

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

FEBRUARY 2015

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

Established 1994

FROM DIRECTOR/EDITOR, PAUL ROUSSEL

VALLEY STREET JAIL Mike Grady and I lead Bible studies here throughout the week. Once a year a special Christmas service is held which delights those who attend. This year Chaplain Carlson invited Pastor Peter Chamberlain from the Granite Street Baptist Church to conduct the uplifting service for seventy-seven men and women. When the invitation to accept Christ as savior was extended, 16 people responded. Bob Radford led the Christmas music on his guitar which blessed us all.

VISITATION AT SUPPORTING CHURCHES During the year CAM board members are asked to speak at local churches to give updates on CAM ministries. January 11, 2015 we spoke at First Congregational in Manchester, one of our supporting churches. Glen Ford, assistant manager at Helping Hands, accompanied me. He shared his testimony as to how the Lord changed his life from addictions, and we received a thank-you letter from the church expressing how much they were blessed by it. I thanked this church for their generous support and for opening their doors to us each fall for our Annual CAM fundraiser dinner. We have been invited to speak in March at First Baptist church of Derry. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the work of CAM ministries. We are available to speak at other churches in the area. Call me, Paul Roussel, at 603-669-05090 to make arrangements.

CLOTHING MINISTRY We have been remembered by so many individuals and churches with donations of clothing, especially Bethany Covenant church of Bedford. Our thanks go to them for the many winter jackets they collected which were greatly appreciated by the recipients who had none to wear in this record cold winter. Shoes, boots, jackets, jeans and sneakers are always welcome at the CAM office at 50 Lowell Street during office hours.

CHANGED LIVES THROUGH CHRIST We minister to approximately 500 men and women during the course of each year. Many of them are broken people, addicted to drugs and alcohol, have no job or place to live and are without hope. When they come to us, we share the transforming power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit with them who can change their lives if they will only surrender to Him. What a changed life they experience when they finally do turn from sin to the Savior! Please pray for these men as they begin their new life in Christ – and for us as we minister to them.

PRAYER IS THE FUEL THAT DRIVES CAM

By Mike Grady, CAM Board Member

John 2:13 (ESV) *"I am writing to you fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you young men because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you children because you know the Father."*

John MacArthur says his experience has taught him much about spiritual growth. When a young Christian he was so euphoric in loving the Lord that he was influenced by anyone's teaching. Later as he learned the Word of God, false teaching no longer deceived him – it made him angry. His knowledge of the Word gave him the desire to know God intimately – the final level of growth. We minister to people at all stages and need prayer to discern where they are, so our words will reach their hearts.

Many come with a desire to change, but not understanding where the change truly comes from. They seek deliverance from addictions and behavior problems – all good motives. (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

They have attended programs such as AA, NA, anger management etc., and learned good tools to use when released from prison. Inside they know this is not enough, more is needed than their own power, but a "higher power" as spoken of in some secular classes.

A number come into the office as honest seekers, some are agnostic (don't know if there is a God), others are committed to Christian teachings, ethics and doing good, behaving like Christians, even having a good knowledge of scripture. **Not until they have a personal encounter with Christ do they find the strength to overcome,** then they discover true fellowship, grow in truth, change their world view and relationships which leads to spiritual maturity.

PRAYER is an important part of CAM'S ministry. You can't talk to Paul Roussel without him saying, "Let's pray." Again, please pray for us for we need God's wisdom, not our own to present His word so it is understood by those who hear. Making disciples and teaching them to observe Christ's teachings is a lifetime commitment.

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

~Mike Grady

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Jayson Gardner

My name is Jayson Gardner and I am 30 years old. When I was just a young boy I had a desire to know if Jesus was real; if there was a God and if he cared or loved me. At times I would get mad at my mother and go into the woods to talk to God. Something in my heart longed to know Him. I asked Him to show me He was real.

When I was older I began to use drugs and would find whatever I could to numb myself of any feeling. I hated everyone because I hated myself.

My uncle was a Christian and I felt there was something different about him. He told me how Jesus delivered him from drugs and alcohol and gave him joy and peace. That attracted me because it was something I knew I needed.

One night I cried out to Jesus and repented of my sins and invited Him into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. I acknowledged that He went to the cross for me. He began to change my heart, attitude and perspective. He gave me a new talk, new walk, hope and peace. I was 20 years old then and got involved in ministry in my church. I was thankful for what Jesus had done to reconcile me to God. A few years went by and God did tremendous miracles in my life and family. One miracle is meeting Jessica in the prayer room and we were later married.

As time went by I began to forget what the Lord had taken me from. I also hurt my back which opened a door that should never have been opened. **I was then 25 years old - a long time being free of drugs, but I started using them again.** They gripped me. I stopped praying to Jesus because I was full of shame and guilt. Drugs consumed my thoughts, desires and ambitions and became my God. My wife stayed faithful to church. I began to allow the shame of all I was doing push me away from Jesus. I began to believe there was no hope and that I blew it. **I forgot where I came from and lost focus on the Source - - - Jesus!** I didn't tell anyone how really bad things were out of control.

All the while my wife and my church family were praying and believing God to restore me. My wife, Jessica, clung

To the promises of God. (Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) One day I walked into a pharmacy and demanded a drug. I left there and within minutes I was arrested. I received a 4-10 year sentence. While first incarcerated, I felt I had no hope. My mind and heart were all over the place. One night I was lying on my bunk and the moon was slightly shining into my cell and it's beams hit my face. **I felt Jesus' presence and I cried out to Him. I asked Him to forgive me and renewed my commitment to Him.**

I knew I had to face the consequences of my sin and that Jesus would not take me out of the results of my sin. **But through repentance and a whole-hearted surrender, I gave my circumstances and future over to Jesus.** I began to go to chapel especially Sunday night. I loved the worship and the good preaching.

My wife and I began to take time at visits to talk. God began to restore us. She went on to graduate from college. My church family helped her. We got involved in a ministry for married couples. I learned a trade in auto body work. We were believing God to open a door for me, before I even got out of prison, to get a job in that field. A week after my release I had a job by God's divine grace in an auto body shop. It's been more than a year and a half and I am still there. God is good.

I have learned more about the grace of God than I could ever imagine. He is just, righteous, perfect, pure and always on time. He is able to do far above what we could ever imagine, think or comprehend. **He takes a messed up life and makes a message out of it. He has taken the broken piece of my life and made something beautiful out of it for His glory. He can do in you what He has done in me. It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or what you have done, God shows no partiality. I am His child and I give him all the glory. Praise be to Jesus.**

Sincerely, Jayson Gardner

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

- men to accept Christ and embark on a new life through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
- Gods' wisdom in presenting His Word; discipling & teaching Christ's way to live, and to understand at what stage the ex-offenders are.
- Opportunities to share the work of CAM in area churches.
- a volunteer proficient in searching websites for CAM'S needs, i.e. bikes, beds, mattresses, etc.

PRAISE REPORTS FOR:

- opportunities to share the Love of Christ.
- seeing lives changed dramatically through accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- testimonies like Jason Gardner's on page 2, that tells how the grace of God works through the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- employers willing to hire ex-offenders
- Holy Spirit-filled leadership of CAM.

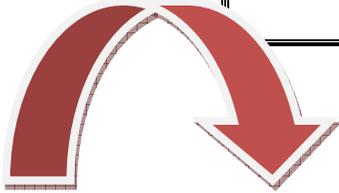
WHAT DID JESUS SAY? "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Matthew 11:28-30 NKJ

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

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TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT:



URGENTLY NEEDED DONATIONS: BEDS, TWIN MATTRESS & BOX SPRING, SHOES, JEANS, WINTER COATS, BOOTS, GLOVES. WE NEED A VOLUNTEER PROFICIENT IN SEARCHING WEBSITES FOR OUR NEEDS, i.e., BIKES & BEDS FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE: 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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Phone: 603-669-5090

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to Christian Aftercare Ministries at 50 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03101
Thank You

Thank you for helping to meet our needs.

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 Grant, Ernie Kilman, Debbie and Neil Corriveau, Ron Menard.