

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

NOVEMBER 2017

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

CAM DINNER

Our 23rd annual CAM Dinner, held on October 14, 2017, was the best ever. CAM board member Dave Grant prepared an outstanding meal, and Chris Chartier gave an inspiring personal testimony. Bill Wrenn, Commissioner of Corrections, was our guest speaker. What a blessing to hear Bill mention the Lord so many times in his message. Bill thanked all the Christian volunteers for the work they do inside the walls. Commissioner Wrenn places a strong emphasis on spiritual renewal and job training for men and women as they are released, so that they have a career path. When we asked those at the dinner who had been helped by our ministry to stand and be recognized, approximately 25 people stood to a round of applause. The Lord blessed the entire evening!

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

A few months ago Valley Street Jail hosted a thank-you luncheon for all volunteers. Captain Scurry told those in attendance, "We could not run the jail effectively without each volunteer helping." Many of the volunteers are Christians sharing the gospel through Bible studies (Pastor Carlson, Gini Adams, Mike Grady, Aliotta Valentine, myself, and many others). Our ministry is allowed to do visits there with men and women, and we are allowed to bring in clothes for court dates or for winter time. The real blessing for CAM is that the men and women we minister to inside then follow up when they are released by coming to our office where we can further minister to them.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands (in our building) continues to provide housing for men being released, and CAM gets to follow up with them spiritually as well as provide clothes and other necessities. ~Paul

SERVING THE LORD

By CAM Board Member
Dave Grant

Praise God for all He is doing through the CAM ministry!

I trusted in our Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1986. The employer whom I was working for at the time spent about a year witnessing to me and helped me understand that **our salvation must be received as a gift and not something we earn by our own merit**, as I had previously been taught in my former church doctrine.

Pastor Larry Clouse used to visit the catering hall where I was employed. It wasn't long before I joined his church, Merrimack Valley Baptist Church (MVBC). I continued to learn from God's Word through Pastor's expositional preaching and studying the Bible.

I still attend MVBC, now under the leadership and teaching of Pastor Joel Gibbs and staff. Our church is very mission-oriented plus home to South Merrimack Christian Academy. In my early years at MVBC, I served with the audio-visual ministry, operating the microphones during services and recording the services on cassette tapes, which we reproduced for church members and sent to our missionaries. After several years of serving in this area, I had a desire to seek a ministry where I could have more involvement and interaction with other Christians.

(continued on page 2)

(Serving the Lord, *continued from page 1*)

It was at that time that I met Paul Roussel. He was asking for Christians who could help with the prison ministry by being involved in CAM. I was curious, but helping in a prison ministry was way out of the box for me—way out of my comfort level. I reluctantly agreed that I would give prison ministry a try, relying on God to enable me for this ministry.

2 Timothy 1:7: *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

For 8 years I went to the state prison in Concord with Jean Metzger, Annie Lescard, and a number of other faithful servants of our Lord. After that period, I decided to become a help on the outside to two inmates who were being released. I began to be an encouragement to them in adjusting to life outside the prison. I took chaperone training, taught by a counselor in Manchester, to help with one of the men. This Christian brother and I are still good friends and communicate often with each other.

I have served CAM in helping to prepare the annual CAM fundraising dinner for the past several years. Since I retired this summer, I have been helping at the CAM office in the clothing room, giving out donated clothing and household items to our clients. It is a blessing to share fellowship and prayers with Paul, Mike Grady, Don Grosso, and Jack Shuler. Since I began going to the office on Wednesdays, **I have personally been able to see how many people are helped by Paul and his team as they minister to CAM clients wrestling with life issues.**

Several years ago our Lord led me to help out with MVBC's nursing home outreach. Brother Guy Finch heads up this ministry with outreaches in various nursing homes in the area. From Guy I have learned how to present a Bible study, and the Lord used that training to enable me to lead a weekly Bible study at the Southern NH Rescue Mission in Nashua under the direction of Rick Rutter. It has been a blessing for me to be involved with CAM, the rescue mission, and the nursing home ministry.

(*continued on page 3*)

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Don Coffill

God was never a part of my family growing up as a child. There was never any talk about Him or who He was or what He had done. The only church I ever experienced was when me and my four younger siblings would get all dressed up on Easter morning and go to the big white church in the square with our parents. 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 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 1997 I got married and started 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. 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 the summer of 2003.

Romans 5:8: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

(*continued on page 3*)



PLEASE PRAY . . . *that every man and woman inmate in the state of NH would have the opportunity to hear God's plan of salvation presented to them.*

My Personal Testimony, continued from page 2

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 led 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. CAM people 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.

Earlier this year God shared His goodness in my life once again by bringing me back into prison—only this time through the front door as a volunteer with the Kairos Prison Ministry to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus as well as my testimony and walk since getting out 11 years ago.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21: *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

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

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
(1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Serving the Lord, continued from page 2

About 3 years ago the Lord led me to start helping a young man living at the rescue mission who struggled with a drug addiction. Helping him through his continual relapses and recovery periods has been the most challenging experience I have had in my life. I am constantly asking my Christian brothers and sisters to pray for him that he would surrender his life to Jesus and be able to overcome his life of addiction and live a life pleasing to our Lord.

Ministering to others is challenging at times, but I have found that in each opportunity to serve Him God will enable us to do His will through His Spirit. In serving Him by serving others, we can also find a great blessing and personal growth when we don't trust in our own strength but rely on His strength.

Thank you, Jesus, for blessing my life by allowing me to serve others.

~Dave

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

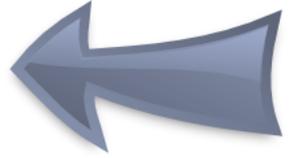
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Manchester, NH 03101
Permit Number 434

TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT:



URGENTLY NEEDED DONATIONS:
microwaves, small apartment refrigerators,
coffee makers, shoes, socks, jeans, slacks,
boots, pots and pans

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DONATIONS,
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

Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30–6:00 p.m.
Phone: 603-669-5090

Tax-deductible donations may be made payable to
Christian Aftercare Ministries at

50 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03101

Thank You for helping to meet our needs.

INVITE A SPEAKER: If you would like a CAM board member to visit your church or group to speak about this ministry, please call Paul Roussel, Director, at 603-669-5090 to schedule a date.

Board Members: Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler,
Samson Duclair, Dave Grant, Ernie Kilman, Guy and Deb Torgersen, Don Grosso

CAM UPDATE is issued tri-annually and mailed from Manchester, NH. CAM UPDATE is compiled by Paul Roussel, Director/Publisher, and prepared by Kathleen Deselle, Editor. To be placed on our mailing list, please contact CAM offices at 603-669-5090.