

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626 MARCH 2012

# THE HOUR OF OUR DESTINY

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. Psa 2:1-3

Reading the news around the world brings to mind the second Psalm. Indeed, the heathen are raging against the Holy One. And it is happening in our American culture. This rage against "holy things" has destroyed the fabric of the family as no other thing has. Nothing is sacred any more. This rage at moral constraints has destroyed every vestige of authority. Our children are killing other children as a means of expressing their rage as we stand in horror. This rage is filling our people with drugs and alcohol because it is a way to have money without the necessary labor of honest gain.

In such a culture, we as Christians, have a singular role: to <u>live</u> the hope we have in Christ. There are so many voices today that people seldom listen to our voice, but our actions of love speak louder than our words. It is a fact that despite this devastated economy, charitable giving has exceeded all other years! This is love in action. We have unprecedented volunteer hours, more love in action.

Beloved, we know by the Word that this rage will increase. As the Body of Christ we stand alone against the world. The culture is always knocking on our doors through news, movies, people magazines, television, internet etc. We are called to stand against the culture, to be different; to be his 'peculiar people', different from all the cultures around us because we have his great law and we keep it. As the Body of Christ we help one another to stand in this evil day. It is our privilege to serve with the Body of Christ at this hour. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a <u>peculiar</u> treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: Exodus 19:5 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a <u>peculiar</u> people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9



## NEW GRACE PLACE STAFF

Meet the Body of Christ, Ruth Hoffman and Glenda Jones. They have joined the staff of Grace Place as volunteers. Ruth teaches a class on Tuesday night and Glenda is joining our housemother staff. Both of these ladies have a long history of classes and meetings with Little Lambs through which they have been prepared to take on these roles with the women of Grace Place. We welcome them wholeheartedly! Pray for them, the ladies, and for us!

**ALLELULIA** One of our greatest pleasures is to work with the men of Avon Park Prison. After six months of classes, we graduated on Overcomers class and a Marriage, Family and Parenting class. These are some of the men who graduated on February 7, 2012. Many were not available for the photo. Joining John, Eileen, and Charlie Coriell as teaching volunteers is Phil Esposito. Phil has a long experience with Little Lambs and has a burning desire to teach the word. Phil and his wife Ruth volunteered with us when we first came to Sebring and worked out of our home. Ruth has continued these almost 14 years as our office computer expert! She works every Tuesday and oversees the data input. We welcome Phil and are excited for his opportunity to pour into the men.





I think one of the most striking things to see is the change in the men and women when we do the class on verbal and emotional abuse. They seldom realize how their words have the power to destroy their wives and marriages. They do not see themselves as 'abusers' because they may not have hit anyone and it is a revelation to discover that they may have been very abusive!

### From Prison: What have I learned in this class?

What I've learned from family and marriage class is that my marriage is unhealthy. I've learned that my wife and I do not respect each other. There are no boundaries in my marriage. We are both codependent people. She is a giver and I am a taker. I've also learned that I am unhappy. I am unhappy but I am not ready for a divorce. I know that the unhappiness in my marriage is because of my actions. I have put my wife through so much abuse, physical, mental, emotional, sexual), hurt and more. I've learned in this class a few lessons on how to salvage what's left so it can be built on. Keep me in your prayers please. Freemel

#### Why am I taking Overcomers Class?

Because I have been involved in AA and NA, and substance abuse programs, worked with a sponsor, and applied what I learned, I decided I did not need another class. But as the days passed I thought about what I was telling myself and the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the fact that just because I know "the formula" of how to be an overcomer, does not necessarily make me one! When I do a true inventory of myself, I see I am not the overcomer I believe myself to be. Sure, I have had victory over many of my addictions for many years now. Yet in reality, I still have struggles and fall prey to my selfish desires. Am I an overcomer 100% of the time? No way! Do I always overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony? Honestly, outside of Christ, ND WAY! Can I truly say 100% of the time that I love not my life unto death? NO! If there is one thing that I have learned about me is that I cannot rely on yesterdays victories to determine my victories of today. Because every day my flesh cries out for more. My pride swells with past victories as if I did anything myself. My faults multiply and become transparent in the light of my denials.

So I thank God right now for opening my eyes just enough to recognize I am not all I think I am sometimes. Pride, lust, greed, gluttony, self-indulgent, and selfishness are always knocking at my door and I regularly crack the door open to allow small amounts to come in at a time, forgetting that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Or thinking I can hide it or handle it until the truth blows it all up in my face and I'm left stunned and asking, "What happened?" I look forward to growing with this course. Dale

Dear Partners, As you can see, we are so thankful for the new staff at Grace Place. It has been a little stressful these past few months but as we surrendered ourselves, God has brought us the women to work alongside us. As you know, Kim Tish came to us through the women's program at Dunklin. She is our teacher of the "phase teaching' and helps us to structure the day to day things at the program. As our needs have increased and the necessity of freeing up John and myself, we are investing in Kim's life by enrolling her 4 year old son in the Day Care of the First Baptist Church along with a small salary. We feel this will benefit Samuel as much as Kim and Steve. It will also enable her to be much freer to work with the women. We are very grateful for the Lord's provision to do this for her and we do ask for your continued support in this matter.

Along with Kim, we have been blessed to have Glenda Jones join our volunteer staff. Glenda and Steve Jones have participated in many of our classes and we have a long friendship with them. Glenda will help by spending not only some days but nights at the home. Glenda's daughter, Crystal, has also volunteered and will begin training in perhaps conducting boundary classes. She reported that she loves the classes and feels a great desire to bring that information to others.

Please keep us all in prayer as we structure this ministry. Jan, our office director, has returned to us after seven weeks out with a hip replacement. She is progressing very well and we all welcome her back. It is our joy to have such great staff. They know their jobs so well that all the work continues every day even though John or I may not be available. Our enrollment team of Tom and Carol Engemann keep the new students coming and Bill and Bonnie Clemmens keep the mail going out and Tom and Evangeline Johnson with Santos Galarza keep the Spanish students covered while Brother Charlie gives us Thursday off. Our Monday crew of Jay Chase and Monte Dowling keeps us supplied with printed matter and all our mail is taken care of by Sally Phares, Alice Latham, Eileen Sarracino, Margie Delong, Alberta Sims, the Millers, Delora Christian, Brother Charlie and Tom Johnson. Ruth Esposito and Judith Helping us to grade are Pauline Chabert and Brenda King. These things are so necessary for us as John is

experiencing some difficulties with his back. He will be seeing a neurosurgeon to see if they can help resolve some of his problems.

We also want to thank Brother Mike Karl for his friendship and steadfast help to us through the years. He has been a great friend to the ministry of Little Lambs and offers us sage advice born through his many years of service. We love you, John and Eileen

### SGHEDULE MARGH 2012

MONDAYS....Overcmers Recovery 7:30 pm Little Lambs Inc TUESDAYS.....Biblical Boundaries 6:45pm First Presbyterian Church THURSDAYS....Sexual Integrity for Men @ Little Lambs Inc. 6:30-8 pm