

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

April 2021

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 25+ years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

Reentry Focus

About 6 months ago, the Reentry Task Force was restarted. The approach is to mentor committed Christians being released from prison. It starts with the mentor and mentee having contact before release, then on release mentoring that individual one on one. This approach involves a local church body that will meet and greet the individual. The Lord has raised up Christian men and women who are available to mentor those being released in the Concord, Nashua, and Manchester areas. The key to a successful mentoring program is to have Christian chaplains in the prison to identify those individuals before release—and we have them in the Concord men's and women's prisons and in the Berlin prison. Christian Aftercare Ministries is a big part in this approach, as CAM as been mentoring men for years.

Financial Support

Because the Lord has blessed CAM financially, we are able in turn to bless Matt, Dennis, and now Tim with financial support. Matt and Dennis have been ministering in jails and prisons for over 20 years. Tim has volunteered at Concord State Prison for 15+ years and has taught life coaching and many other courses. Tim is also the chaplain in our building (Helping Hands) and works closely with CAM's Mike Grady on the weekly Thursday Bible studies. Tim is a special blessing as we work together to share Jesus.

Saying Goodbye

CAM board chairman Kent Threlfall is retiring to Virginia to be with family. We will miss Kent's wise counsel, guidance, and direction. Thanks, Kent, and may the Lord bless you abundantly!

Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV): *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Gloria Myrdek touched the lives of men and women being released from prison for 20+ years by preparing toiletry kits for them. Gloria recently went home to be with the Lord. We thank the Lord for her faithfulness.

~Paul

Three Strands Treatment Center, Part 1

By CAM Board Member
Guy Torgersen

At 57 years of age, the Lord began calling me to a different career path to use the gifts I had developed as a volunteer in the state prison. I returned to school in Addiction Counseling and after 3 years earned my degree in Addiction Counseling and received state licensure as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor (LADC). With my degree and as a clinician, I saw a need for more affordable treatment, thus Three Strands Treatment Center was developed.

A division of Helping Hands, Three Strands Treatment Center is a clinical treatment center dedicated to helping the "least of these," men coming from prison, homelessness, and residential outpatient programs. Three Strands Treatment Center began in September 2020. God opened doors to make this possible.

The name Three Strands is based on this scripture verse:

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (ESV): *A threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

I use this verse because it reflects the accountability and fellowship needed to help each other out during the client's treatment program and long-term recovery. **Isolation is at the core of addiction; by holding each other accountable, it helps increase the chances of long-term recovery.**

~ Guy

Three Strands Treatment Center
140 Central Street, Manchester, NH 03103
ThreeStrandsTreatment@gmail.com

See Part 2 in the next newsletter with more information about Three Strands and the joy Guy finds in serving the Lord through it.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Ken West



Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1–2, NIV)

As a child I was caught up in a child sex ring for over 10 years, from the age of 4 to 15. It was run by my uncle and many of his friends. My life was a living hell, and I could tell no one about it for fear of my life and others.

At age 10, I found someone I could trust, or so I thought. I confided in him, telling him what was happening to me, and in return, he began abusing me. From then on, I trusted no one. I grew up confused about who I was and what I was, so I continued to struggle with my sexuality and relationships with family and friends. I kept them at a distance so they wouldn't find out what a monster I was. Then I began abusing, which caused me to isolate from the world.

As I grew up, I hated who I was and what I was doing. One night, after work, I decided to end my life. I went home to plan how to make my death look like an accident so no one would know it was suicide. Out of habit, I turned on the TV, and there was a preacher speaking. His words pierced my heart. I fell to the floor in a flood of tears crying out to God to save me. Immediately, I felt a great deal of relief, but I did not fully understand what I had done, and for many years I floundered around with no real direction. Finally, I got connected to a church and enjoyed fellowship and encouragement, but my insides were still in turmoil. I was living a lie and was overwhelmed with guilt every time I stepped into church. So I ran.

I set out to control my own life. I tried to escape in work. I figured if I kept busy enough and stayed away from everyone, I could control my sexual sin, but I failed miserably. I started offending again. But God kept tugging at my heart. He would not let me go.

The conviction of the Holy Spirit was more than I could bear. I cried out to God for help. Immediately, I knew what I had to do, confess! I needed to be clean.

Jonah 2:2 (NIV): *"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry."*

I needed to openly confess my sins to my victims and their families. I needed to confess to my family and to the church. It was the hardest thing I ever had to do. I had to be right with God. So I faced all the people I had hurt and disappointed and laid bare my soul. I confessed to the pastor and then waited to be told what a terrible person I was—to have Satan's words confirmed to me.

But those words never came. Instead, he hugged me and told me, "I don't like what you have done, but I'm here to help you. You're broke, but you can be fixed."

This was the first time I ever experienced real love. It was confusing, but it felt good. During the next 13 months, while I was out on bail, I slowly started to understand what Jesus was all about. I started to understand His love. He showed it to me through the church. The Holy Spirit worked through the loving fellowship, the Bible studies, and the hours and hours of counseling to begin to restore my soul and bring me back into the service of Christ.

When I came to prison, I was at peace for the first time in my life, and I was free. I spent 21 years in prison and met many men who did not receive the same restorative love from their churches. They were cast aside by their churches and came to prison questioning, "Is God real?" They cannot trust because of the hurt of having been condemned by society and the church. They have nowhere to turn. They believe what Satan and others tell them, that they are worthless, and they fall further into anger and bitterness.

I continually praise God for all that He has brought me through. He has used my experiences, good and bad, even my sin, to help me relate to others and bring comfort, encouragement, and help (2 Corinthians 1:3–7).

2 Corinthians 1:5, 7 (NIV): *For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. . . . And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

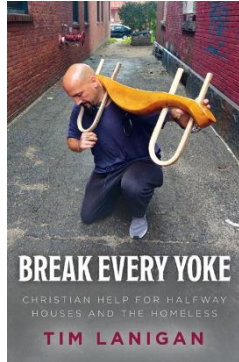
The love that my church "on the street" gave to me, I was able to pass on to the church behind the walls. I now attend Grace Capitol in Concord and am surrounded with Christian friends.

~ Ken

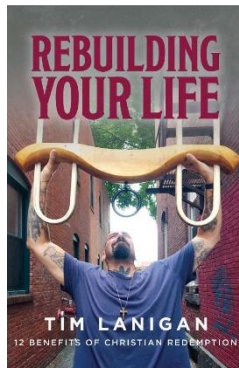
Helping Hands Chaplain Has Written Two Companion Books

Chaplain Tim Lanigan of Helping Hands sober home and associate pastor of “The 12” homeless outreach has written two books, one to provide encouragement for Christians to be involved in compassionate ministry and a second book that offers a teaching program for those who want to rebuild and who want to help others.

Break Every Yoke: Christian Help for Halfway Houses and the Homeless addresses the lovingkindness of God, the challenges of reentry for the former prisoner, and the brokenness of the inner city. It provides encouragement for the compassionate involvement of every reader.



Rebuilding Your Life: 12 Benefits of Christian Redemption addresses the need we all have, at times, to rebuild our lives, whether or not we are wealthy, have homes, or have spent time in prison. The action plans, steps, and discussion questions of the 14 sessions of this teaching program are intended to encourage readers and anyone they desire to help, as either a supplement or as an alternative to 12-step programs.



Please see TimLanigan.net for more information about his ministry and how to purchase these books.

PRAISE: *The Lord has raised up Christian men and women to minister to those being released in Concord. Two key churches are CenterPoint and Grace Capitol.*

PRAY: *That all the Christian volunteers in NH would be allowed back into the jails and prisons in the Lord's perfect timing.*



A special visit from one of God's success stories.

Paul was blessed recently when Jordan and his fiancée, Melanie, visited him at the CAM office. You can read about Jordan's amazing testimony of salvation and rescue from addiction in the September 2020 newsletter and in Paul's book, *Breaking Out of Prison with Jesus*.

The couple will be married in May and plan to reside in Dallas, where Jordan is attending a Bible institute. Melanie is a recent graduate of that institute.

We at CAM are delighted when those we minister to find Christian wives. Jordan is certainly one of the men we have prayed for through the years. What a beautiful answer to prayer!

Ministry Need


A volunteer is needed to assemble toiletry kits for men and women being released from prison. CAM will provide the contents—toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, facecloth, deodorant, shaving cream, etc.—all to fit in a plastic baggie. Approximately 10 kits per month are needed. This ministry can be done in your own home, and you can arrange to pick up supplies/drop off kits at your convenience.

Please contact Paul Roussel at 603-669-5090 for more information.


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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:



THANK YOU FOR PAST DONATIONS:
Due to COVID, we are not accepting donations at this time. Thanks to your generous donations, we have plenty of clothing and household goods to distribute.



**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

Updated office hours: Mon. 2:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–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, Jack Shuler, Samson Duclair, Dave Grant, Ernie Kilman, Guy and Deb Torgersen, Don Grosso, Steve Micucci

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.