## John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry



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## A GROWING LITTLE PREACHER

Here is a letter from one of our students in prison that reads like a sermon, even though he is preaching to himself! For 17 years he thought he was a "Christian," doing things but inwardly serving himself. Then he got in trouble and got saved. It has been shortened for the newsletter, but we will be making it into a tract for sending into prison.



So broken over what I had become, I didn't want to hold on to anything of this world. I truly let go, and put on Christ Jesus the Lord. My problem all my life was my desire to excel and succeed in life by means of worldly pleasures. I wanted the best of both worlds. I wanted my best life now and eternal life. I could not have both and because pursuing the best life now brought me to prison, I let that go. My chief goal in life is to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ. I want Christ to be formed in me. I want to be a new creature in Christ created unto good works. I'm against TV because it is the center of everyone's life, believers and unbelievers alike. It is all they talk of. It's the very image of this present evil world. When I say TV, I also mean all entertainments of every kind. See I realized one important truth, Christ Jesus desires all of my mind, so if I give my mind to things other than Christ, it will produce death in me. If I give my mind to Christ, He will guide me into all truth and produce life. If it doesn't teach me the very knowledge of Jesus Christ's written word, then it's not going to produce eternal life. It will produce death. So all entertainments come under the scrutiny of Christ's word and His Holy Spirit. God speaks to us through what we see and what we hear. We worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Satan, the Deceiver, also uses our eyes and hearing to speak to us. People say this "Oh, Brother, you are legalistic". No. I'm not, because I'm not preaching you need to keep Moses law to be saved. You are saved by Grace through faith. Titus 2:11-13 teaches: True grace that brings salvation or the grace of God that brings salvation is the person of Jesus Christ appearing to all men, teaching us to deny worldly lusts and ungodliness. To deny it, don't do it! Keep yourself from it! Live soberly, righteously and godly in this present word. Obey the Word; be a doer of the Word. Also, I hear, "What will I do for fun if I give up the world?" If you live to be a hundred years old, what is 100 years compared to eternity? Eternity is forever and ever! Eternity will never end! 100 years compared to eternity is like one drop of water compared to the ocean. So what I do for fun: I sacrifice my life to serve God. Trusting that if I do, I'll have an eternity of happiness and joy and peace and righteousness. Jesus Christ said, "Whosoever loses his life for My sake and the gospels shall receive a hundredfold in this life and the world to come eternal life." One thing is certain: I lived a wordly carnal Christian life. It didn't save me. I never grew up onto the image of Jesus Christ. By giving up all of the world these last 4 years, I know I'm growing up into the image of Jesus Christ! Every time I travel through the Word on my Bible CD's, I learn something new abut Jesus Christ and His holiness and something new of grace and something new of His purpose and kingdom and most important, I learn something new of my own depraved wicked fallen heart. I need Jesus Christ more today than I did 4 years ago. If entertainment were not a distraction and if they didn't take a person's mind under its control and if said entertainments were producing the knowledge of Jesus Christ in me, I could see enjoying them. But they only feed the flesh and make the carnal mind more hostile to God. Anytime you reinforce the carnal mind you make it that much harder to be convicted by the Holy Spirit. Sin is very deceitful. It seems so harmless at first, till one day you are enslaved. My senses, eyes and ears, my seeing and hearing, need to come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Heb. 5:14), and if Christ is in me it is no longer I who live but Christ is living in me. So now what would Jesus Christ do if He were alive walking on earth as He was 2000 years ago? What would He read? What games would He play? What TV shows would Jesus Christ see? How much would Jesus eat? How much would He sleep? How much would He work out? How much would He work? How much would Jesus pray, read the Word, preach, operate in the gifts of the Spirit? We are bought with a price, our bodies belong to Jesus Christ because I agree with the Holy Spirit when I sin, I confess my sin, I don't excuse it.

## RUNNING THE RACE: GRADUATE THANKS

To the Salas and Staff,

I'd like to write to you all and let you know that I'm very thankful for all your efforts and time to teach me about our wonderful God. Thanks for your sacrifice, me and other lost souls can learn more in-depth knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your bible studies are very easy to understand and very informative. I'm so very happy that you used bible verses to back up all your teachings. Not only did you use verses, you had us go into God's word to see for ourselves the truths. Out of all the bible study courses I've ever done (I've done over 12 different ministries) yours is the best and most rewarding in knowledge and truth. I really enjoyed the cute sheep cards you sent with every graded lesson because they encouraged me to go on. I truly felt loved by all the work you all put into my growth



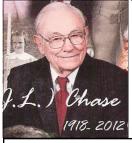
in the Lord. Thank you so much. It may have taken me years to complete the whole course but it all will not be in vain. I shall remember your work and love. You all are truly children of Jesus Christ and truly bringing a smile to God Almighty's face. I'll be praying that God will continue to bless us lost souls with your voice. This lost soul is now found thanks to you all. Thanks for the 'Flexcover Study Bible". I did receive it and will use it for the rest of my journey here on earth. I'll use it's truth to grow more in God's word and ingrain it's treasures into my heart. You all will always be my family in Christ and I hope to be united with you all soon. Thank you again for your love, time, sacrifice, knowledge, bible and your hearts. May God bless each of you forever. Love you all. Donnie M. Hobbs, New Mexico PS Thanks for the stamped envelopes to return my lessons! Your ministry is so awesome!

## TROUBLE GETTING STARTED: Pray for him

Dear john and Eileen Sala, Thank you for telling me the good news. As for me I'm not doing so good. I'm going through some hard times write now. Things I thought I would never do again. It's hard for me to stay clean and to do good in life. I been trying to change my life for a while but still no changes. Back to the same thing. I need help and I've been pray to God and asking for help. He has help me befor and He is showing me the way but I can never make it. I'm back doing the same thing. I don't like it. I feel that



the drug is taking over my life, and it's hard for me to stop. I want to stop but can't. I don't know why. God has help me befor in my life and I know He wants to keep on helping me but this drug keep pushing me away from him I even sold my brand new New Balance sneakers that cost \$50 that my family got me, to get some drugs like 2 weeks ago. I'm hurt for doing that and I'm lying to my family again I don't want to do that you know my life is trouble and unhappy and unsatisfied there is a big emptiness in me that can't be filled I want to change I really do I have a smoking problem that I can't control I need help my family will be mad if they will find out what I did with the sneakers I can't beleave that I did that I'm hurt inside I don't know what I was thinking. I wasn't thinking I was thinking about smoking that's all I don't know what to do all I can do is pray and ask God for help and strength you know maybe you guys can help me out and pray for me to give me the strength I need to change my life because the way I see myself is going down the drain and I don't want to go that way I really want to change my life around I really do. This ain't me at all. For a little while I thought I had change but I was wrong . I Know I can do it but something else is telling me not to, you know, but I have to for me and my family and for God and friends. In Romans 7:15-25 say everything but I know God is good and things will change hopefully soon. I just needed someone to talk to and give me some advice you know. Well hope t hear from you guys soon. Brian in Arcadia Fl John has written Brian a very long letter to encourage him and to help him grow up into a mature Christian. Perseverance is indeed a trait of the saints but it must be developed by going through trials and overcoming them!



Our Beloved Friend and Servant of God Jay Chase went to be with the Lord last month. His Memorial Service was in July. Mr. Jay was a jewel of a volunteer. He came faithfully and worked every moment here. He left us a legacy that is daunting. He served his country in three wars, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; retired from the military, raised two families after losing his first wife in a flood, and continued a life of service as an Elder with the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid for many years and volunteered at several other organizations. Our

Schedule for August 2012

Mondays...Overcomers @Little Lambs 7:30pm Tuesdays....Overcomers @ Avon Park Prison Thursdays..Sexual Integrity Mtg bi-monthly BIBLICAL

PARENTING/ANGER MANAGEMENT BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION ung years and volunteered at several other organizations. Our Mondays are not the same without him and his dry humor.

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John is working through some health problems but on the mend. We are slated to take a vacation to North Carolina this next week and look forward to lots of contemplation. This will be a plus for John since he has been working without me for a couple of weeks. Thank you all for your support and love and prayers.

John & Eileen