

CAM UPDATES

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

MARCH, 2008
Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR By Paul Roussel

THE BELAYERS By Mike Grady CAM Board Member

The Lord continues to bring new supporting churches and individuals to this ministry and has blessed financially, so we are able to meet all our ministry needs. For this we give Him praise! We have had invitations to speak at churches in the area and are richly blessed to be able to thank them personally for their faithful support. We spoke recently at two morning worship services at Bethany Covenant church in Bedford – a supporting church for many years. Joey O'Brien gave his testimony. How grateful we are for their standing with us in ministry! We also spoke at the Londonderry Christian church at their men's breakfast, and Dominic Scarpa shared his testimony.

Our Christian 12-step program, led by Stan MacRoberts, has been meeting weekly for 13 years. The meetings focus on Bible-based recovery steps that men and women need to address as they deal with addictive behavior. People are being set free from these addictions and the Lord is their Helper. Those who attend enjoy the Christian fellowship and support from other believers.

At the office, we have ministered to approximately 85 men and women, helping with their greatest needs. The Gospel is presented and Bible studies continue regularly.

In January, Joey O'Brien, our Christian Residential leader, moved

into Helping Hands upstairs. We are now ready to receive the first clients from prison. We are excited about what the Lord is going to do in the lives of those who complete the program. Our guidelines include: *church attendance, prayer, Bible studies with our leader four times a week, attendance at the Christian 12 Step program if needed, and service projects as needs arise.* All this will help to disciple and ground these men firmly on the Word of God.

The faith-based Federal Re-Entry program resumed again after three years, and I've been asked to serve on the steering committee.

The Lord has raised up another helper for CAM. Dawn Beaulieu from Goffstown will be serving as a mentor to women getting out of prison. Thank the Lord for her willingness to serve.

*“But my God shall
supply all your need
according to His
riches in glory by
Christ Jesus”
Philippians 4:19
KJV*

Our Daily Bread, a devotional used by most of the inmates, gave an illustration last December entitled, “The Belayers.” I thought of CAM supporters. The article describes how the belayer holds onto a safety line as the rock climber climbs a sheer rock cliff. If the climber should slip or fall, the belayer holds him securely in place until he regains his foothold. The confidence of the lifeline back to my home church has enabled me to go beyond my natural talents and use the gifts God gave me.

The local churches support everything we do at CAM. When we give out clothing, it was donated by churches or its members. The transitional housing is supported by generous gifts. Even on my trip to Manchester, as I pay tolls, I'm reminded of a gift from a family at my church for that purpose. Most important is the spiritual support through prayers and activities in the churches where we are fed and grow. Thank God for our belayers for they, in turn, allow us to be belayers for the men and women getting out of prisons and jails. Without this lifeline, it would be difficult at best for them to readjust to society.

Three short years ago, a small voice was leading me to a new stage of service. I met with Paul to talk about helping with the mission of CAM, which led to opportunities to share the Gospel at Valley Street Jail, and meet Christian brothers in the State Prison System.

If you are anything like me, you may be listening for God's voice. I wasted years waiting for a “call” to know His plan. I'm now
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beginning to understand these passages more clearly.

I Kings 11-12 *“Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.”*

“And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.” nkjv

Please continue to pray for CAM and its members. Prayer is where the battle is won. *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* Ephesians 6:12. God can only use us after we allow Him to show us the deep hidden areas of our own character. It is astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves! We don't even recognize the envy, laziness, or pride within us when we see it. Jesus will reveal to us everything we have held within ourselves before His grace will begin to work. Then God can use us. We have to get rid of the idea that we understand ourselves. That is always the last bit of pride to go. The only One who understands us is God. **The greatest curse in our spiritual life is pride.**

Men and women in jail, who have found Christ, count their time there a joy. The cares of the world are far away and what is left is time alone with God. Joy should not be confused with happiness.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11

Some of the Christian men in prison have more joy in doing God's work than I might in their circumstances. Andrew, a man who has been waiting trial for a year, shares the joy he has in Christ with all that will listen.

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PRAY –for the Lord to send committed Christian men released from prison to our Transitional Housing program.

He brings many to the Bible studies and always befriends those who are struggling with their first time in jail. He has shown Christ's love to more people in a year than most of us do in a lifetime. The lives that have been the greatest blessing, are of those who were unaware of having been a blessing, as is Andrew.

Mike Grady

TESTIMONY of TOM SPILLANE

I grew up in a Catholic family and was baptized when an infant. My family went to church until my mother's suicide when I was five years old. My father stopped going to church, so I went with my older siblings. In my teen years, I lost faith in the church and stopped going. I headed for the combat zone in Boston where I quickly learned the survival tools for on the streets. We moved to Winthrop, MA in 1977 where I found acceptance in the drug world. I was rebellious and moved out from home at age 18 and ended up in the military for a short time.

I was arrested in Plymouth, MA when I was AWOL and accepted Christ – verbally, not spiritually. When I got out of the military (actually I was asked to leave), I married at age 19. We had two boys. I had numerous run-ins with the law. My wife took the boys to church but I wouldn't go, yet Jesus was knocking at my heart.

In 1986 I went into detox and started going to AA. I went through Native American studies, Buddhism, Taoism, and nature worship searching for God. Over the next four years we had a rocky road as I lost the battle with addiction, and divorced in 1991.

I battled many addictions as I searched for something, not knowing what it was. I married again in 1995 to another drug addict. I had physical problems and continued run-ins with the law which landed me in the psychiatric unit of NH state prison. When I came out of the fog of heavy medication, I paced my isolation cell for 24 hours. I cried and remembered going through the sinner's prayer at age 18. I begged God to come into my life June 24, 2000.

I came back to the county jail, attended Joe DuGuay's Bible study. I cried the entire hour. **Joe led me to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.** I studied diligently and then went back to prison on June 24, 2001 – a year to the day of my conversion.

I went through Kairos in 2003 and was ignited for the Lord, which lasted for a short time. I tried to study and talk to God, but that got choked out by the world.

(testimony continues on page three)

PRaise: for opportunities to share about CAM at area churches, and for the gift at Christmas of 9 new men's winter jackets from the ladies Bible study groups at Merrimack Valley Baptist Church.

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

By Larry Nice, Corrections Counselor/Case Manager at Calumet House

I have worked for the NH Department of Corrections almost 20 years and at the Calumet House for about nine years, and I have known of Christian Aftercare Ministries since its inception. There isn't enough space here to fully explain the value of CAM director, Paul Roussel and his staff. I will say a few words so you, CAM supporters, have some sense of the tremendous impact CAM has on those who benefit from it.

Most obvious is CAM's work to meet the initial needs of our new residents. They arrive at Calumet House in their old green prison clothes, and old boots or sneakers. Their initial needs for basic life necessities are met. Sometimes they are provided with a new or used bicycle for transportation to seek employment and get to and from the new job, and for court appearances.

Once our residents save enough money for an apartment, CAM helps with furniture, silverware, kitchen items, linen, etc. On a case by case basis, sometimes money is provided for those who have proven themselves trustworthy, but need a few dollars for special needs that might arise.

Beyond physical needs, CAM further provides the most important life-giving necessity – spiritual guidance. Since Paul and his staff are not government employees, they are free to encourage everyone to express faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If one of our residents says they are not sure of salvation, Paul might ask them, *“If you were to die today, are you sure you would go to heaven?”* He explains that Jesus died on the cross specifically for them and they need to trust in Him for forgiveness of their sins. Paul then prays with them to be born of God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. If they don't have a Bible, they are given one.

CAM also provides follow-up support with Bible studies, the Christian 12-Step program, one-on-one Christian counseling, referral to Bible preaching churches where they can get grounded in the Word of God and meet other Christians. This is consistent with the “guarantee of parole success” that Paul tells them about. To stay out of prison, all they have to do is “read their Bible, pray daily, attend a church, and stay in fellowship. **“ 100% of those who have followed these guidelines have not gone back to prison!**”

A new program CAM started is to offer Christian transitional housing at Helping Hands. A recent Calumet graduate is in this program and others are prayerfully being considered as participants.

As our halfway house counseling staff has decreased, CAM has met many physical and spiritual needs of our residents. I urge you all to continue to support this worthy organization, which faithfully follows Jesus' commandment to share the Gospel and make disciples.

–Larry Nice

(testimony continued from page 2)

In January of 2004, on the way to the prison in Berlin – to where I was transferred – I asked God to help me and my true Christian walk started. I began attending services and studies, and sent for any and all correspondence courses that had anything to do with God. I started Bible studies on my pod. I went to MSU and started a Bible study there where I had my first contact with Paul Roussel from CAM. Paul met with me and from that point on I have stayed in pretty close contact with CAM.

Mike Grady came to the halfway house and we studied the Bible. I found New Beginnings in Manchester which is a Pentecostal church. I go to NA and AA meetings where I confess Christ when given the opportunity (whenever I talk to someone).

All the time I spent in those pagan religions was well spent because I am able to talk to people and share my experience of sorting through the murky waters of those religions and share the wonderful light of Christ with them. God has put it on my heart to serve and I do. There is a place in I Kings, 11:12, where Elijah was in a cave and an earthquake came, but God wasn't there. A great wind came and God wasn't there. And then a gentle voice came and God was there. I hear that gentle voice and know my heavenly Father is real. I am grateful for the blood of Jesus and hope and pray I can serve Him, so when I meet Him face to face, I can hear “Well done my faithful servant.” *-Tom Spillane*

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

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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
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