

CAM UPDATES

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders
Non-profit Organization www.christianaftercare.com

JULY, 2008
Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR By Paul R. Roussel

BLESSED BY CAM
By Kent Threlfall
CAM Board Member

On March 19, 2008 Mike Grady from CAM, Pastor Mike Rattin from Faith Baptist Church in Hollis, NH, and I, had the opportunity to conduct an Easter service for the inmates at Valley Street Jail in Manchester. Approximately sixty men and women attended, and ten of them accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. What a blessing it was to see how the Lord worked out every detail of the service and how lives were touched by the Lord.

In the Last 12 months, our ministry has met and helped 310 men and women who were getting out of prison. In most cases we gave much needed clothing to each one; prayed for their needs; tried to find job opportunities and housing for them, and presented God's plan of salvation to them. We emphasized that we at CAM care about them individually, and the Lord cares about them and wants to help them. The Lord has raised up many lay people and pastors of various churches in NH, who are willing to help them when they are released from prison. We thank the Lord for these co-workers. CAM helps inmates individually, but until they become part of a local, caring church, the work cannot be carried forward. Our local churches are most important in the ex-offenders' successful re-entry into society.

Our recent request for used men's clothing has been met by many of our supporting churches.

Some lighter summer clothing and sneakers are still needed. One of our ex-offenders keeps the clothing in order in the CAM office so it's available when needed.

We covet your continued prayers for the CAM board members as we seek to serve the Lord, and for the ex-offenders He sends to us for assistance.

Joey O'Brien, (our tenent leader living upstairs in Helping Hands) is being used of the Lord to: (1) lead a weekly Christian Recovery group, and (2) minister to other Christians living in Helping Hands.

We are actively interviewing potential candidates for our transitional housing and praying that the Lord will send us the clients **HE** has chosen.

*"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures forever."
Psalm 106:1*

It has been a special honor and blessing for me to be a part of this ministry. As a CAM board member, it had allowed me the opportunity to be a part of helping those go from behind walls back into society. And as Chaplain I have a direct contact daily with inmates at the Rockingham County Dept. of Corrections to carry out our mission. There, I recognize I provide a vital part of the whole process within the law enforcement community. My primary goal is to provide pastoral care to the inmate. The chaplain becomes pastor to the inmates as well as their teacher in spiritual matters.

Despite guards, fences topped with razor wire, and peers with a liking for trouble, many men and women are coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ while behind bars. I am told there are currently more than 2 million people incarcerated in the United States—most do not have a
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personal relationship with Jesus.

Where some people only see in prisoners the worst that society has to offer, I get to see a massive and continually growing mission field filled with desperate people hungry for the peace and hope only a relationship with Christ can bring.

My love for the hearts of inmates began in 2000 when God led me to be a volunteer teaching Bible studies at the Rockingham County Department of Corrections. Every Monday evening I would go behind the many steel doors and have a group study. It was in this study that I met Eric Williams in June 2001.

Eric was a troubled teenager who was lost and needed the living God to love him and show him the path to follow. Eric came to know Christ as his Lord and Savior, and repeatedly came out to the Monday study until his release.

I stayed in touch with Eric through the mails for a period of time and then lost touch. I would pray for him as I do for many of the inmates that are both in my facility and beyond. When Eric returned to RCDC, I was the Chaplain, which afforded me greater opportunity to minister to him.

Eric was the prodigal Son who had walked away from God and now humbly returned in repentance. I believed Eric was now sincere in his faith and ready to be used by God. He was

involved in any Bible study and worship service he could attend. When he left for the state prison, we continually corresponded with each other. He was active while participating in a correspondence Bible School, learning from the wonderful words of God and sharing his faith with others.

Upon his release to serve out his remaining time at Calumet House, Eric's dream is to be used by God and help others, especially the youth, with his experiences.

Eric is one of God's success stories, and I am honored to have had a part in his development. You can read his testimony below. Praise God for His unconditional grace!

My Personal Testimony

By Eric Williams

Growing up as one of the best athletes to come out of Dedham, Massachusetts, I had the world in the palm of my hand. I was the only child of two loving parents who adopted me at seven months of age. I was part of a family that had cookouts and sporting events often. My parents took time to attend my sporting events and school activities. I went to a vocational high school and studied computers. You'd think that growing up with a Nascar Feather-lite Modified and going to the races every weekend, that I would be a mechanic, but God had other plans. I struggled through high school because I was shy and didn't make many friends. The ones I made used me because I had a driver's license and was popular in sports. My junior year in high school, my Mom came down with a cancerous brain tumor and survived only by the grace of God. After high school I moved to Cape Cod, MA with a girl named Sarah and her month old son (who wasn't mine). A week later Dad died of a heart attack at age 52. I had given up my asst. manager's job to be with Sarah and that put a lot of stress on my parents.

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PRAY —that the Lord
would send committed
Christian men from prison to
live in our Transitional

PRaise: for the Lord's faithfulness in sending
more and more sincere men and women who want Him to
transform their lives.

ANNOUNCING: ANNUAL CAM DINNER & FUNDRAISER

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008
 TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 PLACE: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 508 UNION STREET (CORNER OF UNION & HANOVER)
 MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 SPEAKER: DAVID MIDWOOD, PRESIDENT OF VISION NEW ENGLAND
 NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A TABLE CAPTAIN (10 PER TABLE)
 PLEASE CONTACT PAUL ROUSSEL AT 669-5090

PLEASE SET ASIDE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR A WONDERFUL MEAL,
 GREAT SPEAKER, BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN MUSIC, AND INSPIRING TESTIMONIES!

(testimony continued from page 2)

*In June 2001 I moved to Hampton Beach, NH to be a bouncer at a club. The three people I worked with (my roommates) got into a fight over drugs and I ended up getting arrested for that and other things. I went to Rockingham County Jail and couldn't post bail because I still had a warrant from MA. As I sat in a cell, I decided to attend Chapel services and Bible studies. The study was led by Chaplain Kent Trefall and I **accepted Christ and was saved**. During that time I met Mike who did Bible studies and services at prison. He told me I would fix my relationship with my mother and that perhaps someday I would preach and teach the Bible. Sure enough I did go home to Mom and made things right with her. I walked with the Lord for awhile, then fell away from Him.*

In 2003, I was arrested in Salem for impersonating a police officer and writing bad checks but let out on bail. They told my mother what had happened.

*Then I moved to Miami, and was arrested May 13, 2005 by US marshals. I said to myself "I can't do this anymore." **God heard and rescued me**. I was sent back to prison where a fellow prisoner shared his testimony and another let me borrow his Bible. I re-committed my life to Christ that night.*

Two days later I was transferred where I attended Bible study. Four months later I was asked to teach the class. I breached and taught the Word of God. In the meantime my mother died of the brain cancer. I went back to RCDG and was reunited with Chaplain Trefall. Then I was sent to NHSP in Concord and spent three years and two months there. I have rekindled my relationships with family; gone through the Halfway House program; joined an awesome church and have been blessed beyond belief. I volunteer at a Christian campground - the Deering Center. I have goals and dreams of being a youth leader, pastor, or minister. Eventually I want to do prison ministry and help at Kairos. God is great and faithful all the time. When He calls, you better listen!

I am sorry for all the things I did and for all the people I hurt. I wish I could have ended up where I am today without those past behaviors. But, now I have a testimony of God's love and grace which is never failing. God gets all the glory!!

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: Monday and Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
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

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.

Board Members; Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Barry Brown, Kent Trelfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, and Dave Rattigan.

CAM UPDATE
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