as 25 yrs. in these solitary cells.



What happened? A conspiracy!

A certain man, Ananias, and his wife Sapphira, both Christians, wanted to enjoy the acclaim of the church without making a sacrifice.

They sold a piece of real estate and pretended to give the full price to the Apostles for distribution to the needy. They kept back part of the money for themselves.

Peter spoke of the incident as inspired by Satan and as a lie to the Holy Spirit and God. Ananias was severely dealt with because of this act. Death! Shortly after Ananias' death, the tragic episode was repeated with Sapphira. United in the conspiracy, they were both united in the judgment.

As the church attempted to reach their goals, the violated trust would have set the mission of the church off course if unchallenged. The divine punishment was witnessed in fear and trembling, but not with fear and pity.

See this is the first time in Acts the word "church" appears. The progress of the gospel and the vitality of faith built early Christians.



Deception should be noted as unacceptable.

Cliff's assignment



In Memory of our Beloved Volunteer: Alice Latham

On Tuesday, a day after hurricane Irma, our beloved volunteer of 15 years, returned to her home in Sebring after staying through the storm with a friend. Alice insisted on returning home, which she did, to no a/c or electricity. Alice had a very debilitating heart disease and died soon thereafter.

We will certainly miss Alice, Mondays will not be the same without her. She did our Monday mail for at least 10 years, even the Monday before the storm! She started with Little Lambs on May 2, 2002 at the age of 72 and has been here every week since then. She participated in almost all our endeavors, even becoming involved with our Recovery Program after 2003. She and her husband, Harry were an encouraging fixture at Little Lambs. As a grader, even at 87, Alice took home on the average of 10-20 lessons a week, sometimes even more! Truly interfaith, Alice and Harry visited probably most denominations in the county and loved them all and played piano for some. Alice knew the Lord all her life and served Him where ever they happened to live. We loved Alice and we will miss her.

**ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS
OCTOBER 13 AND 14
CALL 863-273-7388 TO REGISTER**

Schedule October 2017

- Mon...Bible Study, Phil Esposito
@Avon Park Prison
- Mon...Overcomers, Old Unit APCI
- Tues ..Overcomers, Willie @ Avon Park Prison
- Tues... Marriage, Family & Parenting,
Eileen @ Avon Park Prison
- Tues...Purpose Driven Life Study @ Avon Park
Prison with Pastor Joe Valentin, (Spanish)
- Wed..... Overcomers, Jeff S.
6 pm @ Bible Fellowship Church
- Thurs... Codependent Recovery Women, 6:30 pm
Mary Tinberg @ Little Lambs
- Thurs...Marriage, Family & Parenting
Work Camp Avon Park Prison
- Oct 13-14...Anger Management Class 12 hours
@ Little Lambs Inc. upstairs

Dear Partners,

I am so thankful for all of you who have so generously contributed to continue this ministry. It is actually a thrill for us to hear from all the men and women in jail and how much it means to them. To know that someone cares is perhaps someone's only hope. I know that this is time of need for many of you and we pray that God meets all your needs.

As you know, we hold Anger Management Class for the community. Of course, we are the cheapest class around so we have a steady clientele for our Bible based class. We are going to do it differently this month. We will be holding a 2 day, 12 hour course on Oct. 13-14. Class will be all day Friday from 9am to 5 pm and Saturday from 8 to 12 noon. This way more will actually complete the class as weather was often a factor for people without transportation. This is a trial run. If it works, we'll keep the format.

I want to give a special thanks to all our graders and volunteers and partners. To Paul Bogus who supplies us with paper and envelopes, to Zeno and Joel who keep our printer in good form. To Bill Daily who helps with our building needs, to Jean Crouch who gives us such good advice and help, to the US Post Office in Sebring, who are very patient and helpful all the time, to our Board of Directors who give so unselfishly, to our prison team who love the inmates, to our women's ministry who give of themselves so others might learn to love, to Bible Fellowship Church who gave us our current computer system almost 10 years ago that is still functioning quite well. To all our partner Churches and Ministries and those of you who sent extra funds after the storm, we are indebted to you.

We would like special prayer for our Wednesday Volunteer Patsy Young who is struggling with a severe health problem. Patsy and Mike are our 'youngest' volunteers and we pray God give them many years of service!

Luigi, from prison in IL. Writes: *Thank you all so very much. I hope the hurricane Irma hasn't hurt you too bad. May our heavenly Father bless you and keep you all. I had a great time with this Bible Study. I learned a lot and prayed a lot. Please don't get weary in your well doing. You guys are awesome. Whatever I can do to help you, just let me know. And if I'm ever in Sebring, Fl, I'll take you all out to dinner. Love you, Luigi*

Very nice sentiment meant for all of you too. Thank you for making this possible. Your servant, Eileen Sala