

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

AUGUST 2013

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

NOT JUST A CRIMINAL

By Neil and Deb Corriveau
CAM Board Members

CAM OFFICE ACTIVITIES

During the last few months we have been busy with many men and a few women coming into the office for help. Many of their needs were met for clothing, jobs, household goods, furniture and Bible studies. We also directed them to churches where they were welcomed by the pastors and congregations. We also received requests from out-of-town prison volunteers. An ex-offender from Keene needs a place to stay and asked about Helping Hands. From Carroll County an inmate is coming to Manchester and needs help. Another request came from an inmate being released in Concord and will live in Manchester. We try to help with every need. Our volunteers throughout the state provide a wonderful network for assisting clients.

LACONIA

We visited a group of Christian volunteers who have a burden to help ex-offenders being released from Belnap County jail in Laconia. We shared some thoughts on how they might get started **and we prayed for the Lord's direction and guidance for their group.**

VALLEY STREET JAIL

Many Bible studies go on here. I was asked to lead a group of 13 men for four weeks. It blessed me to see the men profess faith in Christ. Some are struggling

with assurance of their salvation so we have been studying this in depth. Mike Grady leads Bible studies at Valley Street jail also and has seen much fruit there.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM

We noticed so many men are coming out of prison still dealing with past addictions to drugs and alcohol. Pastor Carlson leads a **"Reformers Unanimous"** program at his church (Gospel Baptist) in Manchester every Friday evening. Many men attending have been set free from addictions and continue to walk with the Lord in sobriety for which we praise the Lord. This group is open to anyone dealing with these problems especially the ex-offenders who are warmly welcomed.

"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten." Joel 2:25 KJV

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

A year has passed since God called us to become members of the Board at CAM. His leading us to serve in this way has been a natural culmination of how God has been working in our hearts over the past few years.

God has been giving us a vision change. He is challenging the way we see ourselves and others. What are we seeing when we view the latest mug shot from an arrest on the evening news?

It is easy to see a criminal, a menace to society, or even a lost cause. It is easy to elevate ourselves, believing that somehow we are better because we haven't committed the same sins.

God's Word tells us that "there is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10) and that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

(Romans 3:23) Yet, **"while we're still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8).

We are all unworthy, undeserving sinners saved by the grace of our loving God.

So what has God been teaching us? That we have all committed "crimes" before God. That the face

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we see on the news could be our own, or that of a parent, son or daughter, spouse or friend. We see the face of a "criminal" belongs to a beloved child of God whom He wants to bring to Himself to rescue and restore to new life in Christ.

There is no one who is beyond the transforming love and power of God. In God's eyes, there are no lost causes.

This is the focus of CAM. Yes, CAM assists the ex-offender re-entering society with material needs and with the logistics of getting back on their feet again. But CAM also recognizes their primary need (and the primary need of all of us) is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; that He is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" and our only hope.

Jesus loves and Jesus saves. Sharing this truth with those in need of God's restoration is CAM's mission and we are blessed to be a part of this ministry.

~ Neil & Deb

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

BY JOHN KUNZE

I grew up in Keene, NH in a strict Christian family with parents who loved each other. Growing up I felt like the black sheep of the family, and a neglected child. We attended church every week, but the church had strict rules that I struggled with. Part of my issues growing up was addiction to pornography and leading a double life trying to please everyone.

I strayed away from the Lord in my teenage years and was involved in unhealthy, sinful, behavior. After graduation from high school, I went to one year of college.

I was arrested and sent to prison and while there, I cried out to the Lord for help. In reaching out to the Lord, I could feel His hand of blessing and protection. Within a year in prison, I re-committed my life to Jesus. The Lord surrounded me with friends behind the walls.

Halfway through my sentence I applied for a sentence reduction which was approved by the judge. I again felt the Lord's hand of blessing on my life.

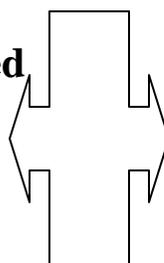
I met Paul Roussel before my release and he shared how CAM could help me. When released from prison I started doing Bible studies with Paul and that helped strengthen my faith.

I have been out of prison for 12 years and the Lord has blessed me with a good job, Christian friends, and my family restored. When not visiting my family, I attend the Gospel Baptist Church.

Paul and I continue to do Bible studies every week. Praise the Lord for His goodness and blessings.

JOHN

PRAISE:
Prison Ministry is truly blessed as the Lord continues to raise up Christians around the state who want to serve.



PRAYthat the Holy Spirit would convict each one the Lord sent into CAM ministry who initially professed faith in Christ, but then fell back into old ways.

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.

The Testimony from a Pennsylvania ex-offender, Larry Hale, now a pastor:

At age 13 I was frightened into asking Jesus to save me from my sins! But the Bible says in James 2:19 “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!” Satan actually knows Jesus! and satan is certainly not a Christian. Neither was I at that point. The lures of this world were too great and my faith was immature. (Can you relate?) See Matthew 13:20-21 where we read that God’s word fell on stony ground but did not take root or grow.

My troubles began in high school when I idolized rock musicians and their music. Our own band became popular and played in clubs and concerts. My girlfriend and I became parents but I was not a good husband or father. We went on the road and loved being on stage and the applause. One night in Johnstown (PA) I was not up to performing and was given a little white pill to take. It worked and kept me up all night!! That began my serious drug habit; I left my wife and family, but our group did exceedingly well.

When I went to buy a BMW. the salesman had a wiretap on. **I was in deep trouble.** Our band was investigated for our “drug ring.” **(Looking back, I can see God’s hand moving on my life.)** I couldn’t get out of this trouble, so gave myself up. This was the lowest point of my life. My friends disappeared, and I was estranged from my family and I lived in darkness. I had no relationship with Christ. After all, I was “scared” into going to the altar. Jesus was not MY savior or Lord. He was a way to heaven to me. I did consider suicide. I quit the band, married again, and got a full time job.

The judge said “Two years in a federal penitentiary.” **(I later learned that my parents were at home on their knees praying for me.)** Before I left the courtroom, the sentence was remanded and I was given six months in a county jail on a work release program. At work a Christian employee told me about a God who loved me so much he sent his son to die on the cross for me and offered eternal life, peace and joy. I started thinking about Jesus again.

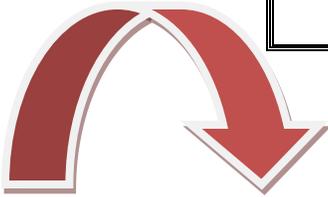
After four months in the work release program I was set free!! It was hard to believe I was FREE! But I had lost my freedom first when I opened my life to satan. Eternal death is the gift of satan, but the GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. See Ephesians 2:1-10. Jesus is now my rock and my name is in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Jesus meets EVERY need. Glory to God. “Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.” Psalm 142:7

Larry is pastor of Glendale Church of God, Marysville, PA bringing help and hope through the love of Jesus Christ to those in need. Larry is now married to the niece of Margie Frank, CAM newsletter editor.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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