

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

FEBRUARY 2011

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS

By Mike Grady
CAM Board Member

CLOTHING & HOUSEHOLD GOODS MINISTRY

One very important ministry of CAM involves providing good used and new clothing, and household articles for the men and woman being released from prison. Many of them have very little after incarceration when they come seeking help to our office at 50 Lowell St, Manchester. We welcome about 30 people monthly and try to assist them as they set up apartments and look for jobs. In our last newsletter we asked for donations of winter jackets. The Lord overwhelmed us with 55 new and used which were distributed to needy men and women. We also received monetary donations and we purchased work boots, winter hats, gloves and flannel shirts. Thank you to all who generously supplied these items! As we give them out we always remind the recipients that they are from the Lord Jesus Christ through His people. We also present the Gospel to whoever comes seeking help that the only real lasting help is a result of a changed life and heart that only the Lord can bring to seeking souls.

VALLEY STREET JAIL

The Lord continues to use men and women to lead Bible studies here and several CAM board members are part of this outreach. The inmates themselves lead Bible studies in their pods and share Jesus Christ with inmates.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Dec. 22, Chaplain Dave Carlson

led two services at Valley St. jail and 65 men and women attended. I shared with both groups that CAM is available to help them when they are released. Pastor Carlson gave an invitation to commit their lives to Christ. About 15 people responded. We appreciate all the prison officials do to arrange for us to come in and hold a service. And we know the Lord has gone before us to prepare the way.

FEDERAL PRISON

At the invitation of a prison volunteer at the Federal Prison in Fort Devens, MA, who attends our (MVB) church, I spoke to 45 inmates about their need to seek the Lord for a transformed and changed life. Many responded to the invitation to accept Christ and to walk with Him faithfully while they are still in prison, and afterward, when they are released. Praise the Lord for His work among hearts there.
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**“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”
Philippians 1:6**

Paul and I have many times of prayer together thanking the Lord for making us a part of CAM's ministry and for the successes we have witnessed. All efforts do not lead to success. A few weeks ago there were some setbacks; a couple men we invested a lot of time in (I should say the Lord's) failed in their walk. Both are back in jail – the best place for them. I know one has repented and is back in the Word. With prayer he will complete his journey. Please pray for Scott.

The flesh being weak, I have a tendency to dwell on disappointments, forgetting the Lord has His own plan for every believer's life. Again, I have to draw closer to the cross remembering only the Lord can change a heart and we are just tablets of flesh on whom he writes His epistle. *(Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. 2 Corinthians 3:3)* Only God gives the increase, again I realize we are to serve humbly.

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(Grady continued from page 1)

Many times I've been encouraged by Paul Roussel even as I was writing this article, he called to tell me about Jim, who just arrived at the halfway house from Berlin (NH) Prison. **Jim told Paul he accepted Christ in a Bible study I had led at Valley St. Jail.** This helps with my conclusion that it is good to remember what the Lord has done in the past. The many ex-offenders who faithfully walk with the Lord and continue to attend Bible studies, attend church and serve in many other ways, God is good! I've been ministering with CAM for six years. I thank God for His faithful men. Some men I met at the beginning still meet weekly for Bible study. Francis, Don, Frank and others have moved on but still call occasionally to update their lives.

Whatever our ministry is, we can't let disappointments cripple our effectiveness. For only God's Gospel can change a heart and it's in His time, not ours. But we have to remain faithful and walk humbly according to His word abiding in Him. *(I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5)* My prayer is that whoever reads this article is encouraged by it; serve the Lord with all their heart and remain faithful to the Gospel. That's what we're called to do.

We who serve the Lord need to remember that our responsibility is to share God's plan of salvation (Good News) with each one the Lord sends to us. Then it is the Lord who draws them by His Holy Spirit to accept Jesus as Savior.

PRAYER REQUEST:

That the CAM director and the board members continue to be enabled to minister in Jesus' name the plan of salvation to men in or re-leased from prison.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Paul Fimbel

My name is Paul. I am the oldest of four siblings and grew up in a small town in southern New Hampshire. I was raised in a very strict Christian home. We went to church twice on Sunday and once on Wednesday night. After those years in church, VBS (Vacation Bible School) and Sunday School, I had an interest to know more about Jesus and getting saved. At five and a half years old I asked my mother about getting saved and with her lead I accepted the Lord Jesus to be my Savior. As I grew up, I was home schooled and hung out with friends from church. My friends were very active and enjoyed skate-boarding, snowboarding and lots of mountain bike riding.

Around the age of 17, I was butting heads with my parents as **I tried to discover who I was, and of course I was 17, so "I knew it all." Ha ha.**

I started hanging out in a nearby town and getting mixed up with some kids drinking, smoking cigarettes and having inappropriate relationships with girls. As I connected further in the next year with these people, I started using and selling drugs. I lost my (driver's) license multiple times and ended up driving without a license because it was the only way to get around. This was a series of bad choices that led to being arrested with "friends" regularly, then led to my recreational drug use to addictions with harder drugs which then led to many burglaries to earn income to support these terrible habits. This continued for a few years and I became stagnant, unhealthy and needless to say, I didn't hang with my childhood friends or maintain any of the fun activities we used to do.

At the age of 20, I was driving along and the local police recognized me behind the wheel. The police knew I didn't have a license so they turned around to pull me over. I sped off in panic knowing this would be big trouble. As I led them on a chase, I ran a stop sign in fear of slowing down and being caught. **This would be the decision that ended the chase and got me one to four years in State Prison. This still did not get my attention.** I had a few months before I turned 21, I just wanted to turn 21 before I went to prison. All I cared about was being able to drink on my 21st birthday. So I partied my last few months away until I had to go away. Sad but true, after all this I still wouldn't listen to the signs

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CAM thanks everyone for donations of winter coats. Our needs now are critical for work boots, men's jeans & shirts, shoes & sneakers. Also needed: bedding, towels, dishes, pots and pans. If you can donate please call Paul Roussel at (603) 669-5090. Or bring to CAM office at 50 Lowell St., Manchester, NH

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IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

As I have mentioned in the past, one of the keys for successful re-entry into society from prison is an immediate connection to a local church where men and women are welcomed into a church family and loved as Christ would have us love others. Many reading this newsletter from various churches in NH do just that. We thank the pastors and flocks for their concern for these people, because they need to get grounded on the Word of God and learn to walk faithfully with Him. This takes patience and lots of encouragement from believers in local churches. We were blessed to welcome four men at our church recently who had been released from prison, Peter, Mike, Frank and Justin. Our Pastor Clouse greeted them warmly and so did others in the congregation. Praise the Lord for His working in the lives of these ex-offenders! Pray for them.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

(Testimony from page 2)

and circumstances that God has been using to reach me.

During my incarnation, I got periodic visits from Paul Roussel (Director of CAM), and from my amazing family every week. These visits were very uplifting and encouraging. **About four months into my time I saw an inmate in the yard sitting at a picnic table reading a Bible, so I walked over to say Hi. That's not something you see in jail or anywhere and thought it was a bold statement. He could've been reading in his cell where people wouldn't see it.** I introduced myself and he soon invited me to a chapel service he attended by a caring pastor named Kin. I went with him and started attending chapel regularly. I started really thinking about my future and what they were teaching me about God, and that no matter what you've done or the circumstances in your life, you can be forgiven and there is hope for the future.

After being released I got a job in construction; worked hard; bought a car and found a church home that suited my style. I have connected with my church in Manchester that I love so much and my church family has become such a great support network for me.

Now, seven years later, I have started reconnecting with the old friends I can find and telling them about the Lord and how He can change their lives. God didn't give up on me. Paul Roussel, Kin and my family didn't give up on me, and now I want to use my story and my God to help others. God was trying to get my attention for years but I was too blinded by the evil in my life to see it. **Prison was God's bold move to make me see Him and I'm thankful for that because that's the wake up call I needed.** Attending Manchester Christian Church, surrounding myself with Christian friends and rededicating my life to following the Lord has changed my life tremendously.

I hope my life story will be an encouragement to you! -Paul Fimbel

“For the wages of sin is death;
 but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Manchester, NH 03101
Permit Number 434

TO:

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

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

CAM UPDATE is compiled by Editor, & Director, Paul Roussel. Prepared by Marjorie Frank. Financed by your donations. Mailed from Manchester, NH Post Office three times a year.

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

CAM MINISTRY ALWAYS NEEDS:
Men's jeans, sneakers, work boots, gloves,
clean shirts in good repair, and
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
Thank you for helping to meet these 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, Ernie Kilman, Dawn Beaulieu, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, and Dave Rattigan.