



# Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry  
<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-273-7388 MAY 2018

## ***Clothed in splendor...like the Tabebuia Tree***

Out for our usual walk, my friend and I noticed a beautiful yellow Tabebuia Tree. Yes, that is the name, Tabebuia (taba booa) or ipe tree. This tree flowers early in the spring, before even the leaves come out. It was a gorgeous site. Instantly, we both knew what that tree represented. She said, 'write about the tree.' As I thought about that tree, I thought how much like our lives it was. There are times when we go through trouble, trouble that wants to kill us, to test our faith. We think that we may not make it. We struggle but we hang on. This drives us to the Lord like nothing else does. It seems that we have nothing left to lean on but Him and it becomes total surrender. Like the total surrender that is winter for the Tabebuia tree. All the beauty, all the life, all the energy has been drained as we weather the winter in our lives. Sometimes that winter lasts for years! Just like the Tabebuia tree, all our leaves are gone and we feel alone and naked in the storm.

As we hang on and fall on God, we become almost oblivious to the seasons going on around us. The seasons continue, but we are stuck in our pain and our plight, wanting and waiting for a way out. We don't even see or notice the beautiful flowering of trees in the spring. Survival is all we can handle. As we surrender and wait on the Lord, He changes us! Yes. We start to get our priorities straight. Things we thought we couldn't live without, we can. People we thought we could count on, we learn we can do without. God is growing us up and healing us.

Finally, we heal. Suddenly, it is Spring again in our lives. We notice the changes. We celebrate them. We see the Lord, His purpose for our pain. And as we respond to His love, we flower, just like the Tabebuia after a hard winter. Big, bright flowers appear as we celebrate our new life in Him, like the beauty of a Bride before her wedding. The bright showy flowers last for a time then give way to sturdy leaves that clothe the tree. These leaves and the tree then serve with shade and wood for building. They say the Tabebuia is good decking wood. After the burst of new life, we, too, settle in to Serve the Lord. Our newfound love, having been renewed in the furnace and through his unyielding care for us, becomes the motivation to serve Him more. We want to share the beauty of His love through our story and our suffering in hopes of helping others.

So many people come to us in a winter season in their lives. I would say prison is a 'winter' for most people. The storms are raging and they feel all alone and so confused. Our mission is to show them the love of Jesus during this time. My particular joy is seeing the beautiful flowers after the winter! Each one is so unique and so different. Just like in a bouquet of different flowers, each one of holds a special place in the heart of God.



***My beloved spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land; The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Song 2:10-13 Article reprinted from March 2011***



Little Lambs Inc  
PO BOX 32  
Sebring, FL



John & Eileen, My name is Travis. Bill is a close friend of mine and passed this info along to me. I have completed it and wanted to wright a short letter thinking you for your ministries. I have read your testamonie and would love to read your book. I look forward to it. I'm also from Florida but came to Tennessee in '98 and have been trapped in sin and the penatentry since. I have been on my own in the streets since I was seven years old. I have never really had any blood family but I'm learning that I have an amazing father and a lot of brother and sisters threw Christ and it's a new but good feeling. I would love to get to know each other better and grow in discipleship with ya'll. Thank y'all so much for your time and effort. I will be preying for y'all's ministrie. God Bless, Tavis.

**Graduation lesson** Thanks for allowing me to study with you. I've experienced major growth and the Holy Spirit has given me new meaningful insights on various subjects within these lengthy studies. I return to society come July and these studies will come into living practice in my daily life. Thanks again. Steven

**Special Request:** Dear Little Lambs Inc., Even though I'm incarcerated yet I cannot and will not turn my back on God in Jesus' name. sometimes God allows things to happen in our life for our own long range good. This promise is only for those who love and trust God and are fitting in his plans.

If you check your records you will see that I been doing your bible lessons for about 3-4 years now. **However** there is a newly introduced Bible College degree program at Nash Correctional Institution which I want to attend ( Field Ministry Program through a seminary school, training pastors/missionary inmates for ministry in the prison system). Therefore, I really, really need your help right now because only 30 inmates are needed each year from the entire prison system in North Carolina. Imagine there are thousands and thousands of inmates in the entire North Carolina prison system but only 30 inmates will be selected each year. So first , I need your prayers, and secondly, I need you to send a letter of recommendation and a copy of my transcript to the following people as soon as you receive this letter ( 3 addresses). I really want to study God's Word diligently just as Paul said in 2 Tim 2:15 so as to fulfill the great commission Jesus gives in Matthew 28:18-20.

Thank you and may God continue to shower his wonderful blessings upon the entire family of Little Lambs. Kind regards, Moses *We did send the letters immediately along with our lesson contents. Pray for Moses! This is the second one of our students making this request. Paul from Nashville also made a request. Praise the Lord. Please pray these little lambs get accepted and grow to be great servants of the Lord!*

**Hard Choices,** Dear Little Lambs, My name is Gerald. I have been a student for a few years now and need the last lesson (4-4). In March of 2017, I made parole but my home address was not approved and I had to go to a halfway house. I went to a treatment program for 5 months and elected to return to prison to complete my sentence. While at the treatment program I was required to express my current sexual deviant thoughts and behaviors. I expressed how the Lord has delivered me from the bondage of the sin in my life. I was given a choice, either admit to having deviant thoughts or go back to prison. I **could not deny my Savior and the wonderful joy I now have in Him**, so I came back to prison. I know he is with me wherever I go so there is no fear any longer. I now have less than 2 years until discharge and want to complete my lessons. I have enjoyed doing the lessons. In fact, in the very short time that I was out (6 months), I was able to learn how to read Hebrew! The Lord is so amazing! Baruch haba B'shem Adonai, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Matt 23:39, Luke 13:35. Thank you for feeding my hunger to know the Word of God through your Little Lambs School of the Bible. I look forward to completing the course and for whatever is before me because of who is with me! Shalom B'shem Yeshua! (Peace in the Name of Yeshua) Tx



Dear John & Eileen, I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to take your courses. I honestly did not know anything about your school or any other for that matter. Luke J. took your courses and completed all 16 studies. It is the bible that Luke received upon graduation from your school that I am using in order to complete my studies. I thank God every day that I have Luke not only as a friend but also a brother in Christ.



It all started for me the day I was born in 1982, in Worcester, Ma. Hospital. At 2 1/2 months old my biological mother and father (Tina and John) beat me to the point that I was in a full body cast, my skull had been cracked and fluid was building up on my brain. A V.P. shunt was placed along with a metal plate. After all the trauma I suffered I lost my sight, and hearing, the doctors said in many of their reports that it was likely that I would not ever hear or see again. They were also assuming that I would not walk again. There were two things those doctors did not account for: God and my soon to be mother Janis C. She was one of God's angels on earth. Growing up I had to undergo over 60 operations. I had more medical issues than any human should ever have. I had a lot of problems in school learning and making friends. From about 8th grade until I dropped out in the 11th grade fighting, skipping school and not really applying myself was the only thing that I was doing. I have been in and out of prison since I was 19 years old. At 35 years old I now am able to look back and I realize how foolish I was for so many years. I was mad at the world and thought I was owed something. In reality it was me that owed something! I owed Jesus for dying on the cross and shedding his blood to pay the price for my sins, as well as keeping me alive so that I could help others.

At the end of 2014, I was informed that my mother was reaching the end of her life. I felt a strong need to be at her side and my pride kept me from asking for help to make that happen. I stole a truck and drove 3,500 miles from Denver to Mass. with the money I took for a deposit for a siding job I was going to do. Janis passed on Jan 5, 2015. I was able to say goodbye but it came at a price and it was not in US funds. On Jan 8th, I was sitting in the Ms. House of Corrections waiting on the state of Colorado to come pick me up. My thoughts all went back to one thing, how poorly my mother must have viewed me knowing I was going back to prison. At that moment in time, how much I must of let her down and how pathetic I must have looked in her eyes. I started to realize that I wanted more for myself out of life. I decide I wanted every course I could take in prison. Besides your courses, I take 3 or 4 other bible courses. The other courses are set up a lot different, they don't even use the bible in their courses. There are books they send that are dedicated to sections of the bible. Out of the three courses, yours teaches me the way around the bible and I really like that. I also like the way your school makes me feel like I belong, like we are family and I can depend on you. I have not felt that way since my mother's passing. For that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wish I knew more people like you. Respectfully, Matthew, Co

Greetings, my name is Deborah. I am currently serving time here in Douglas County jail. I would consider myself very blessed to receive your bible studies, book or any literature you may have available.

I am not new to bible studies but somehow I failed to learn how to keep my eyes upon Jesus once I am released. So I am a back slider. I pray my hunger for God's Word continues to grow and this will be my last time. I am 52 years old and tired. I pray the courts give me a chance to walk out a free person once again where I will have the opportunity to keep my eyes on God and not ever turn back again. Deborah, NE  
*We sent Deborah a listing of Teen Challenge s in her area and encouraged her to spend some time after release cementing her walk with God.*

Mr. & Mrs. John & Eileen Sala.

I have read this book "I'm Not Coming Back". I love this book. Please can you all send me some information to see how can I grow in Christ. Well, I'm lost. I would like to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Can you help me please if you can? I still have questions. The answers I need, help and I would like to open my eyes to Christ. I have prayer like this one:

Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner, doomed for all eternity. I want Jesus Christ to save me from sin and hell and to give me the wonderful benefits of His death on the cross. I trust Him to be my Savior. Amen. Thank you.

Robert, Tx. *We wrote to Robert. Please remember this brother in prayer! Pray for his growth in understanding and wisdom in the word of God as well as Christian fellowship.*



**UPDATE**, Dear Partners,

We have such encouraging news. After attending Phil Esposito's bible study "Spirit, Soul and Body" for 5 years of his 17 years in prison, Wayne was released from Avon Park Prison on May 20, 2017, with nothing but his faith in God and his mentors, Mr. and Mrs. Esposito. He immediately got a job at People Ready in Kissimmee, FL. He worked 5-6 days a week and went to church on Sunday. Wayne always tried to make the right decisions and never lost his faith that God would take care of him says Phil and Ruth.

He got to work riding a bicycle 26 miles one way! He never missed a day's work. In July, he finally got a scooter which he rode to work in the heat, the rain, the cold, and the dark. He never complained.

Phil and Ruth prayed for a Christian roommate (cost of only the room was \$1000 a month) that he could meet at Church or work. Well! On February 15, 2018, God brought him a Christian roommate from Avon Park Prison, Daniel. They now share the rent and Wayne saved enough money to get a used truck after almost 1 year riding that scooter. Wayne continues to believe that God will take care of him. He has been offered a permanent job if he can pass the background check. Please pray that he can.

As to Daniel's testimony: he has found favor with the landlord and he is now running their hotel, handling the money, and making repairs. These two men have proved themselves trustworthy and God is blessing them.

**UPDATE:** Pastor Joe Valentin (83, fell from his roof a month ago) has continued to suffer and medical treatment has not really been helping him. Surgery was canceled after a serious pre-op experience. He is longing to serve God in prison again. Please pray for his healing and perhaps you can send him a card to: Joe Valentin, 2411 Pasco Dr. Sebring FL 33870.

Just a note about my wonderful volunteers. Bill Clemmons missed his first day of work in 16 years!!! Yes, they've gone on vacation, etc., but work, no absences. He runs our mail room (very well). Bill, 84, hurt his back too. He was out only for a week, but still sore. Please keep all our volunteers in your prayers.



Speaking of which we have a new Spanish grader, Joan Wiebe, from SIM. It seems her neighbor was grading and she became interested and has joined our little army. Joan, now a widow, served many years with her husband in South America, mainly in Bolivia, establishing SIM there. With some health issues, she is staying closer to home and is a delightful addition to our Spanish School.

**UPDATE:** Our new roof is finished and it looks like our cost is \$ 8,500 of the \$18,350 cost as the insurance is disputing \$2,500 of that amount. Our deductible is \$6,000. We'll see what time will tell. We would appreciate your help in covering this cost.



My own roof has been finished as well and we are so glad as the rainy season is just around the corner.

As for Mother's Day, I can say how proud I am of all my grandchildren's mothers! I am blessed that they are very serious about their responsibilities and very loving to their children. We need to pray for our families' Mothers' every day. It is hard fighting the culture around them. We at Little Lambs pray that every mother represented here and those of our Lambs will be blessed with the presence of the Lord and given the graces necessary to lead their families lives and minister to their children.

Your servant, Eileen Sala

<b>Schedule May 2018</b>
<b>Mon...Avon Park Prison Bible Study</b>
<b>Mon...Overcomers with Hogar Resa</b>
<b>Tue...Overcomers Avon Park Prison</b>
<b>Tue...Marriage &amp; Family/Biblical Boundaries Avon Park Prison</b>
<b>Wed... Overcomers Bible Fellowship Church @ 6 pm</b>
<b>Thurs..Released to Love Women's Codependent recovery @ 6:30 pm@ Little Lambs Inc</b>
<b>Thurs...Marriage &amp; Family/Biblical Boundaries Avon Park Prison Counseling by Appointment 863-273-7388</b>