

Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry
www.littlelambsinc.org

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

2016

2016 SPANISH

Lessons	1,175
Graduates	33

2016 School of the Bible

Month	Courses graded	Graduates
Jan	401	8
Feb	414	16
Mar	438	12
Apr	410	15
May	443	14
Jun	367	12
Jul	384	16
Aug	391	14
Sep	382	12
Oct	379	15
Nov	370	14
Dec 22	275	9
total	4,664	157

New Students 1,468



710 S Eucalyptus St

2016 in Review– We are Blessed

Another victorious year! Everyone is excited as old students drop in or write and give us encouragement. Our prison staff has rounded out with 3 teachers in the prison and Pastor Joe at the county jail. Each group is having astounding success with discipleship for so many men. Our groups at Avon Park Prison are growing and we hope for more new programs in 2017. Our volunteers are coming up with new ideas all the time.

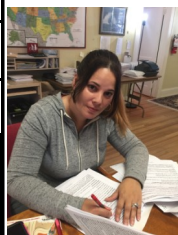
In our Bible Study program, we welcomed over 1,700 new students this year alone. A trend we are seeing is that more students are continuing to graduation. In 2015 we graduated 122 inmates; this year we have graduated 157. This is huge increase of 29%! As usual, we are facing a postage increase this January. The price for a 'flat', a large manila envelope, will go up from \$0.94 for the first ounce to \$0.98. I would say that over 70% of our mail is flats. We placed over 500 bibles into prisons & jails in 2016.

Our new women's recovery program on Thursdays is off to a great start and growing. Sometimes it takes a lifetime to learn how to say 'no'.

Our biggest challenge in 2017 will be replacing our precious volunteer staff. We have so many that have had to stop for health reasons and we miss them! We spend so much time together that we are the Little Lamb Family. And they all consider these inmates family too. We recognize the name, the problems they have with reading or writing or expressing themselves. Or problems with discipline! It has been our greatest joy to serve the Lord with you at Little Lambs! Thank all of for your support in 2016.

Meet Our Newest Volunteers

Sandra Vilain called me in December and asked if I needed a volunteer. In visiting with her, I found that she is bi-lingual! But she also told me she was handicapped. Sandra came to the office for orientation with her service dog, Shasha. To my surprise, I recognized her as the young lady I sat behind that Sunday at Bible Fellowship Church. Sandra is a veteran with 14 years of service. After leaving the service she worked at the Youth Academy, a youthful offender program at Avon Park Prison for 6 years. In the last two of those years, Sandra developed a right sided paralysis that has remained. At the Youth Academy she was able to minister to the young people and enjoyed that very much. She and her husband have 4 children of their



own. Sandra is computer literate and is going to serve as our new Spanish School supervisor. To accommodate Sandra, our dear, dear friend, Bill Dailey, has constructed a new handicapped entrance at the front of Little Lambs. January will be her orientation into our computer programs although she has already graded a few lessons. Pray for Sandra to heal and let Bill know he much we appreciate the new entrance!





Dear John & Eileen, One of my goals is talking about God a little more than just talking. I plan to be able to pull on the ears of the younger generation of inmates that are buck wild in the streets because I know that their minds are starving for knowledge, this newer, younger, smarter generation these days, have no future plans for themselves. They really do think that where they're at in their neighborhoods is all that there is to life! Its really sad to see these guys with 1, 2 and 3 years getting out of prison with no hope and nothing to gain out of their God given opportunity to see the streets again. The scariest is because you can see how bad the education for the smaller kids is. The young dudes coming into prison nowadays have been like that dry sponge sitting next to the sink watching the world pass them by. The bad thing is that everyone uses this sponge for something! They are the little tools in our lives that people take for granted. We need them just as much as they need us!

Mail BOX

An Unusual problem.

Dear John & Eileen. I was moved to my permanent camp and my mail has been missing. I really enjoy doing these lessons and there is a small void now in my life. I am having this issue with all my mail. I did not foresee that upon release or upon completion of all these courses that such a void would exist. I think I understand post partum depression or at least separation anxiety. Oh, I still read my bible daily and pray often. There is a fire that will not be quenched. It is the massive amount of free time and the wondering mind to fill. Do you have any suggestions for my situation? I enjoy these lessons and know that they will end. I am glad this mini-crisis has occurred now and not waited upon release to pop up. It will be much easier to go through now but then with Christ all problems are easy for Him. Perhaps, writing out this problem has presented the solution. Trust in Him and keep a journal expressing my hopes and fears. I think I like the idea very much. Please send my lessons and tell me what you think about my issues and solution. I value input from elders in the faith. Thank you for your ministry to us and the Lord Jesus Christ. Your brother, Gerald Tx

A letter from one of our very early students! A favorite who had a nickname back when he first went to prison: Cowboy
He now updates us and the news is very good! He just can't stop studying God's Word!

John & Eileen, first I pray that this card finds you and the ministry in the best of health and spirit. Well, I haven't heard from you in a while. I'm still following the Lord faithfully. I have grown a lot since you led me to Christ 20 years ago. I have gotten my Masters Degree in Biblical Study and working on my Doctrinal Degree. I just wanted to thank you and send my love and prayers personally. Hope to hear back soon.

Love always, Keith A. T.... Pa.

Dear Little Lambs,

Hello my name is Benjamin. I am doing fantastic, fabulous, blessed and grateful because of Him Jesus. I have 2 more left on Series 4, almost finish the lessons. I am looking forward for that Open Bible NKJV Study Bible. I have seen lately here in Everglades Correctional, one inmate here has completed his course and he received OPEN BIBLE NKJV STUDY BIBLE after he completed the Little Lambs Lessons. I really enjoyed the lessons and I really did learn a lot. I would like to comment about Series 4 Book 2-Marriage. It was hardest lesson. It was hard to relate myself because I'm not married and I don't have no kids.

Talking about discipline to kids and kids get abuse, like I did by my birth father, sexual, verbal, and physical abuse, me and my 2 sisters and my mom, when I was 4 years old living in Cebu City, Philippines. But I have already forgiven him.

I have seen parents hit their kids on angry way, like my firth father did. He disciplined us in wrong way. He disciplined us when he get stress, when he get drunk or if he has bad day, he use on us. I still remember when I was 4 years old living in Cebu City. My birth father died when I was 4 years old and my mom too. They didn't died in accident. My birth father kill my mom and he kill himself in front of us, in our home, in front of police. They just standing watch it and sometime I can smell blood, I see blood on the wall in our home.

God is helping me to forgive him. I give credit to God for being there for me and stand by me. He's the one who help me. Talking abut marriage, people today marry for wrong reason, money, etc and kids without shepherd. I am not planning to get marry anytime soon because I don't like to get marry because people died, fight a lot, etc. I like to stay single rest of my life. Please respond!! :) Thank you, Sir. Ben, FL

We wrote to Ben encouraging him. He sent this letter in September and graduated on December 20 and probably has received his graduation OPEN NKJV STUDY BIBLE.

Mrs. Sala, as for myself I am doing wonderful. I am so thankful for the transformation that is taking place and healing in my life by faith! I would like to say that Christ Jesus is more real in my life today than ever before!

I applaud you for your ministry! I have been encouraged by your testimony and teachings! You have touched on some areas of my life that I've had to do some soul-searching. **Also it is alarming in areas of my life that MUST BE CHANGED! No longer can I go around blaming others and hiding behind my bad decisions and faults! Today I desire to face issues in my life that are caused by me and my upbringing! This day I confess I shall change because of the Light Christ has shined in areas of darkness and through my Desire and strength through Christ to change! Today I have a joy that surpasses all understanding and a peace that I know that only comes from submitting to the authority of my Heavenly Father and committing unto how to treat people and how they should be treated!**



I would also like to comment on your lesson this past Tuesday! You said don't do for a person what they can do for themselves! I have carefully considered your statement, have found that I enable people when I do that, and you said we are to set boundaries and say **No**! I've considered your words and have decided to say No even when it causes conflict.

Thank you for your words of wisdom which in turn gives me knowledge that has and will benefit my Life! My God continue to bless you in all you do. Respectfully, James FL

We sent James' 2 children and others gifts in his stead of Children's Christmas CD's, books and bibles. These were purchased for us by Diane Lowery and her church, Tanglewood Community Church. With the gifts, he included a letter to his children telling them about the greatest gift of all!, Jesus.

Prayer from inmate: written in very bold letters on the back of the envelope!

I Recognize That I Am a Sinner and I Need a Savior, Forgive Me For All My Sins Please. I Believe You Died For Me and Resurrected From The Dead. That Is How You Won For Me The Victory Over Sins and Death. Come Into My Life, I beg You and Become My Father and Savior. Thanks For Loving Me. I beg You To Help Me Learn More of You!!! Amen!!! 2017

To my friends at Little Lambs

I'm proud to say I'm back.:) Please send me the next Bible Study. I can not get enough Jesus.

However "Good News", Why I eloped is:

I've been in Bible College and just graduated with a 3.8 point average. I was second in my class. It was very intense, we dissected, book by book. We began with 85 students and 22 graduated! I'm proud to say I was one of them who did!

Thank you in advance, Happy Holidays. Teresa

PS My God is working many many things OUT for me. Amen.

My local church body in my environment.

As you know I am in prison, besides that I am in a residential treatment program and our classes supercedes any church call-outs to sign up for. I attended church twice and I was surrounded by women feeling up each other, disrupting service, talking to each other instead of participating in the service. I prayed to get out of church both times before I stood up and made a public statement about my beliefs and the stress and agitation was more than I could take. I did not return. When I'm in DOC, in the Dorm, class, outside the chow hall, I have to put up with immoral behaviors, talk. I will not put up with it is a chapel/sanctuary.



My Story: Jesus Cruz from Moca, Puerto Rico

I am a 55 year old retired corrections officer from Puerto with 28 1/2 years of service. I started drinking in July of 1983 with the other officers after work as a young man. I started with moonshine, rum, whiskey, drinking more and more each day. My father drank and partied with alcohol each weekend. Puerto Rico has 18 fiesta (party) days celebrated with alcohol. I was coming to work reeking of alcohol. My father insulted my mother often. I imitated my fathers drinking when I became of age. I remember my father dying in my arms after a drunken party not making it to the hospital. His last words were: 'Don't drink like me.'

Nevertheless I did. After I got married I continued drinking. In 2011 after retiring and drinking more, I tried to commit suicide by pouring gasoline over myself and around me but my lighter simply would not light. I tried and tried. I showered and tried the lighter again, It lit immediately. Now I was so amazed. My son came over and told me that God saved me, Jesus (Hey sous) and did not

permit me to die. As a result, my son found Hogar Resa on the internet. My brother-in-law also told me about Hogar in 2014. So in the fall of 2014 I entered the program and started a positive attitude and left my negative attitude. I continued learning to be grateful for family and to show love to other addicts. I continue to receive and share the grace of God in recovery.

In 2014 I came directly from Puerto Rico and entered the Hogar Resa here in Sebring. I was transferred to other Hogars after a few months. But now I have returned, 2016, having finished my program and now I supervise the Hogar Resa in Sebring. Little Lambs of the Sebring Hogar has been instrumental in bring me, Jesus, to a new home and family in Sebring.

I remember Jesus when he first came to us and was put in care of the garden. He stayed a few months. But we welcome him back with open arms and rejoicing hearts because he carries with him the discipline of having been a corrections officer for almost 30 years and he is able to handle the new and older men with a great degree of kindness and compassion, yet with firmness. He is a becoming a great leader. Frank, the young man in the lower right of the picture, is the Sebring Director under Jesus. Frank is a Florida boy, raised in this area. He is teaching Jesus English and Jesus is teaching him Spanish. They make a great team. Frank will complete his program in the spring and would like to continue to work with the Hogar men in his family's business if that is at all possible. It would certainly help to have jobs ready when they exit the program. We are expecting a very good new year at the Hogar. Please continue to pray for them and their leadership. Most of the young men you see in this picture have just arrived in the program. Some only a few days, some a few weeks. Willie Hubbell, in the lower right, leads meetings with them twice a week. These meetings under Jesus' tenure have gone exceedingly well. They have also repainted the facility and refurbished the lawn and garden. We are in need of a lot of mulch for the flower beds but all else is in very good condition. Please keep these young men in your prayers.

JANUARY 2017

Mon...Avon Park Prison Bible Study
Spirit, Soul and Body

Mon...Overcomers with Hogar Resa

Tue...Overcomers Avon Park Prison

Tue...Marriage & Family/Biblical

Boundaries Avon Park Prison
Wed...Anger Management/Biblical
Boundaries First Presbyterian
Church @ 7 pm

Wed... Overcomers Bible Fellowship
Church @ 6 pm

Thurs..Women's Copedendent
Recovery

Thurs...Overcomers with Hogar Resa

Counseling by Appointment
863-273-7388



Happy New Year and Thank You