

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

APRIL 2013

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

The Hand of the Lord in Prison

By Jean Metzger

CAM Board Member

VALLEY STREET JAIL HOLIDAY SERVICES

CAM was invited to participate in Christmas and Easter services at Valley Street Jail. Pastor/Chaplain David Carlson led the services and Bob Radford, a friend, led in spirited music with his guitar. I spoke of the transforming power of Christ in the men's lives to change them into new creatures in Christ. I also mentioned the services and helps CAM offers them when they are released from prison.

RISE AGAIN AFTERCARE MINISTRY IN CONCORD

I met with Commissioner of Corrections, William Wrenn January 23, 2013 to introduce Ron Menard, director of RISE AGAIN AFTERCARE. This was needed in the Concord, NH area as so many men are released into that community. Ron shared his vision with Bill for the ministry. We enjoy a fine relationship with Bill and he appreciates and encourages us in our work

CAM IN KEENE, NH AREA

Recently I met with Karl Bobbitt from Keene who shared his vision for aftercare ministry in Keene area. Our

board of directors would like to see the Lord expand aftercare ministries in other areas. Please pray for the Lord's direction in this new outreach to ex-offenders in the Western part of NH.

IN-PRISON MINISTRIES

It's such a blessing to hear about all the Bible studies and weekend seminars being held in NH prisons and jails. The volunteers are blessed and the men and woman who attend, see the love and concern they have for them; they hear about the Lord Jesus and how He can help them turn their lives around when they place their trust in Him; and they learn to walk more faithfully with the Lord.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

The Lord continues to bless CAM financially – for which we give Him praise. This enables us to help committed Christians with their rent until they can find employment. Jobs are difficult to find, but the Lord opens many doors and answered prayers for them. "THANK YOU" to you, our faithful supporters, for your generosity. We all are blessed.

**If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold; all things are become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17**

We are privileged to be able to have four in-prison seminars each year at NH State Prison in Concord. Bob LaRoche and Rev. Brian Gower plan these; Bob organizing us volunteers and Brian works with Chaplain Jim to plan and invite instructors. Bob was involved with Prison Fellowship when he worked for Word of Life Bible Institute in Schroon Lake, NY. Many of the instructors have had involvement there as well.

Since last summer, volunteers and inmates have had lunch together in the chapel, and this has increased the time both for instruction and informal conversation. Volunteers sit at tables with 7 or 8 inmates. There is also opportunity for discussion at tables among the men based on questions related to the previous content. Conversations often follow up on questions which remain.

Attendance at the Saturday night Prayer Fellowship worship service has increased, and attendees invite men in their units to attend seminars as well. This has resulted in increasing seminar attendance, especially when the speaker is remembered from a previous year.

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At our last seminar there was a total of 98 men who attended, 83 of whom attended three or four sessions. Twenty-four men had not attended a previous seminar; many were new to the prison. On Friday night, twenty-one men had to be turned away due to lack of space (!), so we have talked about having future seminars in the gym.

Seminars have ongoing effects, some men have come into new faith; others are making commitments to grow in their faith and to serve the Lord more faithfully.

We are grateful for the freedom the State Prison allows for Christian programming, including these seminars. We will appreciate your prayers for the staff, volunteers and especially the men who are being served.

Jean Metzger

Note: If you love the Lord Jesus and care to be a volunteer in any part of the ministry of CAM, please call Paul Roussel at CAM headquarters.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY BY KEN WEST

Not All Christians Shoot Their Wounded

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1,2

As a child I was sexually abused for ten years, from the ages of 4-14, by my uncle and his friends. Not only was I abused, but was forced to abuse others. I could tell no one about it for fear of my life – and the lives of others. At age 10, I found some one I could trust, or so I thought. When I confided in him, he also began abusing me. From then on I trusted no one.

I grew up confused about who I was, what I was, and my sexuality. I kept family and friends at a distance so they would not see the "real" me..... Then I began abusing others.

Because of the hatred I developed for myself, I decided to commit suicide. As I was deciding how to end my life, my TV was on. The channel was on Pat Robertson of the "700 Club." God's Word pierced my heart. In a flood of tears, I begged God to save me. Immediately I experienced relief, but did not truly understand what I had done.

After years of no true direction, I found a Bible-preaching church. Though I enjoyed the preaching and fellowship there, my insides were still in turmoil. I was living in sin and living a lie. **I tried to take control of my own life by working more than 80 hours a week, and living in virtual isolation.** Nothing changed. I believed the lies of the devil, and always returned to my sin and offences.

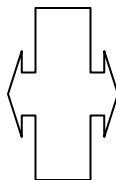
BUT GOD would not let me go. I needed to openly confess my sins to my victims, family, and to my church. It was the only way I could be free from the lie I was living. I had to be right with God.

I laid bare my soul before all the people I had hurt. I waited to be told what a terrible person I was. I waited for my pastor and Christian friends to confirm the lies the devil had been telling me. But instead, they told me they loved me and would help. **My pastor said, "You're broken, but you can be fixed."**

This was the first time I ever experienced unconditional love from others. It felt so good. Of course, as part of being "fixed," the pastor needed to inform the deacons of the situation. **When I came to church the following Sunday, I was once again overwhelmed with the fear of rejection. What I received instead was words of love, encouragement and promises of prayer.**

(Please go to page three for the conclusion of this testimony.)

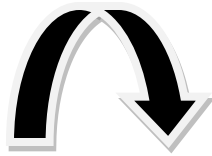
PRAISE: Volunteers are vital part of CAM ministry and we praise God for their continued commitment to serve.



PRAY for God's will in having the work of CAM reaching out to Keene and other communities.

ANNUAL CAM DINNER AND FUNDRAISER

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013
 TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 PLACE: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 508 UNION STREET
 (CORNER OF UNION AND HANOVER)



PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR A WONDERFUL MEAL, GREAT SPEAKER, INSPIRING CHRISTIAN MUSIC & TESTIMONIES.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to seating capacity limitations, if you are planning to attend this dinner, you must notify Paul Roussel at CAM headquarters: 603-669-5090.



Pictured above are men at Bethany Covenant Church collecting men's winter coats for CAM to be given to men getting released from prison.

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I turned myself in to the authorities. During the next 13 months while I was out on bail, I received intense Biblical counseling; was held accountable for all my actions, and received restoration of my soul. **I was handled firmly, lovingly, and patiently; much like Jesus does with us.**

When I came to prison, I was at peace with my Lord, and I was FREE! I've been in prison now for more than 13 years, and have met many men who have been rejected, even by their local "Bible-preaching" churches, who should know better. This in turn has caused them to doubt God, and has impeded their healing. That is why I am so thankful for ministries like CAM.

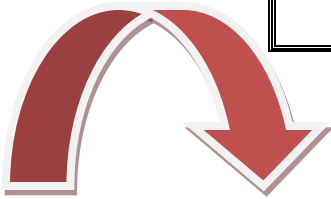
I continually praise God for all that He has brought me through. He caused "...all things to work together for the good..." just as He promised.

The love I received from my Lord and home church, I'm able to pass on to the church behind the walls. Amen!

CAM UPDATE
Christian Aftercare Ministries
50 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Non-Profit Organization
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Manchester, NH 03101
Permit Number 434

TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT:



URGENTLY NEEDED: DONATIONS OF, MEN'S SHOES, JEANS, T-SHIRTS & UNDERWEAR, also TOWELS, BEDDING, POTS, PANS, & DISHES. FOR DELIVERIES, CALL THE OFFICE MONDAY OR WEDNESDAY 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M., OR THURSDAY 2:30 TO 6 P.M. 603-669-5090

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Co-Laborers with the Church in ministry to ex-offenders since 1994
www.christianaftercare.com

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30 – 6 p.m.
Phone: 603-669-5090

Our immediate ministry need is for a Christian man willing to mentor clients.
Please call Paul Roussel 603-669-5090

Thank you for helping to meet our needs.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to Christian Aftercare Ministries. Send to: 50 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03101

Thank You

NOTICE: If you would like a CAM board member to visit your church or group to speak about this ministry, call Paul Roussel, Director, to schedule a date. Phone: (603) 669-5090.

Board Members: Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, Dave Rattigan, Ernie Kilman, Debbie and Neil Corriveau