

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626 OCTOBER 2015

Our Mission: Making Disciples

We had a letter years ago that helped us define our mission: to love as Jesus loved, making disciples. As a 'School of the Bible' for new Christians who come from very worldly and violent backgrounds, we have formulated a concept of grading that we feel shows that love to them. Our graders are trained to use different ways of encouraging students who often have poor educational background or skills. We make encouraging comments throughout the lesson. We give every one an "Excellent" for effort. We send the Little Lambs' cards that are each one personally signed "We love you, Little Lambs". We use a bright red ink to grade all the lessons, but one huge thing we never do is use negative comments or "x" marks on the lesson. We can envision a young child from a very violent family, worrying about their personal safety or their mother's safety, trying his best but coming home with papers full of "x's" and having to explain this to angry folks. Most in-mates carry this little child inside of them and their reactions are the same. The following letter is the perfect example of this:

Hello, My Christian brother and sister. I'm quite sorry about the essay part of the studies. See, I've never never done one before and this was so hurtful to me and embarrassed about it. I thought, what would they say?' Those ugly words came to me with many blows stating "you'll be laughed at like an idiot and silly fool." But I've broke away from what Satan tried to tell me. I remember those abusive and hurtful words from my step-dad when he was drunk beating me to unconsciousness. Now these days when people seems to drink I've simply walk away from them all because, you know, I guess they all start looking and acting like my step-dad, ugly and nasty, very critical. You know what got me in prison. Anger § paranoia, very low self-esteem. I had a very dark heart. It's still there and won't go away. But don't let me keep you on such a subject. Our Lord Jesus will wipe it all away through prayer and doing my bible studies and meditation and reading the word. Hey, you know I love the bible studies. It's the greatest like you guys. I love talking, being around lovable men and women that has good hearts that stay in the word of God. Plus, they won't make me feel very ugly inside and like that child that been abused. So I'm sorry I could not do the essay. I wish I could get such a book on essay and math plus a Christian brother or sister to help because I need some friendly words that could heal that little child pains that dwells in me. You know it's so dark. Please help. Ok, thank you. You take care out there. Oh, lets also keep in mind that families that lost loved ones far across the world. Sincerely yours, van Huntsville, TX

So you see, we try to be gentle, yet hold them responsible. Every missed or omitted scripture they are asked to copy and send it with the next lesson. We require all assignments be completed. If they can't do the essay, we simply as that they copy the verses in question. You see, we are making disciples. They learn to follow the rules just as the Lord asks us to obey His rules. We know this is challenging to someone who has never followed the rules and feels that rules don't apply to him or her. But gently over and over, we insist that it be done. At last resort, we hold the lessons until everything is up to date. At the same time we encourage and remind them of the prize at the end. But it seems the Lord Himself does the work and they become good students and apply their heart and mind to learning for learning's sake. They learn to love the Word and obey. Now we have a true disciple. Mission accomplished. PTL

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Dear John & Eileen,

Thank you again for your study course I appreciate you very much. God let me sign you up one more student already! I'm growing everyday in the Lord. I finally get we operate and are born again in the Holy Spirit! I'm learning to use the gifts I've been given, according to 1 Cor 1:7-8 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

That scripture came to me in a dream, I never knew what it was! God kept saying I've given you the key! And that scripture was it! I just thought I'd share that with you two! I love my new Bros and Sisters in Christ! Love is the answer to it all! I see it time and time again! I'm reading Eph 3 over and over, it speaks volumes to me and I love verses 14 through 21 especially. By for now and God bless your ministry.

Brother Dove

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Eph 3:14-21

This letter was written in 2009. Last week I spoke to Mark's aunt and he is still doing very well and serving the Lord. What a praise!

Letter from a dear friend now attending a Christian University with all A's and one B:

Hi, My name is Mark. I am 21 years old from Sebring, FL. When I entered into middle school, I made up my mind that I would be a part of the "in crowd" so to say. I never was truly accepted by the "popular kids." No matter how hard I tried, I was always being rejected. At this point in my life, without truly realizing it, low self-esteem had overtaken my life. As I entered into high school I had a fear of communicating with my peers. I only became social to people who talked to me. In High School is when I was introduced to the drug world. Finally, I thought I had found a way to be accepted and to experience happiness in my life. On the Junior Varsity Soccer team, I met a couple of people who smoked marijuana and asked if I would like to join. Of course I was enticed and interested as well because it looked fun and I was now being accepted. After a few months, I started developing characteristics of anger, selfishness, and disconnecting from the people who truly loved me. In tenth grade I hooked up with my second real girlfriend. Eventually through her I was introduced to heavier drugs. In twelfth grade I began doing cocaine and pills. At this point in my life, drugs became a lifestyle and necessity.

I ended up in jail one night for a first degree felony (which is punishable by life) and two 2nd degree felonies. I was 113 pounds when I entered jail and at that time I re-dedicated my life to Jesus. The odds seemed to be against me. Finally, through John Sala and his ministry, whom I am very grateful for, God made an avenue for me to come to the Faith Home in Tampa. Here I am being discipled, accepted, loved by Jesus. These mighty men and women of God have dedicated and committed their lives to helping other people change their life.

Jesus has been so good to me and has set me free from bondage of drugs, bad relationships and depression. The truth of His word has captured my heart and set me free. I praise God for the people who have supported me all the way such as my Mom and Dad, John Sala, and the Lighthouse Gospel Mission. Now I desire to live life everyday to the fullest for Jesusl





Dear John and Eileen, Hey, how are the two of you doing? I felt the need to write this quick. On the envelope that the lesson was sent to me in it is dated June 19, 2015. I didn't

receive it until last week, September 2, 2015. I don't know where it was all this time, but I

want to let you guys know that I am in it to win it!. I have not given up on you guys and I want to continue on and finish the lessons. You guys have taught me so much and I really appreciate the time and effort that you put in to this to help those in need. I love y'all and pray for you every time I get down on my knees. Terrance

Dear Little Lambs, **WOW!** What an amazing study! I've got **serious writer's cramp** but I'll continue the courses as they come. Pray for me and my wife. Gary

Graduate Delua writes from Tennessee: Just a note to let you know I got my bible on Aug. 24 and to let you know I love it! And I've used it all week. Thank you for I have learned a lot from the studies I've done and I've started another one. Delua

From Victor..

I want to say, I really enjoyed this study. I am grateful that God put it on my heart to request it. I love the baby picture you sent of me. I'm a pretty little feller, huh? LOL, I sent it to my sister and told her to put it in her bible and show me off, AMEN! When I seen that picture, I gotta be honest about it, I cried! Surely softened up my old hard heart. I'm growing and I believe I have come into a place in Christ that is do or die! Praise God, some and most Christians never make it that far. I'm not saying by any means that I'm better, I'm burnt toast if I don't and I know this. You ever been in that spot in your growing state? Man, I been doing time off and on since 1991, I did 5 years the first time, 2nd time, I did 10 years flat, was on Texas Ten Most Wanted in 1998 until I turned myself in. Got out in May,2008, went back in 2009, stayed till 2011, went back in 2013, out in 2014, back in 2014 till now. I been here

Boundaries Anger Management Darenting Currently in session @ First Dresbyterian Church, Sebring 10 weeks Call for appt to enroll 863-273-7388 ever since. I have 13 months to go. I don't have another chance out there. Next time I'll face life in here and I don't need that. I need the help of Jesus in a major way. I have nothing, "O". I am 45 years old, and have spent 20 years locked up already. I wanna live for Jesus now. I ain't got time for games. I wanna be useful for God's Kingdom. I'm a citizen of it! Thanks for the studies. God bless and keep life wire juiced in Jesus! Love y'all in Christ, Victor

Brother Victor sounds like a gang man! But his honesty and lack of pretense is refreshing as I'm sure God finds it that way too! Please continue to pray for all the men and women at the sound of our studies and classes. The world is a hard unloving place.

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Dearest John and Eileen. I've not written, forgive me. I was transferred and Yahweh has blessed me with an **new life and it is a joy**. I'm no longer in 24 hour lockdown and am in **God's Pod** here! I am truly in bliss. I am in a new pilot program in the College of the Southwest Bachelor's Program in Theology. It is a Seminary College program. We are hand picked, 25 students from every prison in New Mexico and we have a great responsibility to do some good. We're going to be able to go to any prison and start a God's Pod or a Church type program. I am so honored to be one of the first to be in the Program. God is so good and He has a plan for all of us. Now we have a purpose and mission to complete. I still have not received my Graduation Bible. Have they returned it to you? Do you have any information on ministries that can help with a concordance and bible dictionary and lexicon Greek or Hebrew. I could really use these items in my seminary course. Thank you for your help in learning and studying of the whole Bible . You are the reason I'm blessed as I am thank you for all you've done for me. I just wanted you to know that. Victor New Mexico Although we sent Victor his graduation bible, we had to follow it with the delivery confirmation number and the tracking information from the post office so they can locate his bible. Another student for life! Amen

OUR NEW BLESSING



Help us welcome our newest volunteers, Mike and Patsy Young. We are so glad to have these hard working folks. Mike and Patsy moved to Sebring in April of this year from Mississippi. Patsy was in education all of her career ending up as a consultant to under performing schools. Mike owned and operated 2 bakeries in the Ridgeland, Ms., area. Together they have 5 daughters and 3 grandchildren with one more coming in October. They are active in Bible Fellowship Church and also volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Mike and Patsy are coming on Wednesdays to help with packing, printing, wrapping bibles, general duties. Patsy, a retired teacher, is our newest grader. We ♡ retired teachers!

Dear Partners,

October is here and it's a regular fertile month! Patsy and I will both welcome grandchildren in October. I will be traveling to Durham, NC, for the birth of Natalie's first child. I'm excited!

We want to thank those of you who generously supported our drive for Graduate Bibles. We will be able to purchase \$3500 in bibles. PTL. As our new students continue to drastically increase, now up to almost 200 a month or so, we will be needing them.

I am asking that you pray for Melinda. She came in this week, unsmiling, pinched face, speaking in clipped tones, angry! She was referred to us by her roomate in the domestic violence shelter. It seems that we are well known at the shelter. She poured out 'her story', a past full of abuse and rejection, first at home, than from the 2 husbands and boyfriend. She lost her first child to DCF through all of this and has 2 small children with her now. Melinda and the woman (with her two children) in the shelter have found an apartment together. The woman began taking her to church. She is a yeller by her own admission. Her mother yelled, now she does. This has caused DCF to be looking into her mothering. She fears that she will lose her children and came to take a parenting course before that happens.

We had a glorious morning! God sent another "Little Lamb". When you realize this, that this one is especially sent by the Lord because He said, I will send you little lambs, it makes it so special. I shared the Lord with her and we prayed. I started her in bible study and gave her bibles for her and her children and a bible story CD for her children. The children's CD is a good tool because it will benefit **her** as well as she did not finish high school and her skills are a little low. It is an excellent way to reinforce the gospel. God is sure and can cure all these defects.

When she left she had the biggest smile and reached over with the biggest hug. Amen. She will be coming for Parenting Class so we will have ongoing contact with her. Please pray for her, she has so many family problems.

SCH	EDULE NOVEMBER 2015
Mondays	Bible Study
	@Avon Park Prison
Tuesdays	Overcomers in Christ Recovery
-	(a) Avon Park Prison
Tuesdays	Biblical Marriage Family & Parenting
-	(a) Avon Park Prison
Wednesdays	sBiblical Marriage Family & Parenting
_	Anger Management Class 7-9 pm
a F	irst Presbyterian Church Sebring FL

Counseling by Appointment 863-273-7388

I will be out a week this month to be with Natalie for her son's birth. Jan will be in the office meeting everyone's needs. Our friend, Harry Latham, went home to be with the Lord this month and we are rejoicing. Fall is in the air bringing some relief from the oppressive heat, but now to deal with all the leaves. But God is on the throne and will reign in the hearts of men who do His will! And He will reign in the earth. He is moving, and who can stop Him? NO ONE. Amen.

> Much love, Eileen Sala