



# Little Lambs Inc.

John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-273-6075 October 2022



## Welcome to Joseph and Jamie Calvete

Having spent the last 36 hours under Hurricane Ian, which was relatively mild in our area, I was tired. We had strong winds and power outages and lots of debris and howling nights. Friday, we went into the office because there was power and internet (I am still without power) for the composing of this newsletter.

About 10 am, we had an awesome visitor knock on the door. A former student, Joseph Calvete came in. He refreshed my memory as he stopped to say 'hello'. We invited his family with him in as well. Joseph reminded me that as a drug addict and in trouble, he came to us for drug testing. I convinced him and his girlfriend to take the Marriage and Family Class, which they completed. When it was completed, they wanted to get married but were totally without resources, they could not even pay for pre-marital counseling and the certificate. I called the courthouse and they said I could sign up to be a provider through my Marriage and Family class, which I did and presented them with all expenses paid certificate. Their church gave them an impromptu free wedding. By the way, this was my one and only certificate given! We seemed to have lost contact then.

But not so, Joe had been to prison before and reoffended and returned to the Department of Correction for another sentence, getting out in 2017. Joe's testimony is that he went from a juvenile delinquent, to a high school dropout, to a youthful offender, to 16 times convicted felon, to 2 times prison re-offender. But the last sentence proved to be his salvation. Remembering all he had learned from us and other mentors, he made the decision that with God it was all or nothing and committed his life to the Lord. He took our Bible Study Course in prison and graduated. He still loves and uses his Graduation Bible and refused a new one!

Joe, with Jamie by his side, began his total restoration through the Lord. He began by getting his GED and plumbing certification while in prison; then attended Southeastern University in Lakeland and obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Ministerial Administration; was in the top 10% in the nation's National Honor Society; became a Certified Addictions Drug Treatment Counselor and non-profit Community Outreach Director. All this time, they became parents to two very lovely little girls, Hannah and Addilynn.

Spurred on by a mentor asking, 'What do you want to do?', Joseph is now employed as a counselor in the JASA Substance Abuse Program at the Highlands County Jail, the very program he attended in an early stay at the jail. He is so excited to give back and bring the Lord with Him.

They have a home church in 'Avon Park they love and serve in. Jamie, a school teacher, is just as eager to give back and teaches at the Academy on Youth Care Lane in Sebring, a school for troubled youth.

Needless to say, we were so excited to see the love and gratitude from these two spiritually mature young people. In just a short time, the Lord had erased the memory of the storm with a vision of the future we had a part in molding.

Aldo Guzman and his wife, Brenda, dropped by at the same time and got to meet Joe and invited him to give his testimony to the residents of 2nd Chance Ministry sometimes soon. God is so good to us all!



**He missed graduation!** Dear Eileen Sala: this is Francisco at Avon Park. I was a student in your Little Lambs Parenting and Anger Management Class. I learned a lot in your class and by the strength, grace and mercy of God I was able to apply what I learned to my life. To my disappointment I missed Graduation. With all the stress of being in prison, I forgot the date of the Graduation and insisted on making a phone call right after lunch when I was to go to the V.P. room for Graduation. The day and



afternoon of the graduation there was some kind of lockdown and besides your attempts to send for me the correctional officers would not let me leave the dorm or them come get me. The disappointment I felt was mood-altering. I went from having a good day to having a not so good one. I did not let it get the best of me. I was very glad others got to attend and enjoy. Still disappointed with myself, I was looking forward to graduation with excitement being there's not much joy behind the barbed wire. I wanted to bid you a farewell and pray blessing over your life before you left.

I am very sorry for missing Graduation. It was extremely irresponsible missing it. I still feel really bad about it. Even though I missed it. I really had my heart set on receiving a certificate of completion of the course. Feelings of being proud of myself for completing something in this place that I feel my family might be proud of me as well with proof that beautiful piece of paper would turn into a trophy of knowledge I can use and share with my children and loved ones in the future. My present is filled with resentment for what I have done. Also shame for what I have done, shame to be in prison, shame to my parents. Shame to my parents cause I know they raised me better than this. I let the enemy and past damage of codependency and addiction get the best of me. Thanks to this class and my intimacy with God, my relationship has grown strong. I have grown spiritually and mentally. I have acknowledged the issues, turned from them and resolved them, trusting in Jesus to continue my redemption. I pray for strength and grace through my trials and tribulations. I pray for forgiveness from my family, children and my victim. I pray her heart soften and Jesus help her to forgive so we may co-parent in the future. Also pray for you that you have peace, health, grace and blessings for your family and for the knowledge you have helped me achieve. God bless you, Ms. Eileen . Please consider sending a certificate of completion of the Parenting, Marriage and Anger Management course I attended at Avon Park so I can spread the information I learned in your class with my family and them believe me! ***I did send him and another inmate who had been transferred before graduation their certificates as soon as was back from surgery. So glad to see he valued the information he learned.***



**Spanish Graduate Missionaries!** Brothers, I am very grateful to you and thank God that you allowed me to get that Beautiful Graduation Bible. I want my brothers to know that this beautiful gift will come to Mexico because I promised it to my daughter. I told her that I was doing a Bible Study and when I finished it, they were going to give away a Bible and they were going to send it to me. This gift is going to edify more people because my wife, my daughter and my daughters are in their humble home. They even already received the Lord Jesus as their Lord and Savior of their lives and the glory goes to our Lord Jesus Christ. Well, my brothers, I have nothing left to do but thank you and may God continue to bless you, my brothers in Christ Jesus.

**Graduate, former Prisoner:** Pastors Sala, I wanted to write, to thank you for the beautiful and highly useful Bible you sent me for completion of my study program. I will be leaving next week for San Carlos, Mexico, and have arranged with a church there to assist in street ministry. Not only did your program allow me to spend significant time in the Word, but helped to prepare me to further the message of our Lord. God bless you both and please continue to help others incarcerated to come to God. Respectfully, Eric  
***I want to thank our cadre of Spanish graders who give time and attention to mentoring through grading the lessons for these Hispanic students. We are always sowing seeds through Little Lambs Bible Studies, now we ask that God water and grow these seeds into fruit in their own homeland. There families and communities need them to live the Christian life before them. Please continue to pray for them.***

Mrs. Sala, as for myself I am doing wonderful. I am so thankful for the transformation that is taking place and healing in my life by faith! I would like to say that Christ Jesus is more real in my life today than ever before!

I applaud you for your ministry! I have been encouraged by your testimony and teachings! You have touched on some areas of my life that I've had to do some soul-searching. **Also, it is alarming the areas of my life that MUST BE CHANGED! No longer can I go around blaming others and hiding behind my bad decisions and faults! Today I desire to face issues in my life that are caused by me and my upbringing! This day I confess I shall change because the light of Christ has shined in areas of darkness and through my desire and strength through Christ to change! Today I have a joy that surpasses all understanding and a peace that I know that only comes from submitting to the authority of my Heavenly Father and committing unto how to treat people how they should be treated!**

I would also like to comment on your lesson this past Tuesday! You said don't do for a person what they can do for themselves! I have carefully considered your statement, have found that I enable people when I do that, and you said we are to set boundaries and say **No!** I've considered your words and have decided to say NO even when it causes conflict. Thank you for your words of wisdom which in turn gives me knowledge that has and will benefit my life! May God continue to bless you in all you do. Respectfully, James

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**Parenting Essay** At the beginning of this course I was just a little nervous as to how much I would learn. By the second class I became very interested. What really caught my attention was the amount of information you provided. This class goes well beyond a course in took back in 2009. It is much longer and there was never a shortage of information. I really enjoyed how you took your time and did not rush through the lesson just to get it over with. You were patient and very attentive. Another big aspect of the class that I enjoyed was the advice on Marriage. I have met a young woman whom I care about deeply and will apply what I learned now before we become married. Our communication is wonderful but we do need to set a few boundaries.

Also with the parenting, I really enjoyed that as well. There are times when I can become overwhelmed and frustrated. But I refuse to turn to violence. I will incorporate time outs and other non-violent alternatives. I will also be sure not to yell either. I need to be more patient but for the most part I am pretty good with children. That you, Ms. Sala for your valuable time and for your caring and desire to help others. I respect and admire what you did for me and what you do for others as well. The biggest thing I learned in this class was to stay awake!!:)

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### **Essay on Discipline, lesson 4-2**

In my youth, I was rebellious with my parents, not wanting to do as I was told. I did not see then that it was for my own good. Yes, I was disciplined with the old fashion way with belt and cane, which got my attention. I realize now, looking back, that I was being punished out of their love and concern that I grow into a responsible and abiding person, which I have become. Later in life I made a mistake concerning man's law and found myself behind bars. There I found Christ and realized once again that I was being chastised in His love to awaken me and become the person He set forth for me to be. Though free on the outside of those bars now, I was truly set free through the shedding of Christ's precious blood on Calvary. I am free from the bondage of sin to do the ways of our Lord and be that responsible and abiding person living for our savior. Praise the Lord indeed!!

Dear Partners,

The break in the weather has been such a welcome thing after this long hot summer. I am sorry that it will be broken by our first hurricane. But the coolness has restored my faith in the coming winter season. As for as progress with my knee, I am doing well. Building my stamina day by day. Thank all of you who wrote or sent cards and all of you who have prayed for me. God is good and so very faithful.

We here at the ministry have been very blessed throughout this storm. Fortunately, we were on the back side of the storm. The wind and rain were less than the west side. The office did not lose power and had no damage other than our sign being blown down away. Some of our volunteers are still without power on this Monday morning, October 3 and schools are still out also. The biggest damage I can see is the huge amounts of tree "trash", small limbs and leaves and moss strewn throughout the area. I personally feel we owe a debt of gratitude to our governor who had the inspiration and wisdom to be so fully prepared to start the recovery. Throughout my 25 years in Florida, I have never seen the preparedness such as happened with Ian. And our sincere thanks to all the people who answered the call to come help us. My power was restored on Saturday evening and I was so thankful. I realized that almost everything I do in my home involved electricity and an appliance! The men at Grace Place, 2nd Chance Ministry, had no damage other than the old fence blown down which is a blessing since they finally have all the materials to replace it. They also did not lose power.

We need prayer for one of our volunteers husband. They were visiting their son before the storm and he came down with covid, as did the family they were with. Howard is hospitalized now and is in need of our prayers. His wife, Diane, is a long time Tuesday volunteer and good friend.

I want to ask your prayers for Pastor Joe Valentin also. Pastor Joe has taught at the 2nd Chance Ministry since they opened. Prior to that, he went into prison with John, myself, and other volunteers over the last 15 years. A retired New York detective, he became an active evangelist at retirement. Pastor Joe's wife has become bedfast and he is her caregiver. Please pray for them at this time. It is a difficult thing to go through and I know he would appreciate your prayers.

Another good thing happening, 2nd Chance Ministry has completed renovation of our office so damaged by the sinking floor. Once the floor was leveled, they began repair. Their next project is the new fence at the 2nd Chance Ministry building on Magnolia (Grace Place). They have received all the materials and will begin soon. We celebrated the completion of the project with ice cream cake at class Wednesday. Having completed the Marriage and Family / Anger Management Class with them, we will begin on our Bible class at Gen 1:1 this week. If anyone has any bible lands map that they no longer need, I would be grateful if they would donate them to us for our classes. I find it always helps to explain the bible with visual aids. Remember, almost all the residents are new to the bible. But is my joy and sincere pleasure to share knowledge with them as well as the Spirit. And these residents have been so helpful to us in so many ways. The latest good deed has been keeping me supplied with food during my recovery. Tyrone, the resident cook, is excellent and his collards to die for!

Through our relationship with 2nd Chance Ministry, the probation office is requesting that we start our Anger Management Classes again. We have a huge advantage over other providers for the state: our fees are next to nothing and waived for the indigent! There are some who have no transportation, limited funds, etc. who cannot meet parole guidelines and pay huge fees. I hope to restart the classes as soon as my knee permits.

We are deeply grateful for the blessing throughout this ordeal and pray that all of you are safe and your families are safe. God bless all of you for your support and prayers for us. Remember our lambs!

**SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2022**

**Tues.....Purpose Driven Life @  
2nd Chance Ministry**

**Wed..... Bible Study with Eileen With  
2nd Chance Ministry**

**Thurs....Celebrate Recovery @  
2nd Chance Ministry**

*Your servant,  
Eileen Sala*