



John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

Little Lambs Inc.

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His Mercy is New Every Morning

As you all know, my background is nursing and I come from a medical family. I recently retired after 52 years of practice. In my youth, I vividly remember the polio plague of the 50's and the need for a vaccine. It was personal because my little brother, between two or three years old, contracted the disease. He was immediately taken from us and placed in isolation in a hospital far away. He was left with slight paralysis of the arm and mental health challenges from the high fevers. Fortunately, he did not need an iron lung as so many did. However, 1952 saw 58,000 cases of polio with 15,000 cases of paralysis, and 3,000 deaths, mainly children.

Now once again we are faced with a plague on our land. As it hit, everyone prayed fervently for a vaccine when the president said he would fast-track research with tons of money. People were dying by the thousands daily. All branches of science were brought together by his initiative and as people prayed (or cowered in fear), a vaccine was born.

Now the irony is that this gift, I believe from God as an answer to our prayers, is being used to spread fear and distrust among us. For some the vaccine is worse than the disease. Yet, for some, the disease becomes deadly without the vaccine! The Lord brought to my mind the old joke about the man on the roof in a flood asking God to save him. After refusing three boat rescues saying he asked God to save him and that he will wait for God, he died in the flood. In heaven he asked God, "Why didn't you save me? I prayed." God answered, "I sent three boats!" Galatians is one of my favorite books of the bible and I am reminded, "O foolish Galatians (people), who has beguiled you, that you should obey not the truth..."

Beloved, is this vaccine an answer to prayer? You see, this 'variation' of covid is so much easier to transmit to others, 50% more contagious than the original covid. This Delta variation of covid now accounts for 83% of all US cases and 95% of hospitalizations for covid. It has been proven that vaccinated people, if they do catch the disease, have less severe cases and much fewer hospitalizations.

I, myself, read the news and developed hesitation. I talked with my daughters and decided to take the vaccine for many reasons: I work and am part of the elderly populations and I did not want to endanger them; I go into the prison environment and it protects them and me; I want to travel and visit my children and grandchildren.

Regarding a mask, as a nurse I have no fear or hesitancy of using a mask because we know it works! We have been using masks since germs were discovered! We use them in surgery to protect the patient as well as the staff. We use them for vulnerable people with weakened lung or immune systems. And we use them for 'quarantine' (an old fashioned word meaning isolation) for contagious diseases. How else could healthy people nurse or doctor the contagious sick?

This June, I visited my family and returned to prison for our classes. On Tuesday the 25th, I was told that our beloved Chaplain Inman had died from covid after three weeks in the hospital. Although he had had covid early in 2020, he was not vaccinated and apparently his immunity was insufficient. In my opinion, he was the best chaplain we have had in my 26 years at Avon Park.

Beloved, let's have faith and get on with living as God's plan for us. The end is nearing and we may be caught, not harvesting, but arguing!

Graduate

Lesson 4-1 Essay: Sexual Holiness

What battles do you face? Adultery, fornication, homosexuality
Everyday I battle keeping a civil tongue! I have a quick temper

and say things I don't mean and I am ashamed before God. I do say mean things when I'm mad. I have battled sexual promiscuity for years and years and praise God, I have dedicated myself to the Lord and His Word and because of His Word I have become celibate. I lead a quiet life now with friends. I battled drug and alcohol addictions for years and praise God I am delivered from it! I am sober-minded and working on getting my drivers license back. Pray for me! I want to serve the Lord the rest of my days!

Lesson 4-4 Graduation note: Little Lambs Brothers and Sisters. I love each and every one of you. I first felt part of a family when I received my first bible lesson, back in 2015 in Lowell correctional Institution, Ocala, Florida. Especially the picture of the baby in the manger. I cried thinking about it last night. The welcome y'all gave me! Continue to pray for me. I'm working on my drivers license I lost 30 years ago. Rebekah

Rebekah came to us in 2015. From then to 2017 while in prison she progressed quickly into the third series. Released in 2017, it was just a few months later that her house burned down. She would always write to let us know her situation. Then came moves, and finally in 2018 she remarried. Now she has graduated and finished what was to her a long and hard journey. Thank you for helping her to change her life for the Lord!

Discipline: The discipline I had while growing up had very little effect on my life. But the discipline of God has brought me to my knees. He has made me see the true meaning of life. Life is living day to day in victory over sin. To have control of the words I speak, for they are either life or death. Everyday to live for him and be his servant and do his will. Love and help others. Giving him thanks for everything good and bad, not evil, for God cannot tempt anyone or can be tempted by evil. Joseph

Your current church: Right now, since this pandemic, we are grouped up in a circle of 8 with one Leader. I believe the total is 72 men. 9 groups x 8 students = 72, and we met in our gym 2x a week, Sundays and Wednesday. It's better than nothing. Our instructor is Dr. Master, Leader of a Seminary class. She has about maybe 30 leaders that participate in her class daily, 7 days a week. Out of that 30, half to the other part of the compound, so everyone is getting fed, in Jesus name. We are entitled to bring a friend whenever, which makes it very large. We had about 20 or 25 to get baptized, so it was (is) awesome!

John and Eileen Sala Ministry, I just had received your biography on your life story today which I read past 1:15am. I was touched in so many ways as you struggled to find your way in life's trials and tribulations. I felt like we were connected, yes I did. The years you put yourself through with addiction, loss of friends and loved ones until that last and final car chase because of that robbery had me on the edge of my bunk. Wow, may God bless you, along with your loved ones, now, always and forever! I sincerely hope to learn through your Ministry leadership my complete and total purpose that God really has for me so I won't ever feel loneliness in my life as well as abandonment, thanks be to God! Just last week I sent a letter along with a poem to Little Lambs Inc. asking for more guidance in my rededicated life to Jesus Christ our Lord and just to show me how God works in mysterious ways, I get your biography. I even told my next door neighbor about how clarity is blessing me to better understand and embrace my faith wholeheartedly along with my religious beliefs. Thanks again for receiving me with open arms and helping me with bible studies so I can learn how to just let go completely and let God! I will forever be grateful for this amazing opportunity to learn and grow as well as to finally find my purpose in this life. Luis. Luis's excitement from knowing God and that God has a plan for him keeps us in awe at how He works and uses us to help others. We send out the Word by faith, knowing that it will not return to us void, but it will accomplish His purposes!! Amen. Luis' poem is on the following page.

...now as for me, I went to church as a kid and I had a hunger for God's word but as I got older I started to stray away and fit into the world. I got married, had 2 boys, caught my wife in bed with my step brother, refused to pay child support. I now understand that I was wrong and also that all I was doing is what Satan wanted me to do. I lost a lot of valuable time with my sons and with God. I do have a relationship with my boys today and I have a strong love and respect for God and I know that it's only going to get better. I see Satan trying to get me back all the time because I was a good servant to him. See, I sold drugs, stole to get drugs, slept with guys wives, cheated on women I loved and a whole lot more. Today I live my life for Christ and to tell others about how I was at my lowest and how I was a junkie and overdosed many times and God kept bringing me back. No matter what I did to stray away, He wouldn't

Little Lambs Inc. By Louis

Little lambs Inc. I finally found my way home, Through their faith and leadership I will succeed and never be alone.

I searched the world but I was blind until I was introduced into your Ministry of Discipleship which captivated my heart and soul and opened my eyes.

Little Lambs Inc. I really look forward to serving God by your side, for you are giving me a blessed lesson in faith and religion expressing God's Word with no shame or lies.

I been beaten and defeated to no extent. I was able to lift myself off the ground, defeated no more as I looked up into the sky where God's heavenly Kingdom truly does exist.

Little Lambs Inc. is a Blessing indeed.

We as God's children will be lifted out of evil and darkness as long as we believe we can all succeed.

give up on me. I believe he kept me around to help others who are going through the things I went through. I would like to thank you both for the knowledge that you provide to people, not only me alone but all of your students. I think it is wonderful you have a prison ministry and we both know that the guys in jail and prison if they are starting to see the light and passed the blaming or wanting to do the same things that got them there stage, then they need help because they are being chased by the devil worse than ever because he doesn't want to lose them. So he will ply them with guilt and shame and try to keep them from turning to God and finding the truth. I used to come to jail and say I was on vacation. I am here now as a wake up call as a chance to change and start life over. So this time I have done everything to grow and open my eyes and thank you so very much for your help.

Little Lambs, I am writing in regards to your bible study courses that I want to join. My name is Louis from New York. I am a born again Christian. I want to study hard and more about the Lord. I want to learn a lot more than I know now. I know a lot now, but what I know is not enough. I want more knowledge of the Lord. I pray and read the bible everyday. I will be getting out soon. I want to do the bible study class while I'm here and more when I get out. Let me talk a little how I turned my life to God. I've been doing drugs and alcohol since I was 13 years old, and getting in trouble with the law and going to jail. Well, this is my second state bid and now I'm on a parole violation for leaving the county to take care of my father who was dying. So they moved me out on this state prison time. So you see, until this violation I never wanted the Lord in my life, now I go to church and bible study in here and praise the Lord every day and read the bible. The reason why I turned to the Lord is because I was sick and tired of being sick and tired of doing the same things. It was getting me nowhere except jails and prison. Well, I sat down and got on my hands and knees and prayed the Lord, and said to him, Lord, please help me turn my life to you, because the life I'm living is the wrong way to life a life. Lord, forgive me for all my sins in my life and please accept me with open arms to a new life. I got up off my knees and sat there crying my eyes out. When I was done I went to my locker and got my Bible and started reading it and from that day after, I've been going to church and bible study and praying to the Lord. Because of all this that has happened to me with turning my life over the Lord, I have my family back in my life, my wife and kids. Now I live a happy life with the Lord and my family. I much happier. I was on parole for almost a year and didn't use drugs or alcohol one time. And when I get out to be with my family, I'm not going to touch another drug or alcohol again because I like the life I'm living now and want to keep living this way. Thank you so much for reading my letter and sorry to burden you with my story, but I know you are open to listen and read. Hopefully I will hear from you real soon so I can start these classes. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Louis, NY

Dear Partners,

I feel a terrible sadness at the loss of our Avon Park Prison Chaplain Vincent Inman. Chaplain Inman came to us about 2 and a half years ago. We had been without a chaplain for a few years and kept seeing them stay a month or two and then leave. He was great, an inmates' Chaplain, meaning he fought for them, loved them, prayed for them and had a great rapport with them. And so too, with all the volunteers. Now please begin praying for his replacement.

I guess the Lord does not want us to settle on our lees, as the saying goes, and He always moves things around and challenges us to keep up with Him. This month Marcia Stephenson, the wife of our long time friend and Board member, Hap Stephenson, went home to be with the Lord after surgery. This month we also watched as a number of our friends contracted the virus. The virus seems determined to infect everyone! Please keep your guard up because you never know the course it will take in your body, or what body system it will target the most. Some of the prisons have returned to lockdown as we know some cities, even countries have done. In Florida, we have exceeded the highest ever cases and hospitalization rates in the pandemic with over 10,207 hospitalized. The Advent system has stopped some elective surgery due to shortages. It would be prudent to avoid crowds or large gatherings and whenever traveling, use masks which have proven safe in transportation and supermarkets, until the infection rates decrease, especially if you are vulnerable!

Getting back to business, the United States Postal Service has had a 'steep decline' in revenue and must make it up. That will come from an August increase in market dominant First Class Rates. It will begin on August 29, 2021. A First Class Forever stamp will increase from 55 cents to 58 cents. For our postage metered mail, it will rise from 51 cents to 53 cents for the first ounce. Each ounce thereafter will be \$.20 per ounce. Our mail is always 3 ounces and above costing anywhere from \$1.16 to \$2.50 per lesson package. We also subsidize return postage for a large portion of our students, usually in jails, and these cartons of 500 preprinted envelopes cost us \$312.15. There is no word yet on how this cost will change. USPS has not posted the actual increases at this time. We want to thank all of you for your generosity which has allowed us to continue to mail our lessons first class. We cannot do bulk mail because each package is different. And with every prison having their own requirements regarding mail, it is impossible. I think there is a move in the future to move all the mail to prisons to a digital format only allowing for bulk mail transfer to be printed at the prison and does not allow for the return of the lesson. One prison is already using this format which requires an account for cost of each mailing, whether it be a personal letter or not. Every piece will be printed at the prison and given to the inmate. That may save money but it will destroy the personal impact of any Bible Study program. I pray this does not happen. Please join us in prayer to preserve our current system of prison delivery!

In June I traveled to Idaho and in July, North Carolina, to visit my grandchildren. I was very glad to be vaccinated because the number of people traveling was tremendous. Every flight was full and late, The airports were crowded whether in Dallas, Orlando, or Nevada. Every tram was crowded. Yet with everyone in a mask, it has not caused 'super spreader' events. Everyone stayed a respectful few feet away. It was also trumpeted in each plane (changed planes often) that alcohol was not only not served but it was prohibited. The number of people acting out on planes has drastically increased and I for one was glad to see this in place. But seeing family again was so great. Getting to know babies now 3 three years old was such fun. And young and old were traveling, as I suppose most were just like me.

Returning to prison has been a pleasure for me. Our group of 17 men are eager and give me their full attention. However we did have to institute coffee because we now have class right after lunch! Some tend to get a little drowsy. It is very nice because the clerks perk the coffee and serve it to each person so there is not communal serving. God has been so good to us! He is worthy of all our praise. Thank you again for all your support and love.

Your servant,
Eileen Sala

Schedule August 2021

Tuesdays...Marriage & Family Class
1:30-3:30pm Avon Park Prison

Thurs..Released to Love, Women
Codependent recovery @ 5:45 pm
@ Little Lambs Inc

Counseling by Appointment
863-273-6075