

# C A M U P D A T E

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders  
Non-profit Organization

[www.christianaftercare.com](http://www.christianaftercare.com)

November, 2008  
Established 1994

## FROM THE DIRECTOR By Paul R. Roussel

## UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

By Mike Grady,  
CAM Board Member

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual CAM dinner in October 2008 was wonderfully blessed by the Lord with a capacity attendance including many ex-offenders who have been helped by CAM, our individual supporters, and our local supporting churches. The speakers gave inspirational messages and the music provided by Sue Brown touched many hearts. Shawn Kane, an ex-offender, gave his testimony as to how the Lord blessed and transformed his life. David Midwood, president of Vision New England, spoke about how we need to be sensitive to the Lord's leading in our lives. As a fundraiser, **the Lord overwhelmed us with a bountiful love offering** to be used for ministry needs. Another real blessing for the volunteers in attendance was their meeting with former inmates they had ministered to in prison, and who were now out of prison and walking faithfully with the Lord.

I continue to minister at Valley Street Jail every Monday and meet with men and women who need our services when they are released from prison. **It is a wonderful opportunity to share God's Plan of Salvation with each one.** In addition, Mike Grady, a CAM Board member, leads Bible studies weekly at the same prison.

On October 11, I had an opportunity to speak at the New England Prison Caleb Conference in Tyngsboro, MA. I had the chance to share about the CAM ministry in NH and it was a blessing to network with other prison ministry workers in the New England area.

On October 30, Jean Metzger, a CAM Board member, and I were invited to attend a meeting for volunteers in Concord, NH with the NH Commissioner, Bill Wrenn, and Assistant Commissioner, Bill McGonagle. We had a chance to share some of our ideas with these men and also to express our gratitude to them for the reception, and welcoming prison officials who greet us when we visit at the prisons.

We covet your prayers for this ministry, our CAM Board of Directors, and the men and women who come through our doors seeking help.

***"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works."  
Psalm 9:1***

The apostle Paul pleads for no division in I Corinthians 1:10. *"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* Paul asks in I Corinthians 1:13 *"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? We see divisions today in Christ's Church which confuses a watching world.*

Almost four years and I'm still amazed how the Lord uses CAM and keeps us united with one another and other prison ministries in NH. We are made up of many diverse "individuals" from many churches all ministering in jails and prisons with a common message and purpose. Now individuality is the hard outer layer surrounding the inner man. Individuality shoves others aside, separating and isolating people. But our individuality must be yielded to God. Individuality counterfeits spirituality, just as lust counterfeits love. God designed human nature for Himself, but individuality corrupts that (continued on page two)

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that human nature for its own purposes. To be effective, individuality must be put aside - there is no room for individuals.

The characteristics of individuality is independence and self-will. By continually asserting our individuality, we inhibit spiritual growth in others as well as ourselves. If we don't believe God is working, it is because our individuality is blocking the view; individuality can never believe. But our spirit cannot help believing. When the Spirit of God is at work, He pushes us to the limits of our individuality where a choice must be made. The choice is either to say, "I will not surrender," or to surrender, breaking the hard shell of individuality, which allows the spiritual life to emerge. The Holy Spirit narrows it down every time to one thing: *(Matthew 5:23-24: "There-fore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift")* It is our individuality that refuses to "be reconciled to your brother. God wants to bring us into union with Himself, but unless we are willing to give up our right to ourselves, He cannot.

The Spirit unites us and the core is the Gospel message - this is the central point of prison ministries. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." I Corinthians 2:2. To say that we are called to preach holiness or sanctification is to miss the point.

We are called to proclaim Jesus Christ. The fact is that He saves from sin. Making people holy is actually part of the effect of His wonderful and total surrender to us. If we are truly surrendered, we will never be aware of our own efforts to remain surrendered. Our entire life will be consumed with the One to whom we surrender. We will never know anything about surrender until we understand John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that

**PRAY** —that the Lord would work out the details so that the Escort Program be reinstated, and ex-offenders be allowed to attend church with their assigned escorts.

*He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* This means that God completely and absolutely gave Himself to us. In our surrender, we must give ourselves to God in the same way He gave Himself for us - totally, unconditionally, and without reservation. The consequences and circumstances resulting in our surrender leads us to a life totally consumed with Him.

Pray we never become individuals, but remain one in Christ. Pray we continue to mature in Christ so we are effective in the ministry God called us to. Pray for the doors of the jails and prisons remain open. Pray we never loose our love for the Gospel. I Corinthians 1:18. ###

## My Personal Testimony

By Don Coffill

Growing up as a child, I was the oldest of four siblings. God was never a part of our family. There was never any talk about Him or who He was or what He had done. The only church I ever knew was getting all dressed up on Easter morning and going to the big white church in the square. Eventually we stopped going to church altogether.

When I was in high school and shortly after, I would occasionally go to a church service with some of my friends. I didn't go for the Lord. I went just to be with my friends. My life was going pretty good. I had a great job, a nice car, and lots of money. I always knew in the back of my mind that He (God) was there, but never gave Him any consideration. I always patted myself on the back and gave myself the credit for what was happening in my life.

In 1977 I got married and had a family. Again I thought "Good job Don, you did it again." In 2001 it all started to change. **All at once, it seemed like everything started to fall apart.** There were health issues and financial problems with the kids.

Well, in 2002 I felt so lost and so out of control. I kept falling deeper and deeper into darkness and could not find a way out. I knew I needed help but didn't know how to get it. By that summer my marriage fell apart, and I got involved in illegal activities. **My wife left me and I went to prison in summer of 2003.**

*(Continued on page three)*

**PRAISE** We are thankful to the Lord that He is using our Transitional Housing Manager, Joey O'Brien, to share God's Plan of Salvation with other men in the Helping Hands building.

## **SAVED TO SERVE**

By Joey O'Brien, Manager of CAM Transitional Housing

A month before leaving Calumet House (State Prison Halfway House), I made a vigorous search for an apartment but to no avail. Everywhere I turned the door was shut. No matter how promising a lead may have been, I was turned down: no apartment. Frustrated, I prayed, "Why am I not getting any results Lord?" Little did I know that the Lord had His own plans and had already chosen *Helping Hands Outreach Center* as my place of residence. Looking back, I now understand.

While at HHOC, I've learned that most of the men coming in have profound spiritual needs. Some have just questions concerning salvation, Jesus and the Bible. **Others would like to know more about Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him, while others are still struggling with the very idea of God.**

While incarcerated, I encountered these same scenarios and the Lord used me in those situations. Today, I believe the Lord is using me in the same capacity: ministering to the men at Helping Hands. There have been numerous opportunities to witness, teach, and lead Bible studies. I would have never imagined that the Lord Jesus Christ would use me in the capacity He is using me now. In addition, He has placed a great burden on my heart for the spiritual needs of the men at Helping Hands. I do a Bible study every Monday night and lead the Higher Ground (drug alcohol recovery program) every Wednesday night. In addition, I am the manager for CAM's Christian Transitional Housing program at Helping Hands, and will be working with Charles Jones who is our first client.

**Please pray that the Lord will continue to use me, provide more opportunities to spread the Gospel, and grant me the power and wisdom to manifest His love .**

*(testimony continued from page two)*

In the year prior to going to prison, a family member, who was still supporting me, gave me a Bible and said it would help me. I started at page one and read to the end, but I was more confused because I had no idea what I had read or what it meant. I had no one to explain it to me. Then when I got to the prison, **one of the first people I was introduced to was Jean Metzger from Christian Aftercare Ministries, and she lead me to the Lord.** She was the first person to ever sit down with me and tell me that Jesus was what I needed in my life, and that by putting my trust in Him and studying God's Word, I could get out of this pit I was in. It took a while to sink in. As I started to meet other Christians in the prison, I started going to more Bible studies, and developed an appetite to learn all I could.

I started noticing changes in my life. My attitude started to change. I started setting new goals for myself, and my life started to turn around. I have never had the kind of support in my life as I do now.

Since my release in 2006, I have continued in my walk with Christ. I have CAM people who continue to help and support me, as well as some of the other volunteers from the prison. Mike Grady's Thursday Bible study has been a great blessing to me. GOD has led me to a great church; He has brought loving and supporting people into my life.

I can truly say that going to prison was the best thing that could have happened to me. God used that time away from the world to teach me and grow me.

And I thank Him for doing that each and every day.

*Don Coffill*

**!! URGENT NEEDS !!**  
**As winter approaches, we are in need of men's large, extra large, 2X and 3X winter ski jackets. We also need pants, shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters in all sizes. Needed also are winter hats and gloves, bed sheets and blankets of all sizes.**

**Thank you for helping.**

# CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

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

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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 Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, and Dave Rattigan.**

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Christian Aftercare Ministries  
50 Lowell Street  
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