



Little Lambs Inc.

John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

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September 2021

Our New Neighbors: 2nd Chance Ministry



Little Lambs wants to introduce you to and to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Guzman and 2nd Chance Ministry. 2nd Chance Ministry is a one year, residential, drug and alcohol recovery program started in August of this year. Mr. Guzman, a certified airplane mechanic and General Manager for Toyota of New Jersey, has been involved in recovery programs since 1998, serving as National Director for a recovery program for several years in New Jersey. After a short relapse in 2015, he served as Director of a local program for several years. He met and married his lovely wife, Brenda, during this time. Brenda is from a family in ministry in Tampa and herself a minister.

During his time as director here, Aldo made the biggest decision of his life, after his salvation, to not return to the world of making money, but rather to serve the Lord in ministry to the addicted. His love for helping men and women in trouble won his heart knowing that he has been well prepared for this service after all his years of recovery and training. He and Brenda applied for and were granted 501[c][3] non profit status last year as 2nd Chance Ministry. This is the ministry that we have invited to our home at 543 Magnolia St. in Sebring, that has been vacant since our last tenants left. As you can see there are 12 very excited young men who are enjoying their new home. We will joyfully support this ministry with free rent because we have seen the fruit of their work and have been blessed by them. We believe in their vision that no man or woman is beyond the reach of the Lord. They must only submit to Him. But how will they hear, lest someone tell them!

This program is a Christian, one year, residential drug and alcohol recovery program which is free to anyone who is dedicated to changing their life and is willing to do the work of recovery. Little Lambs will be involved in their spiritual program as well. Eileen is on the Board of Directors as well as teaching the Marriage and Family Class (Biblical Boundaries). Our current prison and jail volunteer, Pastor Joe Valentin will minister in Bible Study and the Purpose Driven Life. Our newest volunteer, Chuck Cilano, will be ministering the Celebrate Recovery Program for them. Later Pastor Gary Graybow, a snow bird, will join the roster.

We invite you to pray for this new ministry and the men, and to support their efforts.

Inmate Letters

THE SAGA OF A BOOKMARK

As you know, we send our students bookmarks and tracts in with their first lesson, a sort of gift bag! Here a student rhapsodizes about that bookmark.

Dear Friend in Christ..

Enclosed is a bookmark with your name and address stamped on the back. I'm not sure how it came to be in my hand, but I have used it to mark my place in my bible for many months. Every time I look at it, I tell myself that I should write to "Little Lambs" and tell them that somehow their bookmark from Florida came into my hands here in a prison in New Hampshire. We never know how many lives we will touch when we do what the Lord tells us. We never know who he will bless through our good work. I wanted you to know that your hands have blessed me in no small way, because many times when I was close to giving up – I saw the bookmark that you stamped and I remembered that there were people outside that care. The message on the bookmark says "God bless you!" And God has blessed me – a sinner – a terrible man. I have done many bad things – things which I cannot speak of without crying. But this small gift with it's simple message has brought me a comfort in time of distress and great soul searching. "God bless you!", it says. Even me a prisoner and a man of low character? It has taught me to ask this question many times. The answer always comes back to me, "yes".

I have used your bookmark to mark the pages of my bible until I wore my bible out and then I used it on another. I marked the story of Abraham and Moses. It set in place while I slowly read over and over Psalm 51. It marked my way through judges and the courage of men like Gideon. I opened my bible to the place where Ruth lay at Boaz' feet – where David killed Goliath – where Job pondered his relationship with God – And Jesus - and Peter – and Paul. The list goes on and on, but I won't. Sometimes I get carried away.

I started out to just say thank you because you cared enough to give me something that has helped me , but now I think I've gone on long enough. I've been locked up for three and a half years. I have 14 more to go. With God's help maybe not that much. I'm trying to say that in here, kindness is not always something that a person can understand without question. When it comes without price, without consequence – even a small thing – a flag is raised in your head that says, "Look out". Sadly this is true.

But your little bookmark asked for nothing. Your stamped address only raised the question in my mind of 'Who are these people?' The message does not ask for anything but rather gives. "God bless you!" What a wonderful gift. I thank you for your time, your prayer, your devotion to God. So – if you wanted to know if your bookmarks got used than the answer is yes. If you wanted to know if your bookmarks really did bless people, the answer is still yes. If you wanted to know if what you do makes a difference, the answer is very much yes. I'll close this letter by asking you to please return the bookmark to me. I've grown attached to it! I often wondered who John and Eileen Sala were. God knows. I think I know too. May God bless you both. May He bless your ministry and your home. May He bless your work and may His Joy and Love fill your lives with Happiness and long life. Al from Berlin

Graduate Harold: My Father has ordained my life for his will. That I may do what he has put me here to do. That is to be tried and polished in his wisdom and knowledge, to bring forth his fruit that had been blinded by the evil one. As God pricks their hearts, here I stand. As God's plan unfolds in my life, being chosen for the greater good of mankind, I thank God for bringing me my Beloved in Christ. Brother and Sister Sala, I thank you with much love. I prayed for a few lessons and in my spirit, God gave me you. In these three years, these lessons have brought joy and tears. The rebuke of correction has brought about perfection in my life for Christ, as you all have been selected, perfected, and directed in Christ. I pray that every day in this life that you all walk in the steps ordered by our God. A servant. Stay in touch, I love you. Harold

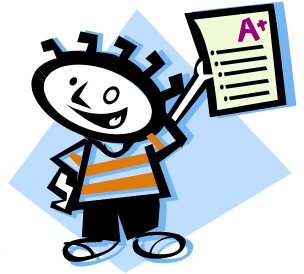




Our Mission: Making Disciples

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 are again sending 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 inmates 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 why we try to be gentle, yet hold them responsible. Some are very fragile people. We make every effort to reassure them that it is a good try, to limit the shame of failure and defeat. Every missed or omitted scripture they are asked to copy and send it with the next lesson. We require all assignments to 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. They become sure and confident in their salvation and God's love. Now we have a true disciple. Mission accomplished. PTL

And we give thanks to our graders as they are the ones who implement this strategy: love!

Dear Partners, it has been a hectic month and passed much too quickly. But now we are up and running. We are excited to be working with Aldo and Brenda Guzman at 2nd Chance Ministry. They will support themselves to a large degree by a 3 day work week selling baked goods. The program specifically limits the work week to 5 hours a day, 3 days a week. Other time is spent in individual therapy classes and residential jobs to maintain the home and gardens and will be doing jobs in the community. I have taken a spot to have them help me with my yard and garden as well for a donation to their ministry. They are in need of vehicles. They have been gifted 2 vans, one by our volunteer and one by a former resident! If you have items they may need or can use, please call 863-873-5648. They will pick up the items. We are especially in need of good porch furniture. All your donations are tax deductible. You can find them on the web at www.2ndchanceinc.com and also on Facebook.



Brenda & Aldo

It is with sadness we said goodbye to our long time volunteer, Bonnie Clemmons, who has had to move north because of her health. Although she has been suffering the last year with severe back and knee pain, she continued to come in every Wednesday even with her walker! She underwent a knee replacement last month and her son was here to help her move to his home. Bonnie and her husband, Bill, started working for Little Lambs about 18 or so years ago. Bonnie opened the mail and Bill mailed all our lessons. They have been so faithful and knew all the tricks to make our system work. Of course they had lots of stories to tell as they worked and really helped make the time go by quickly. They were very faithful members of First Assembly of God on Kenilworth in Sebring. Bill went home to the Lord about 3 years ago. We will surely miss her but thanks to the cell phones, we can still visit with her. We love you, Bonnie!



Bonnie

And then we welcomed a new recovery minister, Charles Cilano, better know as Chuck. Chuck and his wife have been missionaries for over 30 years. Ten of those years were in Italy and ten were in Thailand as a street minister/evangelist. Then he was six years in Palm Beach working with Celebrate Recovery. They live in Lake Placid and were recruited by a former volunteer of Little Lambs. He and Fred Sarracino are neighbors and tried to give each other tracts and instantly made friends. Fred said he should look us up and the rest is the blessing of God. Chuck will facilitate a Celebrate Recovery meeting with bible study in Avon Park Prison as soon as he is given clearance, perhaps the Work Camp as well as the Main Unit. He has also begun a Celebrate Recovery meeting at the 2nd Chance Ministry every Thursday. We are so excited to see our family grow and the Word of the Lord go forth.



Chuck Cilano & Joe Valentin

September will begin our new postal rates! Our smaller lessons will increase by and our larger envelopes will rise by sixteen cents per envelope. Luckily, media mail which we use for our bibles, will remain the same. It seems that as

<p>SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2021 Mon.....Biblical Boundaries Marriage & Family @ 2nd Chance Ministry Tues....Biblical Marriage Family & Parenting @ Avon Park Prison Tues....Purpose Driven Life @ 2nd Chance Ministry Thurs....Celebrate Recovery @ 2nd Chance Ministry</p>

everything else that has been affected by the pandemic, so has the shipment of paper goods like copy paper and envelopes. It takes longer to get them and sometimes they are in very short supply. And we notice a sharp rise in shipping too. And as everything is up, we did get our insurance bill for the 2 houses this month and I was bowled over! An increase almost double the amount! I guess it's a good time to shop around. We are very thankful for your support during this stressful time because we are very aware that everyone's expenses are going up just like ours. You have been very gracious to us. Thank you and love, Eileen S.