PO Box 504 @ 710 S Eucalyptus St Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626 **April 2017** 

The age old question asked of Jesus and stills continues to be asked today, "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you be the Christ, the Son of God?" Matt 26:38

The whole world is mad to deny this very question even though Jesus proved who He was by rising from the dead! This question is packed full of meaning: <u>If you are the Son of God</u>, we will owe you allegiance, honor, obedience, worship. You would be our Master, and we would be considered your subjects, your slaves.

This thought was abhorrent to the leaders of Israel in Jesus' day despite his many miracles and his many fulfilled prophecies Thus they went ahead and crucified him.

Yet we remain with the same question today and the implications of what that means. If we are to acknowledge Jesus is indeed the Son of God, our Sovereign Lord, it would turn our world upside down. Yet we see a strong and conscious effort just as in the Tower of Babel to "throw off the shackles of God." The whole world may be coming to Christ in record numbers but here in America we have many in high places firmly set to deny him and his sovereignty over them. They have dared to rewrite his marriage laws; wrong is called right as we are awash in pornography and export it around the globe. They call God a liar and say that life does not begin at conception and that it is their right to kill babies in the womb and outside the womb and use their little bodies in commercial products for money. They sell our children mind numbing drugs to kill their soul. Now they deny that God knew what he was doing when he created us male and female! Like King Saul, our land is steeped in a lying spirit. Joel 3:3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.KJV

Yet individually we must all answer this question for ourselves. Because if indeed we accept Jesus as the Son of God, our Christ, our Redeemer, we owe him our lives! His resurrection is our resurrection. Dead lives become alive. Just as Jesus rose from the dead —an act only God can do— we are raised to new life in Him. There remains nothing else we can do but give our lives wholeheartedly over to Him, to love Him and to serve Him. And to share this gospel with those who don't know Him.

Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Col 2:12-15 NKJV

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he lives, he lives unto God. Rom 6:4-10 KJV

Dear Little Lambs Family,
I want to thank you all for my Special
Bible as a gift. I'm so glad to have a wonderful time to be close to our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ who love me with everlasting love. Even if we have honest
hearts, learning and growing in the truth
is not a magical process that happens
without our involvement (Pro 2:1-5). We'll
be looking at some of these God-given
tools and how to use them to find the
truth we need to grow in wisdom, obedience, and spiritual maturity.

To love the way he does
Is a gift he's given to me;
I'm sitting in this cell alone,
Yet inside I'm truly free
No one can hurt me;
Because I have my Savior's
loving grace.
When I close my eyes at night
No longer am I in this place.
I promise if you search for him,
My Jesus Christ is real.
I love you all too and I need
some more bible work! Landell, Tx

Dear John, my name is Joshua. I'm 27 yrs. old from New Jersey and I'm serving 5 years in prison for a burglary. I'm writing you because I have truly decided to turn my life over to Jesus Christ. I have been living a life of drugs, stealing, fornication, etc. and through al this I realized that I was searching for one thing: LOVE! I've realized that no matter how high I got or how much I stole that the void was still there. In prison I've looked for God. I had become a Muslim and was a Muslim since 2012. And still to no avail, the void remained. It took until I came to Max Management back in November of 2016 for an assault on an officer, than a day later losing my mother to a massive heart attack that I finally surrendered my life over to God. I decided from that point on to serve Christ. So this is why I have written you. I was wondering if you can help me obtain my goal of becoming a pastor. Please write me with your response. I truly thank you. Truly written by Joshua G. FL

Dear Mr. Sala, I am 44 yrs. Old, I'm locked up in Texas. I am married to a great woman. For 12 years we have had our ups and downs. I read your story and WOW, I was throwed off to see how God worked in you. I'm tired of this life I live, being locked up all the time. Now my kids and my wife should not be putting up with me but do out of love. My family has my back as well this time. I pray to God I never do hard time in prison.

Your story touched me that I cried because I know I was that mean guy growing up although I never shot in my veins but all the rest I have done or seen. I know God as a divine reason for me. He has brought me back from the dead when I was 20 yrs. From a really bad car wreck. Praise God is was the one hurt the worst. I have always seen myself tougher than the rest. I guess it all got worse when I buried my older brother at 17 yrs. old. My dad wasn't around and I saw my mother struggle and fight all our lives. The beatings I got and the ones I took for my older sister by shielding her. I felt that I was stronger and could take it better no matter what the cost.

I feel that my mother made me stronger and when I left home at 15 for almost throwing my stepfather out a window after I beat him senseless in front of my younger siblings. My older sister saved him by touching me on the shoulder and saying, 'don't do it brother, he's not worth it.'

I came to my senses and let him go. I always made sure my mother was taken care of. I would send money to pay the bills and for my younger siblings. I felt my mind going after my brother but when my mother died I died with her. No matter what she put me through I was lost. I cost me my first marriage than drugs my second.

While I was in jail, God showed me how I failed my wife now all the way. So that's why your story touched me so hard. I feel so much better knowing someone else won the fight in front of me. I will win this battle and give God all the Glory for it. I was wondering if you had some material to keep and show me more of the Word of God, so that when I get out I can be that son, brother, husband and father that God wants me to be. Thank you and love the book! Mario, Tx

Dear John & Eileen, I hope that I am not doing something that I should not be doing. When asked by a new believer, "what's the best way to learn your bible?" I tell them, "Little Lambs Inc.." then I tell them about you guys. I let them know that your systematic conveying f the Word is Awesome. I even let a new believer talk me out of the new 'Open Bible" you sent to me. He and two others were asking good questions. It's time to swoop! I want to thank you for teaching me to look for and where in the bible to begin. Could you and would you sign these guys up? I believe through the grace of God with your help I'm one day closer to home. Your brother in Christ, Bruce. (3 new students)

One of the most exciting letters I think we've received! (the hardest to read, but the letter one of the best!) Gregg (Coyote) has been incarcerated 26 years and so full of hope. Pray for him. One happy Coyote!

Dear Family Little Lambs,

Wow! God is awesome! Feb. 22 I saw the head parole commissioner lady over this region on parole@ she said she would like for me to be a part of the 18 month Christian Program at Carl Vance Unit. Wow! I will have personal mentor, be adopted by a family, and have a bank account, apartment and car at the end of the 18 months program. Wow! That's just what I need to integrate back into society after 26 years in prison! Next session starts May 5th. She says my release date will be 18 months after that. Thank you, Jesus! And you all, for all you have done for me in my walk with Jesus! The commissioner lady told me to write the Head Coordinator and let her know that she referred me to the program, if she will accept me. I am sure she will, having been referred by the head commissioner of the Parole Board. Keep me in your prayers that all will go ok with the program. I will stay in touch and continue the lessons. You, your family and ministry are in my thoughts, heart, prayers daily. Have a wonderful day in Jesus. Sincerely with respect, Gregg "Coyote', Tx.

Dear Brother & Sister,

Been meaning to tell y'all something! When I got the "Open Bible" from y'all for graduating, I purposed (by God's grace!) to read the whole Bible in one month! I did it in 25 days!!! It was so great! I have a symbol I made up: OT JC that I put by scriptures in the margin— it means "old Testament reference to Jesus Christ" and I ended up with TONS of 'OT/JC' MARKINGS!!:) So many

OT JC

O.T. references to Jesus—who could ever doubt Him?! Helen, AR



Greetings from Ca.. Hope you all well and blessed. I received my Completion certificate as well as my graduation one. I have to say that I am proud. I began the course as a kick starter to my faith. I use it to keep me studying and in the bible. Little did I know I would learn as much as I have. I learned that the bible is precise. And it is not for interpretation or for man to change it in any way. I always believed that if I had any questions it is somewhere in the Word of God. The bible correspondence course has shed light on so much of the bible and what it says. I have been instructed on how to treat my wife and how to raise my children and I owe it all to your course. Thank you. Thank you for the bible that I do treasure because I earned this bible and it was given to me for a job accomplished by me. Your lesson and correspondence is different from all the rest. Because you talk to us as if you were family and in God's eyes you are. I will do the same when I talk to others when I tell them about the Word and what Jesus has done for them. I am not good at speaking but I will do what I can. I am currently on a fast and I will pray for your work, I am going to appear in front of the Board to see if I am suitable to be released on April 25, 2017. I have been in prison since 1988 for murder. And today I am no where near the same person. Please say a prayer for me because I can honesty say I am a changed man and a follower of Christ. God Bless. Brint. Ca. letter of recommendation sent to parole board.

Dear Brother John, Shalom? My name is Godfrey. I am an inmate at Jackson Co. Jail. This week a friend recommended me to read your book, "I'm Not Coming Back." After doing so, I was inspired by it. We ended up discussing the book in Bible study group and eventually we found out that a number of the members had a similar experience like yours. Some said that they have been in prison before but despite that they always said that they were not coming back. They found themselves behind bars again mainly because they never believed in God's supreme authority and living in his ways.

Your book, "I'm Not Coming Back" has been an eye opener for most of us; even for those who are in jail for the first time. This is why I'm writing to you to request for some additional bible study guide material. Such as daily readings and other relevant books you might have. We would also like to invite you to minister to us when you get a chance. Thank you so much for sharing your story and we pray that may God bless you abundantly so you may continue expanding His kingdom. Thank you. Godfrey.



## An Easter Blessing: Hogar R.E.S.A. Women's Center Avon Park, FL

We are happy to congratulate Hogar RESA of Avon Park on their new facility to open in the next month or so. It has been a long, hard road from the vision and the burden to the final reality. An old home, completely renovated by the loving hands of the men of the Hogar RESA program, the home is now ready for occu-

pancy by women with addiction problems. The only remaining work is to complete deck in the rear of the house and later, fencing.

Always having sympathy not only for men caught in addiction, but for women in the same devil's net, Carmelo Ruiz and his wife, Maria, carried this burden as the men's program has expanded. Surrendering to the need and the call, they purchased a property in faith and the work began for this refuge to women with severe problems. They are joined in this effort by Pastor Eduardo Lebron and his wife, Carmen. Together these two women will supervise the new women's program. Although the women will not be required to work outside the program, they are thinking of ways that they can work on the large property surrounding the house in Avon Park, located across from Lake Verona near downtown Avon Park.

With the capacity of 15 beds, the waiting list is already full. They will begin intake in a couple of weeks. Maria and Carmen are developing their curriculum and program details. They have already acquired a housemother with experience in this field who will live in the home. Remembering all the work and all the details that we had to work through for Grace Place, I can appreciate their courage and

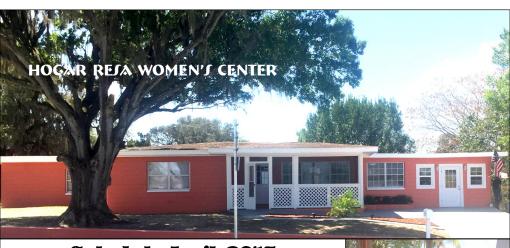
strength.

All of this is made possible by the 72 young men in the Hogar Resa program who diligently bake the thousands of cakes and pies and then sells them throughout the state to raise the funds for their program.

Recently, the program has decided to hold their own 'recovery church' and have been looking for a place for their services. We hope that they will find a permanent place because the meetings have become a powerful tool in their recovery.

We are proud of the men who actually did the construction and all the many jobs in getting this tremendous iob done. Below are Scott Silvestre (Sebring) and Hector Garcia (Avon Park facility) working at the home. Hector will be graduating in the May Graduation ceremony but will remain in the area with a pledge to continue to help the ministry of Hogar Resa. Please pray for them and help if you can. (Sebring Hogar would like work out equipment for their facility.)

Blessings this Easter, Eileen



## Schedule April 2017

Mon...Bible Study, Phil Esposito

@Avon Park Prison

Mon...Overcomers, Willie @ Hogar Resa

Tues... Marriage, Family & Parenting,

Eileen @ Avon Park Prison

Wed...... Overcomers, Jeff S. 6 pm

(a) Bible Fellowship Church

Wed...... Anger Management &

Biblical Boundaries 7 pm

@ First Presbyterian Church

Thurs.....Overcomers, Willie Hubbell

@ Hogar Resa

Thurs... Codependent Recovery Women, 6:30 pm Mary Tinberg @ Little Lambs

Anger Management/Parenting Call 273-7388 for appt to register