

CAM UPDATES

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

NOVEMBER, 2007

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

OPEN DOORS

By Jack Shuler
New CAM Volunteer

Our 14th annual CAM dinner, Sept. 20, was the best ever. Lennie Spitale was the speaker, Joey O'Brien shared his testimony. Pastor Clouse from Merrimack Valley Baptist Church shared some thoughts on "What CAM means to Our Church," and promised a one time donation (\$5,000) to start the Christian transitional housing program. On the basis of that donation, and generous donations at the dinner, we are moving ahead. Helping Hands has the rooms available, and Joey O'Brien agreed to be the house parent. We have the required insurance coverage. We are considering two possible candidates as our first clients. We are very excited about moving forward as the Lord leads.

The Lord continues to bless Valley Street Jail with Pastor Dave Carlson as chaplain. I do visits every Monday morning. Just recently, Michael and Henry accepted Jesus as Savior. Mike Grady does at least one Bible study per week, and other pastors and volunteers conduct Bible studies throughout the jail.

On October 3rd I visited 12 men at the Berlin, NH prison with Chaplain Dana Hoyt sitting in. **Our visits serve many purposes:** 1) to meet each man who has written to me, and to share God's plan of salvation and pray with him.

2) to encourage each one and let them know the Lord loves them, and
3) to see how our ministry can help them when they are released from prison.

In the last three months, we have ministered to approximately 80 men and women, with most all needing clothes.

On Sunday September 9, I had the opportunity to speak at the New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene about our ministry and showed the CAM video.

NOTE: *We are available to speak at any church who would like to know more about this ministry. Call the CAM office.*

***"Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever, Amen!"
Revelation 7:12***

"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God" Psalm 143:10a

Over forty years ago, I was a young Army Captain, about to finish my military duty. After my stint as Acting Commander of the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station in Manchester, my wife, two young children and I, were about to head to Dental School at Baylor in Dallas, TX. Shortly before we left, I picked up the Union Leader and read a report of an armed robbery in the area. ***Little did I know that the man who committed that crime would later become a follower of Jesus Christ and begin Christian Aftercare Ministries.***

After graduation I returned to Londonderry, NH. I had occasion to get to personally know this man, Lennie Spitale, and saw him "now and again" during the 32 years of my dental practice. In 1984, I committed my life to Jesus Christ, and asked Him to show me His will in the area of my Christian service. In that same year, God opened the door to short-term medical/dental missions, and my wife and I have been able to serve on 37 trips to 12 countries.

It was on the first trip to Villahermosa, Mexico that I was struck with the fact that in God's EYES the immortal SOUL of

(continued next page)

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of each and every person, no matter how poor, dirty, pitiful, or downtrodden, was equal in value to MY OWN. The Bible clearly states that Christ showed great love and healing, especially for the poorest; those excluded from society, for the children, the widow, the leper, and the prostitute, and, yes, the prisoner. He let these people know they were precious to God. **In fact, one of His last acts at His crucifixion was to redeem a condemned prisoner!**

During my dental practice years, I had many young people ask me, "How can I know God's will for my life when it comes to service?" My answer was simply this: "Pray and ASK HIM, then IF HE opens doors, go through them. If not, DON'T try to kick them down! He may have something else for you."

After my retirement from practice, the Lord continued to allow these short-term mission trips, however, I wanted to be available to Him now that I had more free time. My wife and I became members of the Merrimack Valley Baptist Church. During the VERY FIRST event we attended, I met Paul Roussel. He told me about CAM. Although we had been supporting the ministry in a small financial way, and I knew of two others in my circle of friends who served the Lord with CAM, I was not all that familiar with its mission and purpose. Paul invited me to Lowell Street in Manchester for a visit. It hit me that the Lord just might be opening another door. Now it was time for the "rubber to meet the road." Would I be willing to take my own advice?

Sure enough, the door opened. Through CAM, I have the privilege of coming alongside needy people – many of whom have spun down to life's lowest depth. My Lord has the answer! Only HE can truly change a life. After all, He changed MINE! (cont'd)

***PRAY* –for the Lord to direct our steps as we move forward with transitional housing for men.**

As Paul and Mike Grady have mentored me, I have become even more certain of Christ's power to change lives (I Cor. 2:12). He can prevent bad choices, bind up wounds, and reunite broken families. CAM lifts up the name of Jesus Christ, and gives all glory to God! I thank Him that He has chosen me to have a part in this, HIS ministry. ###
-Jack

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY
By Dennis Fraser

My walk with God has been on and off most of my life, but In 1987 I truly accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. My life didn't change much, but my heart did. It would take me to the year 2004 to really start to change my life and behaviors.

God has looked over me my whole life. Many times in my hard core drug days I should have been dead, but by the grace of God, I remained alive. I believed God had a plan for my life for many years, but I wasn't willing to seek His will. I felt powerless, hopeless and most of all, alone.

In the past three years, God has given me many revelations into who He is and how much He truly loves me. The more I try to find and do His will, the closer I am drawn to Him, the more my life changes and the more I lose the feeling of being powerless, hopeless, and alone.

I am never alone! I have a Savior who knows me better than I know myself. Today, I know Jesus will never leave me alone or powerless.

Today I have Christian fellowship as often as possible. I read and study God's word daily. I pray and allow God to be the center of my life. In so doing, He gives me the power to overcome the old fleshly person I once was. I hold God to His promises, but He goes above and beyond anything I could ever ask for.

Today, God is truly the center of my life. After all, He gave His son Jesus who willingly gave His life for me. I am willing to give God my life and do His will the best I can. Coming from a life of alcohol, drugs, sex and other abuses to make myself feel better, to loving God with all my heart, is nothing short of a miracle! God is better than those things and He will never leave me feeling like a loser again. He led me back to my old job at Hitachi. The Lord is amazing! I attend CAM's (Mike Grady) Bible study every week at Calumet House and have started to meet with Pastor Carlson at Gospel Baptist Church. ###

PRaise:
That the Lord overwhelmed CAM with financial and spiritual blessing at our annual dinner!

THE FURNITURE MINISTRY

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness:

Come before His presence with singing.” Psalm 100:1,2

One important facet of CAM is the furniture ministry headed by Board member, Dave Rattigan. Dave is available to pick up donated furniture and deliver it to those who have recently been released from prison. Many of these people have nothing in the way of furniture or furnishings for an apartment. Dave comes to the rescue. He has provided a bed or table, or many pieces – like sofas, coffee tables, kitchen tables, bedroom sets, etc. Other CAM supporters bring in dishes, pots & pans, bedding and other essentials. Needless to say, those receiving these items are most appreciative. Without a comfortable place to live, it makes it very difficult to function effectively on a daily basis.

“THANK YOU” Dave, for your most vital part of our ministry.

As each person on our Board brings a special gift to use for the Lord’s glory,
the work goes forward and lives are richly blessed.

NOTE: If you are interested in donating furniture or other items, please contact Dave Rattigan at (603) 888-1111.

THE LORD’S WORK INSIDE THE WALLS

By Paul Roussel, CAM Director

Many of you have heard the comment that it is far easier to be a Christian
inside prison 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, to 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.**

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

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

CAM news: com
piled by Editor,
Paul Roussel,
Director.
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

Tax deductible
donations may be
made payable to
Christian After-
care Ministries.
Send to:
50 Lowell St.,
Manchester, NH
03101

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 ongoing needs.

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 Thelfall, Jean Metzger, Jay Katzik, Sampson Duclair, and Dave Rattigan.

CAM UPDATE
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Manchester, NH
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