



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

www.littlelambsinc.org

Little Lambs Inc.

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Dear Friends,

As we turn our calendars over to the last two pages of 2024, there are more than a few of us who would prefer to just close the book . . . now! Can't we just pull the covers over our heads until it's time to open our new account entitled: *January 1, 2025? If it were only that easy. Remember, a change of dates does not necessarily change a situation. World politics, wars, and our impending elections have more than a few of us scrolling through countless memes and podcasts searching for a clue to a personal hoped-for outcome. Is that an exercise in faith? I do not think so.*

What I do know . . . *is that **God is in control.***

For some of you, the last ten months have been incomprehensible. With life, came death. In a few cases it was sudden and unexpected, for others, it was the conclusion of a long-fought battle for physical restoration. Some have had to face incapacitating illnesses and the dreaded diagnoses of . . . you know: the C-word. Good health had been a way of life, until it wasn't.

Others have been shaken by severe financial hits due to all sorts of events and circumstances that were beyond their control. One minute there was sunshine, the next minute there was destruction. Some of you are perplexed by family members who have chosen to become involved in unhealthy and dangerous lifestyles that have distanced them from your circle of love. There has been more than enough grief and uncertainty to go around. And yet, we expectantly take our next breath, eat our next meal, and embrace those who allow us to love them. We simply want to live, simply.

And live we shall. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace *there will be no end*" (Isaiah 9.6-7, NKJV). *There in lies the answer to all that befalls us.*

The Lord Jesus is our hope, our strength, and our salvation from sin and the cares of this world. **He** generates our confidence to face all things that bring doubt or despair. Trusting in the *Name Above all Names is the only way to receive His perfect peace.*

So, as we enter into these last days of 2024, *prepare ye the way of the Lord. Ready your hearts for the King who rules the righteous, for we do not know what lies ahead . . . but He does. Rely on His sovereign authority over all things. "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all"* (Psalm 34.17-19).

Throw back the blanket, jump out of bed, take a deep breath, and live for Him! The Lord has all your doubts, fears, illnesses, and burdens covered for the rest of 2024 . . . 2025 . . . *and beyond.*

Blessings,

Kris Rider, Guest Volunteer



David from California :) I hope your day is going well. I love the name. I am in prison a little setback. I will recover. I saw your name on a resource paper. Reminds me of my childhood song, "Mary had a Little Lamb." Do you remember the song? The song is very true! "Everywhere Mary went the Lamb is sure to go!" :) "For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." We should also leap for joy. Sometimes I just write places like yours for something to do. Something good to do. Your name brought me a good memory, so I thought I would share it. To

share is what it's all about.

I already have a bible. But you must be on this resource paper for a reason. I do like literature or to be lead in good directions. What are the Little lambs up to ? I heard some bad weather went through there. People are praying for you. Mother nature needs to stay work. Keep the balance. "The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. Psa 121:6,7

Today sing to yourself and to God, "Mary had a Little Lamb." *Amazing as we see all the student inmates as our Little Lambs, and every day we work to bring them to the Shepherd.*

Describe your local church in prison: Here at Camille (prison) we have a great Chaplain. He is so energetic and enthusiastic and he does so much for us. I am on the choir and he directs the choir. *We sound awesome. We practice two nights per week. Our church attendance has more than doubled since he became our Chaplain. He makes us feel worthy, victorious and like we can even conquer anything. I am in awe of him and our church community.*

Graduates

To my Brother and Sister in Christ,

I want to thank you for the gift of the Bible. It's just what I needed! I had been praying to get my sister to order me one if she would. But then this one came in before I could ask her. Thank you Jesus for this wonderful gift of your Word. I really enjoyed the Little Lamb Bible Study Course. It was really very educational and helped me to know more about our Lord and Savior. I'm sending you the info on a brother that would like to take this study. Could you please send him the first lesson, please.



Thank you for all the encouraging words and all the letters and comments on my lessons. It was very helpful and really kept me on my study. Thank you again for the New Bible and I will use it as a faithful tool in all my studies. John

Gentlemen, I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you so much for the KJV Study Bible! Talk about God's providence. I was supposed to be 'on chain' (scheduled to be moved) on Thursday the fifth. But it was cancelled. Then the Bible you sent showed up at mail call on Monday the ninth. And the next morning I was 'on chain' again, this time for real! I'm now 3/4ths across the state of Texas, from the southwest to the out skirts of Houston, at my pre-release program. Thirty hours on busses, stops at units from Abilene, Gatesville, Huntsville. It was so worth it! Praise God.

I enjoyed your Bible Study and I wish you all well. Please continue to bring the Word to those of us 'bound in affliction and iron.' It's really appreciated! Michael, Tx

Little Lambs Ministry. First of all I want to sincerely thank you for making this and future studies available to me. I enjoy them so much and I really look forward to ones in the future. I want to learn as much about Jesus as I can. I am a very low bottom addict. I have been drinking and using for 20 years. I was 3 1/2 years sober at one point through a drug court program. From sobriety, I met a good girl, started a family and saved \$50,000 to put on my first house. I kept getting promoted at work and my life got better than I ever thought it could. Then I relapsed and my relapse was with crack cocaine. It took over my life. I lost everything: my jobs, my house, and my family. I am now on my way to prison for a bunch of theft charges. But I have given my life to Christ and I know His word is true and I can rely on His promises of restoration, healing, and hope if I live in surrender to Him. My children are 3 and 5 years old. Please pray for them. I am in a constant battle flopping between faith and trust and to then worry, fear and anxiety. I feel terrible for my children. DL

Essays Marriage and Family Class

When I first started the class I didn't like it. I thought I didn't need any help and I thought I knew it all. But the more and more I listened and paid attention, I noticed I had a lot of those character flaws and I made a lot of those thinking errors. I felt so stupid because I was doing a bunch of things to run away from the truth and responsibility and if it weren't for your class I'd still be in the dark about things that might cost me my relationship with my live ones and friends. I feel like a new man and can't wait to apply my new knowledge that I learned into my life. Thanks for your help and guidance cause I want to be respected and loved and appreciated and I don't want to die alone miserable. LG

What I learned in this class since attending is that I was a codependent for my wife and I didn't even realize it and that I really didn't have any personal boundaries. I was my wife's stepping stones, her life raft, her protector and etc. any time she would get arrested, I would be there in a heartbeat to bail her out. When someone in the family would put her down or accuse her of something, I would always defend her even when I knew she was wrong. My wife would threaten me with leaving if I didn't get her drugs and I knew she cheated on me for many years. Yet I stayed. Well, after taking this class I can honestly say I have learned how to set boundaries and not to be so codependent and I have learned how to say NO! This class has taught me first how to be a better person for me before I can be a better person for anyone else and it has showed me how to make my family a functional family. I know that God is there for me and my family. And I can turn to Him at all times, good and bad. My desire is to lead my family to God and to let them know that He is a loving, understanding and forgiving God. I don't know if there are enough words to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for your time, wisdom, knowledge and experience and of course your patience. So now I say thank you Mrs. Sala for giving so freely to me and the class and for sending mot of these gates a brand new man and father. Thank you and God bless you. DL

I really don't want to go into everything I got out of the class because some of it is truly personal. I will take the time to thank you very much for your time. I pray for the day I can break the chain in my life, become the man God has created me to be. I am such a doubting Thomas. So now I know I am more than a drug addict. I am also very codependent. This wounds deeply, but I do know that nothing good in life comes easy. I need to take the pain from the truth you have given me and grow with it. At least I understand me just that much more so I have more tools to guide me through life. You really got me with some of the reasons I am the way I am and I hope after I take this class again I take it more seriously. I have been going through the hardest time of my incarceration and need prayer. MT



Celebrating 3 years at 2nd Chance Ministry. Jose, Paul, Chuck, Chris, Jordan, Eileen, and Joey. In September, we enjoyed the celebration for 3 years of substance abuse treatment by Aldo and Brenda Guzman at 2nd Chance on Magnolia. Five of these young men are graduates who continue to be closely associated with the program as part of their last phase: five

years of check in and visits and regular contact with the program. The rate of relapse is very small. Thanks to our donor who has financed a holiday meal for the men through Little Lambs.

Dear Partners,

I was chatting with a friend who told me all the woe's she been going through. It reminded me of the last month or two at Little Lambs. We had a failed air conditioner, sewer problems, failed hot water heater, ceiling problems, faulty wiring going on and off, serious staff health problems, were notified that they will not reprint our graduation bible until March (which means we will have to purchase on the open market online without our huge discount until then), my own leaky roof at home, storm damage there. It seemed like every day presented a new opportunity to be tested! I thank God for the volunteers in the office whose spirit couldn't be quenched by any of these things. They just continue to soldier on with the tasks at hand. The problems are just giants in the land that we must conquer. What did we learn?

Blessed is the man (or woman) who endures temptation, for when he is tried (tested and passes), he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to them that love him. James 1:12

My good news is after my last visit to my doctor for my spinal surgery, all my restrictions were lifted and it is so great to be normal again and not have to be guarded with every move. And my leg is pain free! Thank you to everyone who prayed for me. Now, if you would, continue to pray for Mary Tinberg, who is having a serious health challenge. Mary is in the office 4 days a week and accompanies me for outside ministry. She is an important part of our ministry and we love her dearly.

Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord listened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord and thought upon His name. And they shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day that I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spares his own son that serves him. Malachi 3:16

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings and you shall go out and grow up as calves in the stall. Malachi 4:2

Cast me not off in the time of old age, forsake me not when my strength fails. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength into this generation and thy power to every one that is to come. Psalm 71:9

We are excited as our daily mail increases each week. We have also had a request from a former graduate who now heads a recovery ministry for men and has 45 men in their programs. He wants to partner with us and have all his students participate in our bible study course. Chris Cleveland is in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and he remembers that our bible study has a lot of personal encouragement which he really enjoyed during his incarceration. He said that and the little cards helped him so much and he wanted the same for his residents. Evidently he works with other programs and suggested he get them involved too. It is so encouraging to see one of our lambs prospering so much in the gospel and leading others to Christ. We have sent him a copy of the lessons and instructions for enrolling his residents. Our mission is to minister to not only prisoners, but former prisoners and residents in recovery programs, even the spouse of resident or inmate.

Looking back, I can see so many reasons for being thankful this Thanksgiving holiday, beginning with my salvation 44 years ago. God has blessed the ministry of Little Lambs through the last 27 years with all our volunteers and partners. No crisis has not been met and solved. We continue to see fruit as our students and graduates become fruitful in their own right. A lady sat beside me in church Sunday to tell me that years ago she came to see me with an addicted son. She said she could not do what I recommended at that time. It was too drastic for a mother to do. However, as the years went by she was forced to do it and it saved her sons life. He is now sober and with a precious family. She wanted to say 'thank you' and let me know how she appreciated what we do. Again I am so blessed and thankful that the Lord allows us the freedom to minister in this way. We never know when such a blessing comes through our doors. We pray for all of you our partners, a blessed and very special Thanksgiving.

Your servant,
Eileen Sala