

## Christmas Blessings from us to YOU

## Dear Partners,

It is with a mixture of sadness, even grief but relief that I report to you this news. John has been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. The ramifications of this diagnosis are huge. It was in his family and in his addiction he treated himself and his pain without realizing the consequences of it going medically untreated. Having lost 5 inches in height and suffering with neck pain he finally saw a specialist at Moffitt last month and was given the diagnosis. But it seems that the arthritis has already affected his spine and it necessitated surgery from the skull to the midback. On Tuesday November 27th, this surgery was done at Moffitt and he is progressing well despite the difficulties.

However, John can no longer do the work of the ministry. He has not functioned in that capacity for some time now. Treating his pain has been a constant challenge in his life and caused some failure. He has submitted his resignation and retirement effective Nov. 17th. The Board has accepted his resignation and we will work to continue this ministry as before. We have an excellent volunteer staff and they are so eager to continue their ministry in the prisons. As you know the financial atmosphere is very unstable now. We have submitted ourselves to the Lord and will continue as long as the Lord allows us to do so.

John has been so instrumental in teaching all of us at Little Lambs Inc. how to minister to inmates, and the things that mattered most to them. His legacy is the burden that he has placed in all our hearts for the men and women behind bars. His motto truly was "leading prisoners from crime to Christ." He has navigated the prison system for us and taught us how to do the same. He has shown us the importance of even the little things for those who have nothing. The letters of appreciation that we receive every day is a testament to his philosophy of prison ministry. He was also the guiding force behind the bible studies that the inmates love and are disciple with. Now in retirement, John can concentrate on taking better care of himself, knowing that the work of Little Lambs goes on.

Through your generosity, Little Lambs maintains a ministry of bible study to countless men and women behind bars, a ministry at Avon Park Prison through classes and mentoring, a presence in the community with Christian Addiction Recovery; community education classes, work with the courts, and lots of counseling. My heart has always been very sympathetic to the family of the addict and we are able to give them lots of support. We hope to have the funds this year to continue Grace Place.

I and the staff want to tell you that we love you and wish you the happiest and blest Holiday season ever. It seems so much easier to block out the world and the inevitable and move deeper into the Lord now that we are not distracted by politics. Remember, Israel and God's people are the key to the End Times.

We want to thank Tanglewood Community Church this Christmas season for their special efforts to help us minister to the people in the classes we serve and to our Volunteers. They have been a special force every year in making gifts and bibles and holiday treats for us. Special thanks to Diane Lowry for her tireless efforts on our behalf.

I want to say my thanks to Jan Ryan and Charles Coriell for their unfailing support and love for the Ministry of Little Lambs Inc. Their service on our Board of Directors has encouraged me so much. And to the many men and women who grade those lessons and send them out day after day, I pray God bless you more than ever. To Phil Esposito, Jeff Shoemaker and Richard Percy the baton is being passed to minister to the men and women in need and we are behind you 100%. And to you, our Partners, God bless you throughout this Christmas Season and the New Year.





SALAS, I LOVE YOU GUYS AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT. I HAVE LEARNED THINGS BY YOUR STUDIES I WAS NOT AWARE OF AND I BELIEVE YOU ARE BLESSED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. EVERY TIME I GOT A NEW STUDY IN THE MAIL THOSE LITTLE PICTURES OF THE LAMBS ALWAYS MADE ME SMILE. RE BLESSED, JOHN

Dear Little Lambs, First and foremost, thank you and bless you for your ministry. You just can't put a price on the valuable knowledge you give us students needing our swords sharp to fight the unseen enemy. You have truly blessed me. I received the Thomas Nelson Study Bible that you sent me. What a blessing! It will be well used. Thank you for all your ministry has given me in my walk with God's will for my life. Serving Christ, James, Fl



## Anger Management Class Essays

I learn more about boundaries and what they are: and how to use them and respect them and how to say "NO". My wife says I am a new man so I thank you and all you did for me. David

To sum it up, I learned how to make a family and keep it in control and Love, to fill our love tank with God. I loved this class and wish I would have learned this before I would have the life I used to live. But with the things that I learned, I'm gonna put it in good use. So I say thanks for everything you have taught me. You are the one thing helped me change. Tyrone

There were a number of topics that interested me the most:

STATISTICS: if I had not taken this class, I would never believe what really goes on in this world, not only with children but adults and parents using children as a pawn. I was in that position once and knew it but would not think it this could happen to me.

DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY & SHAME: I am not going to go into detail, but this topic showed me what a real problem that faced me for the rest of my life. I had no idea that abuse can be like <u>soul murder!</u>

BOUNDARIES: I have always know that God's word is the way that we should want to live our lives, I think even a child one of the first things we learn is the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, and how to pray. But you taught me limits, choices, and consequences that I am using more than ever. I enjoyed listening and learning from you. You keep my attention level around 10 every week. And I feel you have a great program. I hope that everyone that comes through your doors take it to heart. Charles

What I learned this week..... Ministering to a lady in trouble, I did some research on the drug Klonopin and withdrawal from it. It seems to be a very popular drug in medicine. What I found held some surprises for me. Klonopin has a myriad of side effects and a person reaches a tolerance level rather quickly and then requires a larger does, and it is highly addictive and often produces symptoms worse than those it was treating. It is often given for anxiety or panic and to sleep. To quote some former users, "the withdrawal is worse than heroin." Heroin withdrawal usually lasts a week and is extremely painful. Klonopin withdrawal could last a year and is just as painful or more. And like all benzodiazapines, withdrawal has to be done very carefully and with supervision. The dose must be lowered very slowly over months and supplements given to replace those depleted by the Klonopin. The trick of the enemy is to make someone think that they need these medications to get over their situations. We rely on the medical establishment to help us over our emotional pain, instead of taking it to the foot of the cross. Then the cure becomes worse than the disease. It becomes the disease.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:1-4

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## SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2012

Mondays: Overcomers @Little Lambs 7:30 pm Tuesdays : Overcomers @ Avon Park Prison Thursdays: Sexual Integrity Meeting every other week @ Little Lambs Inc.

Parenting/Anger Management New Class Starting in January, 2013