

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

DECEMBER 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

GOD'S SUCCESS STORIES

By Kent Threlfall,
CAM Board Member

The Lord blessed our ministry again this year with a very successful CAM dinner on October 7, 2006. The food was excellent; the testimony speakers were a special blessing this year, and it was a very successful fundraiser. The Lord always blesses each one that attends as we share what the Lord is doing in the jails and prisons of NH. This is an exciting ministry to be involved with as we see how the Lord overwhelms with blessings the men and women who turn their lives over to Jesus. Because of the Lord, we are able to turn the disappointments we experience over to Him as we remember to pray for them.

A big part of our ministry is clothing which provides us the opportunity to share God's plan of salvation with every person who requests clothes. In the last 12 months we have provided beautiful clothes to approximately 250 men and women. (All of it donated by many wonderful people and organizations.) We are sure to tell them that the Lord will provide all their needs.

On November 12, 2006, Shawn Kane (one of God's successes) and I spoke at Bethany Covenant church about our ministry. What a blessing Shawn's testimony was as he shared how the Lord transformed his life. Many people came up to Shawn and thanked him for

sharing. Also – Shawn was able to minister and spend time with a young man (just released from jail and in church that day) and gave him good advice. On that same Sunday, Bethany Covenant had a clothing drive for CAM and we also received Walmart gift cards which we use and need.

A big thank you to the board members who are diligent to their calling in working for CAM.

*For I have kept
the ways of the
Lord; I have not
done evil by
turning from my
God. All His laws
are before me; I
have not turned
away from His
decrees. I have
been blameless
before Him and
have kept myself
from sin.*

*As for God, His
way is perfect.
Psalm 18:21-23,
30a*

As Chaplain at Rockingham County Department of Corrections, I have the awesome privilege of ministering to inmates. Over the years I have witnessed many "jail-house conversions," but only a few are truly God's success story. The typical inmate who goes to Chapel for services and Bible studies, finds God while being incarcerated. However, when they return to society, God suddenly becomes no longer first in their lives. The sad result is – many will return to prison because of the wrong decisions they will make independent from God.

For those who stay close to God it makes my job all the more meaningful. **Gerry is one of God's success stories** I was directly involved with.

Gerry came into my facility after serving many years at state prison. He was labeled as "porker," as he was rather large, weighing over 350 lbs. To those who really knew him, he was a "Gentle Ben." Gerry came to love God. It was a special day when he received Christ as his Lord and Savior.

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For years he had been struggling with self-esteem and now had victory over this. He vowed to Serve God faithfully, especially after he was released to society. Gerry is one of God's success stories because he has remained faithful by staying close to God. He has continued to put into practice the tools he learned while at my facility. Recently Gerry called me to say he was getting married again, only this time to a Christian who loves him as Jesus does.

Gerry is one of the fortunate ones, because he has had a network of caring individuals willing to help him with his walk with the Lord. It saddens me to see men on fire for God leave, and then fall back into sin because they walk away from God after their release from jail.

What helped Gerry make it was the "Barnabas" that came into his life prior to his release from jail. Having that accountability partner to share with is invaluable. **The key we find in our experience with inmates, is a true committed relationship with Jesus PRIOR to release.**

There is a tremendous need for volunteers to become mentors, prayer warriors, and be willing to work to help those who deserve a second chance.

When I became a board member of CAM, I brought into this ministry the burden to help inmates make it. As CAM has grown with the pressing need to provide not just the bare essentials, but to recruit and train volunteers willing to be mentors, chaperones, escorts, and accountability partners. Matthew 25:43 says, *"I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me."* **Please ask God how you may help us in CAM.** We need more of God's success stories.

Praise God for a successful
CAM Dinner!

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By David Devine

I gave my life to Christ when I was ten years old and it seems I have spent the majority of my life doing everything I could do to try to take it back from Him.

As an adult, I used the excuses I was "making up" for all the things, and fun, I missed as a child ... after all, I came from a broken home. had a drunken father and a mother who was not there for me! I mean, who would blame or find fault in me for that?

All the while, the Lord would bless me in so many ways despite my efforts to push Him out. The more I pushed, the more He seemed to bless me ... and I would work very hard to mess it up.

As a result, my life was full of disappointment and pain. There was this big "hole" inside of me that I just could not fill, no matter what I did. Sex and drugs were my life, and my life was a living hell. but hey, at least I was calling the shots and hanging on to the illusion that I was in control.

I finally hit "rock bottom." I found myself in the county jail awaiting trial on criminal charges. While there, I met a former pastor who asked me, "Are you saved?" I answered, "I really don't know ... I think I am." That day, that hour, I put that question to rest. I prayed to the Lord saying, "My life is over. If you can make anything out of what is left ... then I'm yours!" That prayer changed my life for good.

During the seven years I spent in prison I know the Lord was with me. He placed many different people in my life to walk with me and help me understand that God indeed had a plan for my life.

I can't say everything is the way I would have had it to be. What I can say is that (my life) is more stable and better than it has been before. Oh yeah ... I still struggle with trying to do it my way. However, I am learning despite my best efforts.

The Lord has used the wonderful godly people of "Christian Aftercare" to give me the support and hope that (I so) desperately needed. I think of Jean Metzger's Bible studies, and how she personally made sure I had clothes when
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PRAYER REQUEST:
**Pray for the Lord's direction for
CAM regarding our transitional
housing vision.**

THE LORD'S WORK INSIDE THE WALLS

By Paul Roussel

Many of you have heard the comment that it is far easier to be a Christian inside the walls than it is after you are released.

The concept of aftercare is to provide help, encouragement, and guidance when a person is released, but the Christian journey starts well before release.

The key to a successful Christian re-entry starts inside the walls, with individuals making a 100 % heart-changing commitment to walk with Jesus. That requires the individuals, after having been convicted by the Holy Spirit of their need to change, confess their sins and accept Jesus as Savior, they must then be overwhelmed by the Lord's wonderful mercy in transforming their lives. As they start to praise the Lord for blessing their lives, the journey to becoming a committed Christian starts. Their faith grows, they start reading the Bible, and they want to please Jesus. They quickly realize the importance of Christian fellowship provided by Bible studies, chapel services, Christian recovery programs and prayer time. How faithful they are in attending these opportunities for growth is a measure of their commitment to Jesus.

In New Hampshire, the Lord has provided doors open to the Gospel in all the jails and prisons in the state. Hundreds of Christian Volunteers who go in and do Bible studies, lead Christian programs like Alpha, and do weekend seminars (Prison Fellowship and Kairos). In addition to all this, the Christian inmates do their own Bible studies in the pods and in the process hold one another accountable for their walk.

As a ministry, our ongoing prayer is that the Lord will use all the Christians (inmates and volunteers) to share Jesus with every person incarcerated in New Hampshire.

My Personal Testimony, Continued from Page 2

I arrived at the Calumet Halfway house. I recall Mike Grady's Bible studies at the Halfway house, how on his wedding anniversary, he took time out of his day and drove me to the orientation classes for my new job. I smile when I remember the genuine concern and prayers of Paul Roussel and how he arranged for me to get a bike so I could get back and forth to work. The biggest blessing was when Christian Aftercare presented me with a donated vehicle.

I've been blessed with a wonderful job and God has seen it fit to allow me to be promoted to a management position in my company.

So, now when Paul Roussel or anyone else asks me how I am doing spiritually or otherwise, all I have to do is point to the donated car on which the license plates bear a single phrase: "**BLESSED.**" I think that pretty much says it all ... don't you?

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Co-Laborers with the Church in ministry to ex-offenders

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
603-669-5090

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

CAM MINISTRY URGENTLY NEEDS:
Men's jeans, sneakers, work boots, gloves,
clean shirts in good repair,
as well as...*YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.*

Thank you for helping to meet these on-going needs.

The **MOST URGENT** IMMEDIATE need is
for winter ski jackets

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

CAM UPDATE
Christian Aftercare Ministries
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Manchester, NH 03101

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