

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

DECEMBER 2016

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

CAM ANNUAL DINNER

Once again this year's CAM dinner on October 8, 2016, was a time of spiritual blessing as supporters and friends gathered for fellowship and enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by David Grant and his assistants. Jordan La Chance shared his testimony as to how the Lord has transformed his life. Denis Frediani, assistant Chaplain at the New Hampshire State Prison, shared how the Lord helped him through a difficult time when he was serving in the military. Larry Nice, a counselor in the parole office, was our main speaker. He spoke about his life growing up and his walk with the Lord. He noted that he works directly with CAM to help men and women successfully re-enter society.

THE LORD RAISES UP A MENTOR FOR WOMEN

In late October, a woman inmate, Kelley, was being released from Valley Street Jail. She needed help and asked us at CAM to come to her aid. Two weeks prior to that, another woman, Diane, came into our office with the desire to mentor/help women being released from prison. God's perfect timing! Diane and Kelley met in the CAM office, and Diane was able to help her and pray for her.

CAM DONATIONS

The Lord provides so many amazing gifts of household goods, bedding, clothing, and kitchen appliances like microwaves. Some of our recent donations include microwaves from the Milford United Methodist Church; winter coats from the Bethany Covenant Church's clothing drive for winter coats; new winter coats from Sam and Ruth Knowles of the First Congregational Church in Manchester; and new winter coats from Tom and Barbara Hovious of Merrimack Valley Baptist Church. Then from

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MY PATH TO HELPING HANDS Part 1

By CAM Board Member
Guy Torgersen

I spent thirty years in technology sales and had to deal with several layoffs over the years. I have volunteered in the New Hampshire Men's Prison in Concord for over twenty-five years playing music and joining the worship team one Saturday night each month. In addition, for the last five years I facilitated a men's small group on Thursday nights in the prison called the Authentic Christian Man series.

I was comfortable doing what I was doing; but God had other plans for me.

I knew that in **Matthew 28:19**, the Lord calls us to go and make disciples of all nations.

Three years ago I took a step back from a Key Account Manager to be a sales contractor for Hewlett-Packard managing PC Connection in New Hampshire. This was a good position with much less stress (and money) than before. I felt safe until August 2015, when they restructured the team and my position was cut. I was stressed and scared and said at age fifty-seven, Now what do I do? I had

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(From the Director, *continued from page 1*)

funds from our supporting churches we purchase work boots, wallets, underwear, socks, belts, backpacks, and jeans. We tell every recipient that these gifts come from the Lord through His children. We tell them that Jesus loves them and He will provide for their needs. We help approximately five hundred ex-offenders each year with their physical and spiritual requests.

TRANSFORMING POWER OF CHRIST

Calvin came into our office recently and expressed how the Lord has blessed his life this year. He has a good job, a fine marriage, and children who attend church with him regularly. We had worked with him in the past and we praise the Lord for how he has grown in his Christian walk. ~*Paul*



(My Path to Helping Hands, *continued from page 1*)

been married a little over one year to my wonderful wife, Deb, also a CAM board member. I prayed and asked the Lord to guide my path and my family's path on what my next step should be.

John 15:16 (ESV): "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

I told my wife I was thinking about going back to school for Addiction Counseling; I had seen the struggles in my life over the years with alcohol dependence. I loved the men in the prison and knew I could help them, as well as others. My wife told me to follow my heart and said "I will help support you in your decision." She knew my heart and my compassion for helping others.

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MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Bill Yates

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

Like a lot of men helped by Christian Aftercare, I have a checkered past. Born in Rochester, NH, in 1954, at age 13 I had started a life of drugs, breaking into camps to feed my habit, and by age 17 I had used LSD, sep, coke, and meth.

The Lord found me in prison at age 20, and I accepted him as my Lord and Savior.

I've been married, divorced, and married a second wife. In 1985 I lost my son to an early death. That and being totally devoted to work caused my second marriage to fail.

In and out of prisons for a good part of my life, I was released this last time about a year ago. I came to Helping Hands and met Paul Roussel of CAM located in the same building at 50 Lowell St., Manchester.

The last 12 months have been an encouragement to me. CAM in some sense has become my family. The mentoring, friendship, and prayers extended to me have made my life better. I spend more time in prayer and Bible reading, which is helping me grow in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV): *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

I feel good that in a small way I am giving back by organizing the clothes inventory for CAM and the Pantry for Helping Hands. I have a long way to go, but with the Lord at my side, I have come a long way. I also help new tenants from prison and the homeless near here at Helping Hands by encouraging them to walk with Jesus, stay clean and sober, and by being part of the Helping Hands outreach. ~*Bill*

PLEASE PRAY . . . *that more women from jail/prison in NH would come to CAM for help, so that our new volunteer, Diane, can mentor them and minister to them.*



CAM Board of Directors at a recent meeting. From left to right: Samson Duclair, Mike Grady, Jack Shuler, Don Grosso, Paul Roussel, Kent Threlfall, Ron Menard, Deb Torgersen, Jean Metzger, Guy Torgersen, and Ernie Kilman. Absent: David Grant

(My Path to Helping Hands, *continued from page 2*)

I started going back to college at NHTI for an Associate's Degree in Addiction Counseling. I volunteered for over six months in the Hope for New Hampshire Recovery Center helping those fighting addiction. I took the Recovery Coach training course, and also accrued my work hours for my first level of state licensure, my Certified Recovery Support Worker license. I was hired to work full time second shift in Amber's Place, where people addicted to opiates can clear Manchester Safe Fire Stations and come get help. I worked in the trenches. The work was rewarding and also frustrating at times. I struggled for three months not seeing my wife until I would get home at 1:00 a.m. Was this where God wanted me to be? It was difficult on the marriage!

Matthew 25:35–36 (ESV): *'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'*

Then, I received a phone call from Helping Hands, a Christian organization that provides Transitional Sober Housing to men from the streets, prison, and treatment centers. Their Licensed Alcohol Drug Abuse Counselor (LADC) had recently left, and they had a part-time case manager position open Monday through Friday, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. I was recommended for the job by Paul Roussel, Director of Christian Aftercare Ministries. CAM has an office in the Helping Hands building. I was offered the position and worked two part-time jobs at Hope for New Hampshire Recovery and Helping Hands for a couple months.

I felt the Lord opened up this wonderful opportunity for me to use my gifts and minister to those from the prisons, the streets, and treatment centers.

~Guy

EDITOR'S NOTE: Read Part 2 of Guy's story in the next *CAM UPDATE*.

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, winter clothes, 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, Ron Menard

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