



# Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry

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## **HE ALIVE AND I'M FORGIVEN!**

Unlike Christmas, where the focus is usually on us, on Easter, the focus is on Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. What does Easter mean? Easter/ Passover, for me, means my sin debt is paid in full! I am free to live the life of the redeemed. I owe nothing but to love Him and in loving Him, serve Him.

It is so hard for the carnal mind to believe that their 'sin' and unbelief is worthy of death and hell and that they need a Savior. They say, "I am a good person." meaning, "I haven't sinned so much," not even knowing what sin really is! It always strikes me how often people are reduced to tears in class or counseling when they suddenly realize how abusive (sinful) they have been to others, especially their loved ones. And with the knowledge of sin can come repentance and restoration.

Yes, not only did our Savior pay our sin debt in full by giving up His life, but then He took up His life again and He lives forever more, waiting for us to be with Him! He's alive and I'm forgiven, heaven's gates are open wide (Bill Gathier). And when I do sin, His ever-atoning blood cleanses me of that sin as I repent, so powerful is the shed blood of our God. Even Greek mythology realized the special value of a god's blood, calling it 'ICHOR' Yes, Jesus Christ's blood atones for the sin of the whole world.

In my 19 years of ministry, I have encountered only a few people who truly believed that their sins were too great for God's blood to atone. Locked in a prison of hopelessness, and despair, without forgiveness, waiting to die but knowing and believing in hell, their mind stays on their sins, rather than on the greatness and power of God's blood and God's sacrifice, even His love. Constantly rehashing their sins all the while fearing, not wanting to listen to reason, they often resort to drugs to calm them down and relieve their anxiety, making it doubly hard to get through to reason and to 'hear from God.' *That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: Eph 2:12*

Hebrews says that without having a sinless someone shed their blood and die, no sin could be forgiven. A sinless life for a life. We must believe in Jesus' atoning death for us, which means we must trust God that all will be well, even when we don't understand. Beloved, this Passover Season remember the greatness and goodness of our God; His faithfulness in keeping His covenant with us and redeeming us. We pray the blessings of the Passover Season for you and your family.

**And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Heb 9:22-28

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Heb 9:14



## UPDATE: OUR GRADERS/VOLUNTEERS

I want to devote the this newsletter to my 'missionaries' who serve, but never leave home! As you all know, the heartbeat of Little Lambs is to serve the men and women in prison. So many men and women become truly broken and surrender to the Lord during the arrest and prison process; some are back-slidden Christians who fell from the faith for awhile and have repented and returned to the Lord. As John Sala used to say, "It is the modern mission field of America." Many of our own children and grand children are there! Many who do enter this mission field have no relationships left, all burned and killed by rebellion and drug use. This leaves absolutely no crutches for them and forces them to look to Christ for their needs and for salvation.

Now we know, not all who come are sincere. We leave that up to the Lord to deal with them because only He knows their heart. Our job is to freely give, to sow seeds and give them a chance to grow. God will water and God will give the increase. We simply sow the seed, many seeds. We sow the Word, we sow love; we sow bibles, books, stamps; we sow encouragement; we sow prayer.

Whatever way they come, all these folks need a basic foundation and experience with the Bible, the Word of God. They need to learn to respect the Word of God as it is written! And to learn how to navigate and study the bible. How to discover what it says for themselves so they can know and recognize error when it comes, because it will come. Some even need to learn to capitalize the very names of God.

Our mission through our Correspondence Bible Study Course is to help anyone in prison or jail who writes to us and asks us to study the word with us. We want to lay a biblical foundation on which they can build. As Paul says in Romans 15:20-21 *It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."* NIV

Most of our people have not known Christ before and it is their first experience with the Word of God alone in a prison cell! We provide the step by step lessons, the bibles, the encouragement to get them engaged and believing and learning to trust.

Our **Graders** are the key to all of this. They take each lesson, sometimes 30 pages in length and armed with an answer key and the bible, carefully go over each scripture, blank and essay as they comment, teach, correct and encourage through their comments in the lesson! **They are making a prison visit.** They are spiritually mentoring these new lambs. They are growing strong men and women of God and they are even possibly grooming and growing future pastors and missionaries and servants? Whatever, these generous, hard working prayerful men and women of God dutifully come in each week with their graded lessons and trade them for ungraded lessons, their 'assignment' so to speak. It is not the flash and excitement of being out on the field in other cultures, but it is day in and day out, year after year faithfulness, bearing fruit in our old age.

**We need more volunteer graders!** Our long time servants have been hit rather hard this year: Calvin & Eloise Miller are out with a hip replacement; Alice & Harry Latham are out with a detached retina and heart problems; Margie had to stop due to difficulties; Brenda King is a snow bird and soon leaving; Tom & Evangeline are enduring through health problems; and our beloved Jo Anier can no longer visit, retired now to a nursing home. Judith Ryder, Ruth Esposito and Jan Ryan are champions at holding it all together. And along with our SIM graders, we have added Roe McAdams and Christine VanderSloot.

**Please pray for all our people, for a return to good health and service. And pray that we fill in the open spaces, that when God places the burden on a heart, they will respond. It is not quite like the adventure of actually going into prison, which I think that is what most people desire or think of as 'prison ministry', but you truly are touching hearts one at a time totally centered on the Word which is probably more that you would do on a prison visit! Amen. Office volunteer hours are from 9 to 12 noon daily and graders come in once a week to exchange graded lessons for ungraded lessons. If you feel the burden to join us or just want a tour and learn what we do, call me, Eileen at 863-273-7388 and I will give you a tour, an orientation and get you started. We also need office volunteers.**



**Graduate Home:** Hi, I like to thank you all for the bible. I love it. It's perfect. I'm in a Prison Fellowship dorm. We got to write exegetical paper of John and Peter, and this bible I can use to write the next one. I thank you all for letting me take the lessons and for the Diploma. I am going to see parole. I feel good to know that I did it. Praise God and now I got a wonderful beautiful bible. God bless you all. Happy Easter, Happy Mother's Day, Happy Father's Day, and many happy, happy, happy days through Christ. Your sister in Christ, Nome, TX

**Graduate Sandra:** I am writing to let you know that I received my Bible last night along with my last lesson and two certificates. Thank you so much for the Bible. It is a wonderful gift. I glanced through it last night and today and it will be so helpful in further studies. Also, thank you for the encouraging letter that you wrote. God has really changed my life, especially in the last 5 years. I pray to learn more about the Bible and God's ways and what He wants from me. Your studies were inspirations to me and I thoroughly enjoyed doing them and learning from them. I only have 9 1/2 months left. When I leave He will always come first in my life. God bless you and thank you. MS

**Graduate Sherry:** *I did receive my bible, it's so beautiful. Thank you for it and for all that I have learned. I so enjoyed all the studies you've sent. I really learned a lot. I hate that they are truly finished. But once again, thank you so much for the bible. I love it! FL*

**Graduate Rondel:** Dear people at Little Lambs. I'm writing to inform you that I've received both of my diplomas and my beautiful New Study Bible and to specifically thank all of you there for your instructive course. I'm much better and happier finally having completed that entire course, 16 lessons. More intelligent about the scriptures and can understand a great deal more and thank you all very much also I'd like to add a scripture for you. It's

2 Cor 12:5-6 *I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. NIV* God bless all of you.



## Inmate Correspondence



Hello John, I'm just wondering if you served any time in the Florida prison system? Like maybe in Avon Park or Raiford in the 80's. if so do you remember me? I'm still serving time for Florida. I'm on my 39 year of the same sentence, just got transferred over here, to do hardship visits. Thank you for the warm welcome. Michael in CA.

Dear John & Eileen, I was over whelmed as I read your letter and saw how you personalized the welcome card you sent. The letter encouraged me! I get up at 4:45 am every day and spend time with the Lord because it's the only quiet time I have and I cherish it. I'm excited about doing this bible study! I love the Lord and have walked with the Lord since Dec, 1983, when I got saved at a Carmen concert at my home church! I had forgotten the fear of the Lord and that is what led up to me being here in prison. The enemy tried to destroy me and nearly did. But God has the power to heal & restore what the devil has taken. I understand that the consequences of my sin have a lifetime of damage. That overwhelms me at times but My Lord and Savior sustains me. My sin has destroyed relationships, some of which are irreparable, and most of the people from the church have dropped me like a bad habit. That hurts me deeply, especially since I have repented but it's like it doesn't matter to them. I only get mail from one friend and don't get commissary and nobody visits me. It could be pretty lonely in here. So your letter encouraged me. God bless you and your hearts towards inmates. I look forward to my next study. Chris, Tx

Little Lambs,

My name is Tanya, I'm 37 yrs old with 4 beautiful kids aged 1 yr to 16 years. I lost everything including my kids, job, car, house. I turned to drugs so I wouldn't feel nothing. I had a choice to be with my kids or run the streets and get high. Well I made the wrong choice. I chose the streets and drugs over my kids. My mother has all 4 kids. She adopted them. Thanks to God, I didn't lose them to the system. Well, the choice I made landed me in jail facing a lot of time. They want to give me 7 years with a first strike. I recently been saved and I'd like you to pray and keep not only myself but my cell mates in your prayers. We are all looking at a lot of time. God bless you, Tanya, CA



## Meet Antonio Cruz, Director, Director Hogar Resa Sebring

My name is Antonio Cruz, I am from Puerto Rico. I am 31 years old.

I am from a family that gave everything: they took me to church, and they told me good manners. But when I was 13 I started skipping class with older boys. Today some of them are dead, in jail and others living in the streets suffering using drugs. I was in that same path for 16 years, in the streets, drugs, jail, hospitals and making my family suffer a lot. I lost my son because of the drugs and the streets. I was paying more attention to the drugs and I didn't care about my life. One day, the third of November, 2013, I was in a bad depression. I couldn't go on. A pastor named Julio Matia invited me to his church. In the church they collected money to send me to a rehab called Hogar Resa in the United States. I've been 17 months in the Hogar. I am the director of the place in Sebring. I have my family back. I'm happy and have a love in my heart, plus I have faith which I lost when I was using drugs. But the best of all is that I have Jesus Christ in my heart, that is the truth and the life.



Tony has done a great job at Grace. He is in charge of the 10 or so men and the facility. It is continually being painted and updated and very well maintained. It is a pleasure working with these young men. Hogar Resa will be holding their graduation on June 6, 2015, in Avon Park.

### Avon Park Correctional Chapel Request/Need

The chapel orderlies at Avon Park Prison have noted that their wireless microphone has ceased to be functional! Having volunteer guest programs almost every day in the Chapel presents a problem. Their equipment is older and often in need of repair. They have requested that perhaps we could present their need to you. A good unit will cost about \$500. If you would like to help with this purchase, please send your donations to Little Lambs Inc. noted 'for chapel mic'. Thank you again for your willingness to help.

Via email Hi, Mrs. Sala, I recently requested your Bible study program be sent to my fiancé Paul I. at Marion Work Camp in Ocala. He received your letter and other materials yesterday. I can't thank you enough for the personal and encouraging touch, and I cried with joy as he read your letter to me. Would it be possible for me to get the same study so that we can go through it together? Again, thank you for your ministry. Tina, TN *We do let wives or husbands who request do the lessons with their spouse, helping them to keep bonded.*

### APRIL SCHEDULE 2015

Mondays...Bible Study, Avon Park Prison  
 Tuesdays...Overcomers Addiction Recovery  
 Avon Park Prison  
 Tuesdays...Marriage, Family, Parenting  
 Avon Park Prison  
 Wednesdays... Overcomers 6 pm  
 Bible Fellowship Church  
 Thursdays...Men's Living Pure Study  
 710 S Eucalyptus St 6:30 p.m.  
 Thursdays... Anger Management &  
 Biblical Boundaries 7 pm  
 710 S Eucalyptus St. Sebring

### Special Thanks

We want to thank Mr. And Mrs. Larry Milby, old friends of John, for donating a case of 20 Graduation Bibles last month. As you know, through our partner at Thomas Nelson, we are able to purchase these excellent bibles for \$385.00. They are so deeply appreciated as these letters testify!

Our special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Engerman, former volunteers, who helped us with the painting costs for the ministry. Tom has experienced a miracle healing of a tumor in his arm last year and we are very grateful for that.