



Little Lambs Inc

A John & Eileen Sala Prison Ministry
<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

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OUR GOD IS IN THE MIRACLE WORKING BUSINESS!

The Bureau of Justice released an update (May 23, 2018) on Recidivism Rates across the nation that included the period between 2005 to 2014. During that time it was discovered that 5 out of 6 state prisoners were arrested within 9 years of their release. More specifically 68% were arrested in 3 years of release, 79% within 6 years of release and 83% within 9 years of release. They were arrested, the study does not mention whether they were resentenced or even guilty, simply rearrested. The "Prison Policy Initiative" states that "formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public. They are also more likely to be out of work with 27% of former inmates looking for a job.

Meet Chris Cleveland and his lovely wife, Sonya, from Albuquerque, NM. We received a call in July from Chris. It seems that he was incarcerated in New Mexico, and took our bible study from 2004-2006, graduating in August, 2006. Chris has a previous 30 year career as a motivational speaker, protection, and private security. Drugs caused his downfall. With a changed heart upon his release, he began working toward his vision of helping other ex offenders. Chris called to ask for another copy of all our lessons. It seems some years ago I sent him a copy of all our lessons for him to use in his discipleship program in his residential housing setting of ministry. It seems that the ministry suffered a fire and his lessons used as master copies were destroyed. Because they were so successful in the discipleship program (New Path Ministries of New Mexico Discipleship Program) and enjoyed by the residents, he was requesting a new set as his master copies.

Chris told of about the website for his ministry and searching it out, we discovered the wonderful work another of our graduates is doing in a state with one of the highest drug and recidivism rates in the nation. **Under His Construction** is the name the ministry of Chris and Sonya Cleveland. They are pioneering a work not only focuses on housing for inmates as well as women and children, but unique relationships with the business community that is turning to tide toward hiring people with previous criminal records. This is evidenced in a recent move of some business nationally who are committed to hiring ex-offenders and not asking on applications. Finding a job after incarceration is a major hurdle with a criminal record.



The ministry, which is totally Christ-centered, having their own church **New Beginnings Church of God** in Albuquerque, with Chris and Sonya ministering, has forged ties to the community and provide services such as landscaping, moving and painting, handyman, carpet cleaning, kennel and boarding services, a thrift store. Sonya's influence is to license people in insurance, floral design, estate liquidators and many other career paths. She is an experienced entrepreneur.

We were so blessed by Chris's call. We sow seeds and we are so excited to hear how God has watered, and prospered as he looks on a man or woman's heart. No longer is Chris a part of the problem, he is the answer to the problem. His love for Christ shines throughout his website and ministry. And he has chosen a godly woman to work beside him! And you are all a part of that! We feel like one of our children called with this good news, but rather one of our Little Lambs! Praise the Lord.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Ps 126:5-6

I grew up in an alcoholic household. My mother was married 5 different times, 4 in my distinct memory. All were abusive verbally and physically, which trickled down to us kids. All of us were abused verbally but I believe as the oldest boy I was the only one physically abused. All of us used drugs, younger brother and sister use alcohol. The abuse was on both sides, not just from the stepfather but also from my mom. They would abuse each other. And then for us kids, we became abusers too.

I learned that my mother was /is a codependent and she passed this on to me to a large degree. Also I learned what a functional family is. I used to think that it was just the exact opposite of what my family life was like, but that is so not true. There is so much more to it. There are things like boundaries. Boundaries is something that today I have a basic understanding of and actually have established quite a few some of which I realize are not all that healthy. I look at all the times I was told 'maybe' growing up, that was worse than being told 'no' because my hopes were up because of the possibility of it happening. Then when the time came and then 'no', it hurt that much more. The 'no' I was being told caused me emotional pain because it wasn't something I wanted like a toy or a piece of candy. What I wanted was my mom and stepdad to come to my football game or baseball game. Usually they didn't because of the alcohol.

This class has really helped me to look at some things from my past from a different perspective and this will make me a better person/parent in the future for when God deems me ready to get out and have a family, if that is even his will for my life. Thank you for this class! Bill

Family & Marriage, I'm writing my essay on Co-Dependent relationships Hidden Anger. Taking this class, I discovered that I had a lot of suppressed anger towards my step-father. But it was through class that I realized how much hidden anger had built up over the years. He was very abusive to my mother. I vowed that when I was old enough to defeat him that I would do something bad to him. He never abused the children, just my mother. One day when I was about 8 years old, he got into a real bad car accident which left him paralyzed from the waist down. It was then that God used a situation of known hate to turn to forgiveness. My step-father asked me after doctors had given up on him to help him walk. As a child, I really didn't believe that I had a choice, so I assisted him daily. Eventually he was able to walk. Until this day he still lives a normal life and that was approximately 40 years ago. Even though I helped him I always hated him. Moving forward I always thought that I had a solid marriage with no known defects. Until the class started talking about a codependent relationship. To be honest that crossed my mind as possibly existing in my marriage. But as it related to my wife only. "in codependent relationship, when both partners deny anger it goes underground. So frequently does anger emerge as depression..." This really hit close to home because my wife has always been dependent on me taking care of the family. She was always afraid of me possibly leaving her because I was the bread winner. But she also would not know why I was mad or upset with her. Leaving her to always think that there was someone else. Especially when things didn't go my way, I would just shut-down and not talk for days if not weeks unless she broke the ice. Most of the time it was not her fault and she would apologize just to have peace in the home. I can see now how I was addicted to work and providing for my family that when issues would come up that got my mother beaten by my step-father, I would just naturally shut down. Continued on page 3

This program is very important to me. I learned so much and most of all it allowed me to change my thinking process and how I'm able to apply being a better man in Christ as the husband and father of my family. Family accountability, communication and trust are some of the most important ways I've learned, having a disciplined love, being able to take full responsibility for my own thoughts, feeling, perceptions and desires. I never thought about how much comfort and peace this way of living can become, so organized to me and my family. My way of communicating with my children and wife has changed dramatically. I've learned to express myself in different ways with more respect for myself and others. Also to expect and handle different answers. I've also learned what's important in good family relationships which is an act of telling the truth also an act of love that's very much needed in life. I do understand that my marriage and relationship within my family need improvement and in order for that to happen I felt that it needs to start with me. Attending this program allowed me to increase my focus faith and most of all taking full responsibility in my actions and choices especially being a man of God and also a loving husband and wonderful Father.

Essay Marriage & Family Class of 2018

Sometimes we don't know how God works in our lives but when hi's finished it, we feel great. When I applied for Mrs. Sala's class Family & Marriage, I singed in for only one purpose, get a certificate, so I can show it to Tallahassee. Show them that I'm worthy. After the first class everything changed in my thinking about the class. When I say everything, it's everything; from the respect and care for my family (mom, dad, siblings) and the love and support from my inner circle (wife, son). This class showed me how I need to care about my family and my marriage. The more important thing about I can make it is that I need God in my life and understand His love for me through Jesus our Lord and Savior. It doesn't matter if you learned how to take care of a family and marriage, if you don't have Jesus in your heart, everything is worthless. With Jesus in my life I will be able to show Jesus love to my family, wife and son, so they can grow and learn in the same love. I can help and support my family and marriage with that great love, the love of God. When God changed my heart, He took the veil from my eyes and I can see. I can see now that alcohol, drugs and negative stuff and friends can acuse harm to me and my loved ones. I can see how codependency hinders my soul, my family and my marriage. I can see how my kinds will grow in a world full of junk and help them how to avoid bad influences. I can see how I can treat my wife in front of God and people and my kids as the woman of God that she is and my sister in Christ that shares my same redeemed blood. Little by little this class got my attention to the point that I don't care about the certificate any longer because I learned about how the love of God is more important key in the family and marriage. Without the love of God, you still can show them caring but it will last short time like my own family. I thank God for Eileen and Little Lambs for putting the desire of sowing seeds of God's love in people like me. This beautiful class is the beginning of healing in a family that was destroyed by Satan. With this teaching from God, people are getting fixed and the next generation will know about God's love. I give God the Glory in Jesus' name. Amen. Will

Inmate Mail



Class of 2018 What I learned in Marriage & Family class is that hidden anger or anger not dealt with was causing me a lot of my problems. I became very distant and depressed and the only time I felt good was when I was using drugs and being promiscuous and that only created more stress, because I had six children that I couldn't afford and everything from there was a snowball effect. I started my life of crime to support my drug habits and my children's needs until eventually I got caught and of course in my eyes, it was everyone else's fault, not mine. Then my children started having behavior problems and also started using drugs at a young age. My children never had a male role-model. I believe that is why my oldest daughter is bisexual. I also just recently got a divorce from a woman I barely knew. I got married 7 months after meeting my ex-wife. I all cared about was sex. I didn't know her interests, her favorite color, favorite movie, nothing. Then the honeymoon period was over. Who she claimed to be and who she was and who I claimed to be and really was started showing. Money and sex was the only things we really shared as interests and when the money ran out, well lets just say she did also, sleeping with the boss. If I would have been living a godly life and live a proper lifestyle with morals and respect most of my downfalls would not have happened. But most of all I don't want my children to follow in my footsteps. Behaviors are learned. My father was abusive and angry. I also have been abusive and angry. I also have seen abusive now as my children also act out in anger. So I have to break the cycle, set boundaries, spend quality time with all my children, not only spend time but find out what's going on in their lives: how's school, is their homework being done, are they being respectful to their mothers and teachers. A life plan according to scripture will define love and help in all situations but what helped the most is knowing there was help and hope. All I needed was the knowledge to get them. Mike

Continued from page 2... Anger, rage, hatred and avoidance would emerge causing me to become callus at heart. My condition was based on a lost childhood to where I needed to protect my wife and kids from the physical and mental abuse that I witnessed. Instead of protecting them, I became an abuser through my own behavior. Causing me to mentally and emotionally hurt my wife in areas of her life because of issues that I hadn't dealt with. Paul



Brother Earl Peters: A Special Child of God

When we started the ministry here in Sebring and moved to downtown in 1999, Earl Peters from Lake Placid Presbyterian Church became an ardent volunteer for us. Working several days a week while in his 70's, he helped us set up all the systems for printing, mailing, packaging, even grading, always on the lookout and recruiting graders from his church. He was tireless, even doing maintenance and repair work for us. We were blessed to be a small part of Patsy and Earl getting married in 2005, she was a grader for us whom he recruited! They retired from Little Lambs in 2006 Brother Earl passed away in August after a battle with cancer which he fought rather stoically and in faith. We will always be indebted to Brother Earl for his tireless, steadfast help in the earlier days of this ministry, a great example to us all with his meek and quiet spirit, yet very productive for the Lord. Brother Earl liked to carve birds in his free time and became quite good at it. Exchanging letters in the months before he died, we talked about a pair of birds he had donated for a fundraiser years before. Brother Earl began to carve a bird for me, but alas God had other plans for him. Patsy has been kind and sent me that unfinished bird as a wonderful reminder that we are never finished until God calls us home!



Dear Partners, Please pray for our prison volunteer, Pastor Joe Valentin, now in rehab in Wauchula, FL, from complications from surgery which will require another surgery in 3 to 6 months. At age 83, this is quite a shock to his system. As a reminder, we are an aging group of volunteers and appreciate your prayers for all our continued health to serve the Lord!



Left, is Aldo Guzman and Carmelo Ruiz from the Hogar Resa Addiction Recovery Program. We are helping them in their search for a facility/building for housing pregnant and/or mothers and their children while in treatment. Aldo is the liaison for the program to the courts systems throughout Florida. They have no empty beds at this time with 170 men and women being housed in the program. Aldo's work requires that he travel often and he is somewhat hampered because he does not have a personal vehicle. As we have previously requested, if you or your church know of a used vehicle, they would greatly appreciate the donation. It is of course tax deductible.



On a trip this month to Kansas, I was able to not only babysit, but to visit some old friends who helped me during my 'jail' years (protesting abortion) and continue to be a big part of my spiritual life. Glad to be home, we will adding another baby girl to our family in December as my daughter Natalie and Duncan have their second child. After 4 boys, we are really excited. I was also able to attend a Taekwondo match and watch my son brilliantly win his match.

As I occasionally give some health recommendations, I am going to do so today! I always take the time to show the men in prison a film called "Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead". They tell me it is the most inspirational film they have ever seen. It inspires me! The premise is a middle aged man with all sorts of illnesses on lots of medicines, pre diabetic, and having cardiac problems is challenged by his doctor (in Australia) to seek healing through nutrition by only consuming vegetable and fruit juices for 60 days. End of story, two men in the film lost a hundred pounds each and walk back all their illnesses, and look 10 to 20 years younger and no medications!! This film can be found on Netflix or Amazon Prime as on other platforms. I know it works, and my friend Richard proved it by taking the challenge. You may inquire at 863-273-7388 and I will be glad to answer any questions. Oops! Out of space, but I love you and thank your for your generosity and your prayers.

Schedule September 2018

Mon...Avon Park Prison Bible Study

Tue...Marriage & Family/Biblical Boundaries Avon Park Prison

Wed... Overcomers Bible Fellowship Church @ 6 pm

Thurs..Released to Love, Women Codependent recovery @ 6:30 pm@ Little Lambs Inc

Thurs...Marriage & Family/Biblical Boundaries Avon Park Prison Counseling by Appointment 863-273-7388

Much love, Eileen Sala