



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching  
Ministry

# Little Lambs

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April 2025

Dear Little Lambs,

Favorite family stories are the stuff of which fond memories are made. As the eldest of four girls, my wife shares this glimpse of her growing up years in the early 1960's. One day, her father decided to treat the family to supper at a local diner. An outing to a restaurant for this family was cause for excitement for the four giggly girls. With everyone seated, the clever waiter started with cute little Patty, the baby, who was only 5 years old. The waiter listened patiently as Patty stuttered and stammered, lisp and all, to tell him exactly what she wanted—a hamburger without the bun. Dutifully, the waiter repeated her order back, "So, you just want a hamburger paddy?" With a look of total amazement, baby sister blurted out "He knows my name!!"

And so it was at the tomb. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Each of the four Gospels includes different or additional details of the sacred resurrection story. Luke recounts that Joseph of Arimathea, a good and just man, had to beg Pilate for the release of Jesus' body for proper entombment. Matthew describes how Pilate sealed the tomb and set a watch. And that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary ran to the sepulchre before dawn on the first day of the week. Mark adds that the Marys had bought sweet spices to anoint His body, and that the women worried among themselves about who would roll away the stone since they were the first to arrive. As an aside, are we allowed to wonder why the women were the first ones to reach the tomb? Where were the men? After all, Pilate's soldiers had been ordered to guard the tomb against body snatchers and presumably to head off the heartbroken Jesus-followers. Conceivably, these women were running headlong into harm's way. Surely, those big burly fishermen, Peter and Andrew, and their fellow disciple, John, could have mounted a stronger defense to a possible confrontation. Were the men *afraid*? Had chivalry sprung a leak? But I digress.

Our Easter devotion comes from John's account of Mary Magdalene's encounter at the tomb with a man she supposed to be the gardener. By this time, Mary Magdalene had already alerted Peter and John that the stone had been rolled away. Fearing the worst, she returned to the tomb and stood outside, weeping. Heartbroken, she was startled by the appearance of two angels sitting inside the sepulchre. When she turned back around, she "saw" Jesus standing there but she did not recognize Him. "Must be the gardener," she thought. Even when He first spoke to her "**Woman, why weep-est thou?**" John 20:15a, she still did not recognize Him. Of course, we all know the backstory of Mary Magdalene. From the depths of her sin to the victory of her salvation, her life represents the thread of hope for you and for me that runs throughout the New Testament. So, while Mary Magdalene knew Christ Jesus very well, in that moment, she did not recognize Him. And who can blame her? She was completely grief stricken and confused. But then Jesus spoke to her again "**Mary.**" John 20:16a He called her by name!! Just a single word—but spoken by **The Word**. Instantly, the world was lifted off her shoulders. Her grief was gone. She went from terrified to joy unspeakable and full of glory. And not unlike our 5-year-old Patty to the waiter, Mary Magdalene must have felt with true amazement HE KNOWS MY NAME!!

This Easter morning we can celebrate the infallible truth of His resurrection because the Lord Jesus knows each and every one of us by name. And when we know Him as Savior, when the trumpet sounds, He will call each of us by name and we can be truly amazed all over again.

Blessings to all,  
Mike Rider, Volunteer



## CELEBRATING 27 YEARS TOGETHER AT LITTLE LAMBS

Jan Ryan, Eileen Sala, and Ruth Esposito have worked together at Little Lambs since our move to Sebring in 1998. We actually began the ministry in our home in Bradenton in 1997 and moved here in Sebring to find an affordable ministry base in 1998. We met Jan at our first community speaking engagement and we met Ruth and her husband Phil at Bible Fellowship Church. We are actually part of the Little Lambs Family of volunteers. Through the years, some tougher than others, these two ladies, who never used computers before, learned to do all

the work of shepherding thousands of inmates through our bible study program and became fast personal friends to John and I. A more generous and loving family would be hard to find. We have celebrated many victories together, both personal and spiritual. And together with all our volunteers, we create a very strong prayer circle. Prayer has kept us healthy and young at heart, loving to serve our King and Lord Jesus Christ.

My most memorable letter in 27 years! Hey, my name is Rodney. I'm from Tampa, Fl. I am 24 years old doing time in Madison, WI. I but you are wondering how did I get your address and I stay all the way in Madison, Wisconsin. Well, truth be told I'm in a new Max Prison called Green Bay Correctional. I've been locked up since Dec. 15, 2015, in a cell 23 hours a day. A lot of guys here do suicidal things to themselves up here and that's been going on a lot since I been here at this prison. But I found your address on a prison wall on the side my cell that I'm in right now. I been in this cell for a month now and I'm just writing to this address and the reason why it took me so long to write to this address because did not know if it was the right address or the wrong address because when I saw the address on the wall it said "write to this address if you ever need help from someone" and I thought it was the wrong address and right now I still think it's the wrong address because a lot of guys here just write on walls and say anything to pass time away. But as I sat in this cell longer I begin to ask myself and think to myself should I write to this address because I did not want to waste a stamped envelope for nothing and it was my last one for right now but I decided to write to this address anyway and if I did write to the right address thank you for taking the time of day to read this letter because I really need someone to pray for me because at this moment I do not have no one to reach out to not even my own family at this moment and I been going through so much since I been here and it's really getting me to the point I just do not know what to do any more so please just take the time out to just pray for me that's all I ask for and you very much.

Shalom! A KJV Bible Study? I'm down like 4 flat tires. I challenge you to make it challenging to me. I would probably be considered an advanced student, only by educational level. I try to live by the standard set by Yahweh (God) and delivered by Hosea "My people perish for lack of knowledge." I start my day except the sabbath and continue till bedtime in God's word, with independent studies, and bible studies from 6 other ministries plus Legacy college courses. And I still find myself with a large portion of the time for just reading His word or about His word. I don't watch TV, participate in "Day Room" activities, associate and fellowship about days gone by and glorification of past sins.

My Father, 6 years ago, appeared to me during a suicide attempt. I told Him "to take my life! I don't want it anymore!" My wife of 28 years had died, and all my family had either died or moved on. I was all alone.

I will tell you our Abba has a magnificent sense of humor. In despair I wanted to die and begged God to take my life. Ha! He sure did!! And I am a 100% new creation. Little by little, bit by bit, he made me His. So now 7 years into my 20 year sentence, I'm living for the one who told me "Live for Me." I still weep thinking of the warmth and love of His words. So I do.

So, if you would like it there are 16 lessons, please send me the first 4? I will do them in order and promise to do them timely and , to show you my joy in Him. :) Shalom, Toda Raba (Thank you very much.)



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NEEDED**  
ORIENTATION AND ANSWER  
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PROVIDED  
CALL 863-273-6075

Dr. Camille Jamison,  
Our dear friend, Camille, whom I affectionately call "Doc" went home to be with the Lord with the acclamation by God, 'well done' my good and faithful servant. A retired missionary, she was a volunteer for Little Lambs and faithfully graded 6 lessons a week for many years. When I think of her I can hear her playfully say to me, 'Jan, you need to listen to the 'Doc'. She will be sorely missed by all.  
Jan Ryan



Reminiscing Years of serving through Little Lambs with all our volunteers. God has blessed us so much. We are so grateful to all of you who make this possible through your giving!  
God bless all of you!  
Eileen Sala