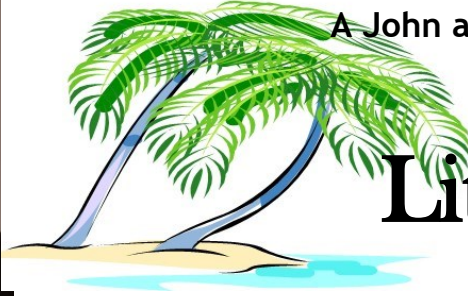




A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

www.littlelambsinc.org



Little Lambs Inc

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, FL 33870 863-273-6075 February 2025

Dear Paul, my fellow servant,

Grace, mercy, and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ to you from me, Philemon. Thank you for your excellent letter and for your instant prayer. How difficult it must be for you to write from a prison cell. Years ago, and by the providence of God, you first arrived in this region. You planted a church here in my house, boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. Along with many others, I [was soundly converted](#) and called with all the saints. To God Be The Glory! I remember that day very well, how happy you were for me. And over the years, you and I have been fellow laborers in this work of faith and have become trusted friends. I have always valued your advice and [counsel](#) and I pray the Lord to give me strength today to heed the instruction of your letter. But you should know the other side of the Onesimus story.

Some years after my conversion, a family showed up on my doorstep, homeless and hungry. I took them in, employing them as house servants. I treated them well, even giving extra attention to the boy, Onesimus, as he grew into young manhood. He showed such promise in the arts and the letters. But several months ago, a sad misfortune befell our home. In the dark of night, young Onesimus stole [a large sum](#) of money from my [purse](#) and he fled the province, a fugitive from justice.

Now today, your letter has arrived by courier, simply addressed to "PHILEMON." You claim that the villain, Onesimus, has [been converted](#) and you plead with me to forgive him. Brother Paul, you have put me in [a very difficult](#) position. Here I am wondering if *his* conversion was genuine. But you have challenged *my* faith, putting me to the test. Your offer to make good the stolen money out of your own pocket [is noted](#). Thanks, but no thanks. This is not about money.

You do not understand my loss. *Onesimus betrayed me*. He stole something more valuable than silver and gold. He stole my honor and squandered my trust. I had invested so much of myself in him. And now you say [to forgive him](#)?? Am I to receive this young Judas back into my home, with my still anxious wife and daughters? Would you have me kill the fatted calf and put a ring on his finger? Petition the governor on his behalf? And then to read that you consider Onesimus as a "son" and as a "brother" feels like a stab in my back. Worse yet, you leave it up to me to do the right thing. It would be much easier if you, as the Chief Apostle, would just [order](#) me to forgive him. Then I would have no choice.

I know that I must let go of my resentment. I know that I must forgive him. Because I know we both cherish the words of our Lord Jesus **"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."** Mark 11:26 (KJV). Even as I pen this reply, the Holy Spirit has brought to my remembrance your second letter to the church at Corinth calling us to a "ministry of reconciliation." Sound doctrine indeed, my friend, but so inconvenient when it is my ox [that's being gored](#).

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Finally Brother Paul, I ask your indulgence for my being so headstrong—and maybe a bit stubborn. But the wound is still fresh. You have my word that I will make this a matter of special prayer. No doubt your letter to me this day will be a useful tool in churches for many generations. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Written for Philemon, to Paul in a
Roman prison by Brother Mike.

Dear Little Lambs,

Please forgive my taking such literary license to fill in the gaps in this beloved story. Scripture does not reveal whether or not Philemon ever forgave Onesimus. We want to think that he did, but we just don't know. What we do know is that we are all sinners saved by grace. Is it possible that the Book of Philemon is a type and shadow of how Christ intercedes with easier if you, as the Chief Apostle, would just order me to forgive him. Then I would with the Father on our behalf? Maybe Onesimus is *every man*.

Blessings to all,
Mike Rider, Volunteer

Dear John and Eileen, How are you doing? My name is Justin and as you can see I am incarcerated in Oklahoma. I grew up and was raised going to church but fell off and backslid. I knew that Jesus came and died for us so that we would be free from our sins and be able to have a relationship with God through him. I have recently had a lot of problems with the white supremacy gang. I was jumped and had my jaw broken and was seriously hurt. I am now in segregation waiting transfer to the Protective Custody Unit. So at least now I am safe and away from the violence. I have been praying on a regular and daily basis trying to reestablish my relationship with God and Jesus. I've been reading my Daily Bread devotional. I happened to be given your ministry's name and address and was told you offer inmates a chance to study the bible and grow in the word with you through correspondence bible study. I would love the opportunity and chance to study the Bible and God's Word with you! I was also told that you can send a stamped envelope for the return lessons postage. I do not have funds to purchase stamps. I really appreciate the chance to study with you! With love and respect, your brother in Christ, Justin *Another inmate reached out to Justin and he decided to become another Little Lamb!*

Dear Salas Family, I am sending this letter with a grieving heart. I lost my ex-mother-in-law at 8 am this morning to a drug overdose. Why is it some people can overcome addiction and some can't? I'm 18 months sober. Why couldn't she be that lucky or blessed? I hated the woman with a passion, but now that I can never confess just how much I respected her, it's making me feel like a heartless prick the way I treated her. I'm finally able to forgive her however I'll never be able to tell her. I need to tell you that I have been reassigned to a new unit. This unit is the most violent in the entire state of Texas. It's #1 in murders, suicides and stabbings. Thankfully my guardian angels have kept me safe thus far. Psalm 91 have become my nightly prayer. I even have a son and step daughter reciting scripture. It gives purpose to keep going!

To: Little Lambs Inc

From : Hunter

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for taking the time to help guys in prison. It means a lot! I've always been fascinated and drawn to religion but I never really felt any kind of spiritual awakening. I've read and learned about different 'faiths': Catholic, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Asatro, Santeria, etc. but the Bible always peaked my interest no matter what I was doing or where. If I saw the Bible sitting somewhere it's like I was being pulled to it.

Growing up was rough but to me it was 'normal' but once I hit 13, it was obvious that we were struggling and didn't know if we would make ends meet. My mamma is my best friend and the hardest working lady I've ever met! She prays every night & always told me to. Up until a little while ago I was just going through the motions but before bed I got on my knees and had a conversation with God. What happened while I slept that night and the next morning told me why I felt that pull and brought the feeling of peace I've been looking for my whole adult life!

So I'm asking for you to allow me to do your Bible Correspondence Courses and also anything that will further my biblical knowledge and help teach me how to help others and make a difference! I speak English and any books or pamphlets (monthly) that will help my journey. I appreciate you. Thank you. Hunter in Federal Prison

Hallelujah. All praise and glory be to God the Father, the Most High. Thank the Lord Jesus for saving my soul and thank you John and Eileen Sala deeply! I am not perfect but the Lord knows my heart and I daily ask him to have mercy upon my soul and I am so very grateful for his mercy and grace for never giving up on me and Jesus. May God bless all those who seek him and thank you Holy Spirit for working through y'all to make this study. It truly has helped me to better understand God's Word. I am currently incarcerated and have been since I was 19. I just ask that y'all pray for me and my family. I have a parole hearing in 2026. no matter what happens, God willing, I will grow stronger in my faith and find joy in just being alive and having my family by my side through this time. I Jesus' name I pray, Amen. PS I look forward to the next lesson and spiritual journey.

Hi, my name is Sterling M. I'm currently locked up at Camphill State Prison. I was wondering if y'all could send me a correspondence course so I can get closer to God and learn about Him at the same time. I was born in Harrisburg, Pa. I was raised by my Grandma. My mom died when I was young so my Grandma took me in. I grew up in the church. I just fell away from God as I got older. I just want to get a closer relationship with God again. It's been too long. I'm ready to get right with God because my Grandma loved God with all her heart before she passed away. I want that type of relationship with Him. I want to turn my life around before it's too late. Plus I have 2 baby girls, a newborn and a 2 year old. I don't want to keep missing time out their life. I'm just ready to leave the old me in jail and become better overall. I was wondering if y'all can help me reach that goal. Thank you.



My Story by Riley

When I came down to Florida in October 2023, I knew I wanted to change my life around and get sober. I went to a detox center in Bartow, FL, and spent four days. Later I found myself in a sober living house in Daytona Beach. I spent a few days there before messing up and getting kicked out. At this point, I didn't know what I was going to do. I found myself down at the beach drinking and praying for help and guidance. I was at a dead end and burned all my bridges with family and friends. I found out about 2nd Chance Ministry when I pulled out a piece of paper I had gotten from detox 1 week before. I called, and they told me that they would send someone to pick me up. On October 14th, 2023, I arrived at 2nd Chance Ministry and began my journey to sobriety. I never thought I could do it, but I talked to the guys around me,

took everything one day at a time. And as of today, I am just shy of being sober for 16 months. This opportunity has made me enjoy my life. I've got my family and friends back in my life. Everything is working out because I decided to trust in God and follow his plan. I got baptized in the summer of 2024 and that was the best decision I could have ever made. I'm forever grateful for being a part of 2nd Chance Ministry and getting the chance to really change my life forever.

GRADUATES OF 2ND CHANCE MINISTRY

Sunday we gave our two latest graduates from the recovery program 2nd Chance Ministry. The 16 month program has proven to produce real spiritual changes. The young man on the left, is Riley Hanson. This is the same Riley seen above in the picture taken when he entered the program. On my left is Ahan Mullins. Ahan has a very gentle spirit and a great plan for his future. It has been my greatest pleasure to help to mentor these young men and share biblical truths with them. Truly, we will miss them when they leave. Little Lambs has gifted each one with an indexed Open Bible which produced a lot of enthusiasm for the Word. Remember to please keep all these young men in your prayers, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of their new life.



ANSWERED PRAYER

Because so many of you prayed for our beloved volunteer, Mary Tinberg, I want to share with you her miracle. After 3 rounds of chemotherapy, Mary had a CT scan in preparation for surgery for cancer. Her scan before chemotherapy showed ovarian, liver, lung, peritoneum involvement. On the Jan 6th, she had an appointment at Moffitt to check the results of a new scan and prepare for surgery. When the doctor entered the room, he said there was no need for surgery because the new scan showed that the cancer had been very sensitive to the chemotherapy and showed no cancer.

He said this was very rare and that he had not seen such a case before. He is a GYN-Oncologist, very seasoned. We peppered him with questions, but he suggested she finish the course of chemotherapy and follow up. You can imagine the rejoicing that took place. God has truly given Mary a miracle of a new life. Thank you, Lord.

We love our Volunteers

