

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

FEBRUARY 2019

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

CHRISTMAS AT VALLEY STREET

In mid-December 2018, Pastor/Chaplain Dave Carlson held two Christmas services at Valley Street Jail. I spoke at both services about CAM, explaining how we could help them when they are released. I shared how they can successfully reenter society with Jesus as their Savior and with a Bible-preaching church to attend each week. Pastor Carlson gave the invitation to accept Jesus as Savior, and many of the 39 men in the first service slipped up their hands to accept Jesus. At the second service (17 women), some raised their hands to accept Jesus. Captain Scurry and programs coordinator Steve Goldman stayed for both services. It is interesting how the Lord touched their hearts to go to all the work of setting these services up!

CAM DINNER RECAP

Our 24th annual CAM dinner in October 2018 was a spiritual and financial success. The dinner is not only a fund-raiser but also an opportunity for volunteers to reconnect with people they have ministered to inside the walls. Four former inmates provided the music, playing with our Guy Torgersen and Tim Lanigan. It was clear that the words of the songs came directly from their hearts. To say the four men were thrilled to be at the dinner would be an understatement.

CAM continues to partner with Helping Hands as they take men from jail/prison to live in their/our office building. Many of us say the Lord has taken over the Helping Hands building, run by Christians Larry, Tim, and Guy. CAM meets most of the men living upstairs, helps them with clothes, and shares Jesus with each one. Our Mike Grady holds a small-group Bible study every week (for the past 10 years) in our conference room and has had up to 13 people attend.

(See photos, pg. 3). ~Paul

My Career Change Testimony, Part I

By CAM Board Member
Guy Torgersen

I spent over thirty years in a fast-paced sales career managing large accounts. However, I was active in volunteering in prison ministry for over twenty years. Three years ago, after another technology layoff, I **felt the Lord leading me in another direction.** I wanted to use my spiritual gifts to help those struggling with addiction. I prayed with my wife, Deb, about it; she would have to help us financially since this would be a dramatic change in income for us. We knew the Lord would help provide for us. I began going back to school for a degree in Addictions Counseling. I began volunteering at Hope for New Hampshire Recovery for several months before being hired as a recovery coach to encourage and help others.

John 12:26 (KJV): *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be. . . .*

I completed my first certification and licensure as a Certified Recovery Support Worker, accruing the

(continued on page 2)



Left: Former inmates along with Guy and Tim lead the worship singing at CAM's October 2018 dinner and fund-raiser.

(My Career Change Testimony, *continued from page 1*)

required 900 hours and necessary coursework while I worked at Hope for New Hampshire Recovery. I worked second shift in Amber's Place, which was a safe respite for those struggling with addiction and waiting to get into treatment. I loved what I was doing, but it was very difficult on my marriage. We worked opposite shifts—I worked weekends and my wife had weekends off; this was challenging! I heard about an opening as a case manager for a nonprofit in Manchester called Helping Hands, a transitional shelter for homeless men offering housing, recovery services and sober living. Paul Roussel, a friend and Director of CAM, shares office space in their building. He recommended me for the part-time job, and I was hired to work twenty hours per week. I also remained at Hope working part-time. **I was amazed as God opened doors for me.** I was given a full-time position as a case manager at Helping Hands within six months. What a blessing! I was now working straight days, managing my school classes, and spending time with my family.

The job allowed me to accrue my required six thousand work hours in recovery and earn my Addiction Counseling Degree and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counseling (LADC) state licensure. I help men in transitional living and sober housing stabilize and get back on their feet. I can also share my faith with them. We have a close-knit team with our director of Helping Hands, Larry Nice, and our chaplain, Tim Lanigan, who was involved with me in prison ministry for years. We have a wonderful working relationship, and **our strong faith finds us praying together daily for the men to lead sober lives and come to know the Lord personally.** I also work closely with Paul and the inmates he visits to get them into Helping Hands when they are released. ~ *Guy*

Editor's note: See Part II in our next newsletter to learn what the Lord has for Guy next.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Floyd Nims

I grew up near Keene, NH, and would attend Vacation Bible School in the summer as a teen. At age 12, I accepted Jesus as personal Savior. Through the next 25 years, life went on without any spiritual growth. At about age 40, I committed a crime and put my marriage to Julie in jeopardy as a result. **At this time of crisis, my wife started reading the Bible, and we realized we needed Jesus.** I went to prison (1991–1995), and on visitation days my wife and I would read the Bible. At that point in prison, I recommitted my life to Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:9b (KJV): . . . the word of God is not bound.

In 1992 I went to Kairos #12 [a prison ministry] and had a great time in the Lord. No one likes prison, but it was there that the Lord used many Christian volunteers (wonderful people) who love Jesus to help me grow in faith in Him. May the Lord bless each volunteer and a special thank-you (including CAM) for your continued service to Jesus!

I was released in 1995 and immediately started going to a Bible-preaching church. The Lord restored our marriage and has blessed us ever since. I'm now retired, and my wife and I have a visitation ministry where we visit shut-ins and people in need of a visit and friendship. It gives us opportunities to share Jesus when an opening presents itself. For years I have volunteered with Kairos going back into the prison to give back and share my testimony. We attend Bow NH Methodist Church and are blessed there.

~ *Floyd*

PRAYER REQUESTS

For new believers in the CAM ministry to grow in the Lord and make good choices.

For the hope of Christ to strengthen families as they wait for a loved one's release.

For the Gospel to continue to be allowed into prisons.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Guidelines for Successful Reentry into Society for Ex-Offenders

This is the final installment of our eight Bible-based guidelines that we share with our clients. The first six, featured in February, June, and October 2018 newsletters, focused on a personal relationship with Christ, an understanding of His power to transform lives, relying on the Holy Spirit, faithfully attending Bible studies/church, and an emphasis on walking with the Lord and being well-grounded before seeking personal relationships. These last guidelines stress accountability and purity.



- Have a Christian friend or mentor to whom you will be accountable. This could be your pastor or a Christian layman. Go to him in times of testing for his support.
- Never use drugs or alcohol again. Don't let Satan attack you.

Psalm 142:7 (NKJV): *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name;
The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.*

The essence of what CAM is all about . . .

Right: Mike Grady leads a weekly Bible study where men receive accountability and encouragement.

Bottom left: Clients receive work boots and other needed items donated by CAM supporters.


Bottom right: Keynote speaker Chris Svoleantopoulos shared his testimony at CAM's October 2018 dinner.



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Christian Aftercare Ministries
50 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Non-Profit Organization
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Manchester, NH 03101
Permit Number 434

TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT:



URGENTLY NEEDED DONATIONS:
winter coats, large towels, small refrigerators,
coffeemakers, shoes, socks, jeans, slacks, boots,
pots and pans, bedding (sheets, blankets)

**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, Steve Micucci

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