

John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

Little Lambs Inc.

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June 2017

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF HOGAR RESA

On May 6, 2017, the graduates of Hogar Resa, the addiction recovery program headquartered in Avon Park, Wauchula, and in our own Grace Place in Sebring, FL, were gathered together in at the Sebring Civic Center to be honored and celebrated. The precious families of these men reveled in the successes of their children, something that had been a rare event thus far! But now, after 16 months of intensive ministry and work, were able to say to the world, "I'm back! In Hogar, with Christ nothing is impossible!" (Hogar theme song is "With Christ all things are possible"). Included in the picture are also current residents of the program.

Jan, Willie and his wife Maria, Mary Tinberg, Pastor Joe Valentin and myself witnessed their exuberant celebration and enthusiasm for their newfound freedom. Families had been reunited, loves had been rekindled and a new mission found for their lives. One thing I love about the Hogar is that if, on their travels throughout the state, they find a man (and now a woman) living in addiction on the street, they will pick them up and take them home to be ministered to! I often marvel at the love that their leader, Carmelo Ruiz, has for these men. He is quick to forgive as well as to discipline. And he will go to great lengths to help them. He is often seen attending funerals of men who chose not to stay in the program and his sorrow is palpable. These are testimonies that he shares with the men. Carmelo and his wife, Maria as well as Pastor Lebron and his wife, Carmen are so well loved and cherished as surrogate parents to so many men through the years.

I want to tell you how much the Hogar appreciates your partnership in providing a home for them in Sebring through you, our donors and partners. How much they appreciate your ministry to them. In fact they dedicated the graduation to me and to you, Little Lambs, as a token of their appreciation.

We pray for the will of God for the Hogar and their continued success. It has been a privilege to see these men grow and change under their direction and to be a part of it. I have learned from watching them that you cannot underestimate the power of encouragement and faith in a man when working to redeem his soul!

Praise the Lord



Little Lambs Inc. is a Not for Profit 501[c][3] Organization. All Gifts are Tax Deductible

Mail Bag

Dear Friend, I have now been incarcerated for 12 years as a wrongfully convicted man. I realize that many of us point fingers and blame everyone else except taking responsibility. For a very long time I was angry, angry at society for sending me to prison for a crime that never happened.

I soon realized that my action, my self pity was getting me nowhere. I have been a Christian since 1989. I was one of those Christians that needed God when he needed a way out of trouble. All through my 20's and 30's I stayed in trouble and in prison. My drug of choice? I was a car thief! Not for money, but for what it brought. I was an idiot, nothing more. In 2004, I was released from prison once again. I was determined to do what was right, never asking for any help from others, not even family. I began working, making a life and in 2005 bought my first brand new car, legally. The woman I was with was an ex-drug abuser. I never was involved in drugs. I did not see the signs. She quickly dragged me into a trap and I wanted out. She wanted control. Out of fear I married her. I can't explain why. I was socially bankrupt because of a life in prison. I didn't know what to do as our marriage tumbled away. In 2007, my wife used her own child to destroy my life. The truth has since come out but I have no money for lawyers and my appeals have been exhausted. I wrote to every Innocence Project in this state and beyond. I don't have a DNA case or sex case where DNA can prove I am innocent. My case was the type where it was my word against theirs.

My mother, Debbie, was diagnosed with state 4 terminal cancer in 2014. With no hair due to chemotherapy and just enough money for a private investigator, my mother drove to Tyler, Texas, and was able to speak with my ex-wife. At first, my ex-wife was willing to come forward and tell the truth but after the private investigator explained that she could go to prison for lying, she quickly changed her mind.

My mother and I have never stopped fighting and we stand firm on Jeremiah 29:12. God has blessed my mother and her cancer is in remission. On December 26, my dad Ivan went to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He died doing what he loved. He was 85. God has shown me His love in the midst of all of this. I can't see it or feel it but I have faith and I stand on His Word. I would like to start your correspondence lessons and get my hands on one of those award bibles! That would be a real blessing. Yours truly and sincerely, Jeffrey



Dear John & Eileen, I was talking to one of our Brothers in Christ, and he told me to write to you about getting a King James Study Bible to make my walk with Christ more rewarding by getting a better understanding of God's Word.

As you can tell, I was not always a Christian. I was born and raised as a Sunni Muslim with my father's intention to groom me to be a Imam. So when I started running with the wrong crowd, my family was upset, but I was still considered my father's son. But no matter how many times I prayed, I just didn't feel the connection between me and God.

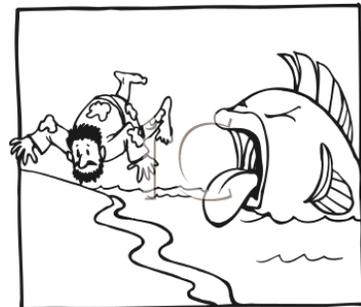
During my many times of incarceration, I went to a prayer meeting and felt a chill go up my spine. But I didn't open my heart to Jesus then. I still didn't know what was happening. I was running from God cause Satan had me and wouldn't let me go. Long story short, I finally stopped running and I been hot for Christ since 2010. But any way, I can't afford a good Original King James Bible and I pray you can send me one. I like the old English. Thank you for your time and I pray in Jesus name, you will be moved by God to fulfill this request. Khaliq, FL. *Of course, we do not award the 'Old English' bible, but we explain that to him and get him started.*

Graduate Juan writes: I am writing to let you know that I got my 'NKJV The Open Bible.' I got it on April 18, 2017. I wan to say Thank you. In reading Matthew 25:14-30, we read about the "Parable of the Talents." I have been blessed with a very good Talent. It's called my Open Bible. I am going to put it to good use. To go and plant the seed of God's word and to be fruitful in the Kingdom of God. Thank you and everyone who made this possible for me to have. May our Lord and Savior bless all of you. Yours truly, Juan, Tx.

The Lord working in prison: Don Writes from Louisiana, I am in prison in Louisiana but a dear friend of my Grandmother sent me your address in her last letter so I could contact you. However, since I am a native of Sebring myself, I wanted to write you. I am incarcerated in Covington, La. My cell mate, Eric Johnson, currently receives your bible study. One night he and I were talking about the bible (I failed to mention I am a Christian.) As a boy, I attended First Baptist Church of Sebring back when it was the glass sanctuary. Then in 2007, I left one day and never went through the doors again. Looking back, this is when it all began to fall apart for me. Eric, my roommate, mentioned he was part of a bible study-by-mail program from a place called Little Lambs in Florida. "Florida? Do you know where?" I said. He showed me the address "Sebring?!" Talk about being shocked. Out of the thousands of cities in Florida or out of the many other bible study programs out there, here was a new believer in Christ in my very cell with not only a book I planned to read (nearly 20 years ago, Left Behind), but with a bible study course from my very hometown! This has been just one of any ways I know, now more than ever, that God is in control here! Hallelujah! Glory to God!

One morning this past week I woke up early. I couldn't get back to sleep so I began to read the book of Jonah. I found out that, like I had been doing since 2007, Jonah was running from God. He was trying to hide and isolate himself from God's will. (I can relate as I left church in '07, and thus began to hide from God. Why is it always so much easier to see these things in retrospect?)

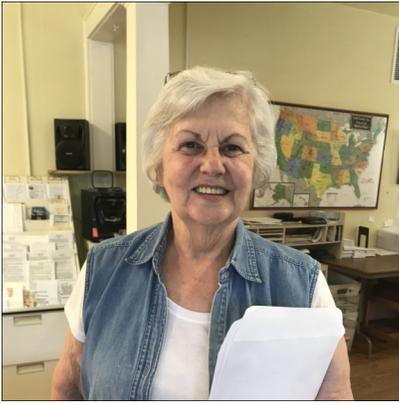
Jonah was so distraught and desperate that he prayed for God to take his life. (I, too, have been depressed and give my dog, Gizmo, credit for me not ending my life, but my life was in a pit.) So, as you know, when the sailors tossed Jonah into the sea, he was swallowed by a great fish. (I see this like being in jail/prison. God's got your attention!) Of course, at that point Jonah finally called out to God and prayed "...bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord and my prayer came to you." (Again I can relate. Once I entered jail, I could sense the burden of my sin going away, believe it or not, that depression feeling I'd had and had gotten worse, was gone too!) Once those bars closed and I began to remember God, several things happened. (He relates how his family unexpectedly saved his car and his SUV for him and how an inmate asked him if he prayed. He answered 'not really' and the inmate said, 'you will.)



Well Jonah continues, '...with the voice of thanksgiving I will sacrifice to you, what I have vowed I will pay'. Here I can also relate as I'm so thankful for my many blessings and for God changing my life by bringing me back to Him! I have told Him I will do anything He wants me to do. This time I want to learn from Jonah and be in God's will so I can be who He wants me to be! The parallels are uncanny to me! I guess that's what they call 'feeding' on the word? Thank you Lord. *Don lived on Nasturtium St, near the First Baptist Church in Sebring. He wrote us a 7 page letter about his new life in Christ! He enrolled in the bible study.*

Spanish Graduates write: Luis I write this humble letter wishing you are in our Lord and Savior's blessed hands. Thank you for the certificates and the beautiful La Reina Valera Study Bible you sent me. I also thank you for sending me David Wilkerson's publication ("So You Want to Be a Minister"). I like it a lot and it opened my eyes to new things which I never knew about. I have always felt the call or desire to preach and I have done so many times and when I do it I sense a great joy. However, at times I sense that I'm not prepared or that I am not sanctified to preach. But I now know that is of the enemy that plants doubt so that one becomes discouraged. What I like about the publication you sent me is that it says: "Each one who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ is declared ...minister of our God shall you be called: (Isaiah 61:6). These words have much power, please continue praying for me. Thank God that He has been using me here to do bible studies with other brothers and also I mentor in one of the classes. I have the great desire to serve God with all my heart.

Erick writes: I am informing you about me and the wonder of what God is doing here in this place. From 30-35 persons get together in a corner of this place. Thank God and you who attempt to prepare me with the studies of discipleship. Right here I share what God has revealed to me. I have been in Immigration Detention (ICE) for 4 days and 6 persons have repented and given their lives to the Lord and more will come. Glory to God.



Ebenezer, hitherto hath the Lord blessed me! Motto of our newest Volunteer! Majorie Lee has joined us in early May and already has proven herself very adept at her new mission. Saved at the tender age of 7, married with 3 daughters, a nursing degree 'late in life' and after retirement her and her husband working with the Texas Baptist Men retiree builders as volunteers. Still yet another milestone as a certified librarian led to her latest ministry. After the death of her husband in 1997, she served in many capacities in church, but one of her greatest joys was serving with her daughter in the library of a jail or prison. Her desire to help the inmates and witness to them of her Savior was very rewarding. Coming to Florida in 2016, she found Little Lambs this spring. Lee quickly took to grading with her background and is

working up her capacity! God has been so good to send us people who truly love to work with inmates and care for their salvation. I am blessed by all of them!

**Parenting
Anger Manage
Marriage & Family Class
New Class Starting
June 7, 2017
@ First Presbyterian Church
Call for appt to enroll
863-273-7388**

Schedule April 2017

- Mon...Bible Study, Phil Esposito
@Avon Park Prison
- Mon...Overcomers, Old Unit APCI
- Mon...Overcomers, Willie @ Hogar Resa
- Tues ..Overcomers, Willie @ Avon Park Prison
- Tues... Marriage, Family & Parenting,
Eileen @ Avon Park Prison
- Tues...Purpose Driven Life Study @ Avon Park
Prison with Pastor Joe Valentin, (Spanish)
- Wed..... Overcomers, Jeff S. 6 pm
@ 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
- Thurs...Marriage, Family & Parenting
Old Unit Avon Park Prison
Anger Management/Parenting

Call 273-7388 for appt to register

Dear Partners,

So much is happening that we just hang on and let God work. With our new Chaplain West at the prison, we are expanding our Overcomers and Marriage and Parenting Classes to the Old Unit at Avon Park. Along with these classes, Phil Esposito is beginning a class at the Highlands County Jail. Pastor Valentin's new class is well attended at the prison also. Such good news! And all our graders are keeping the lessons going out on time. We seem to have a large uptick in women enrolling in the lessons, which is a very good thing.



Left, is a picture of a happy young man and his mother: Frank Kimrey, Jr. and his mother Suzanne Kimrey. Frank was the leader at the house in Sebring and graduated on May 6th. Watching Frank grow through his program was such a blessing. We regret his going but rejoice in his new life with him. His motto is, "With Faith and Trust in the Lord, anything is possible." Frank is from Lake Placid and has committed to stay close to the program to be an example for them. He continues to come to Hogar and go on sales with the men. Pray for him for direction and for preparation for God's own mission in life for him.

We do covet your prayers for our new Spanish volunteer, Sandra. She is dealing with a dire diagnosis although she has continued to come in when her appointments permit. She has a great spirit, courage and peace.

Your servant, Eileen Sala

