

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

February 2022

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 25+ years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

Finally, I was able to start doing visits at the prison (after 18 months of restrictions due to COVID) on December 1, 2021. I met with Scott, Joel, and Kodiak. All three men are Christians. One of them said, "If I'm having a bad day, other Christian inmates can see it and come up to me and pray and encourage me. The Lord is so faithful to put Christian inmates to help one another. Who knew?"

Jim Rose's testimony was in our November 2021 newsletter [available online at www.christianaftercare.com]. When I saw him on December 12, 2021, he said, "I am proud of myself for having written my testimony and now hold myself accountable to walk according to my testimony and give Jesus all the praise."

We have a new volunteer from the Concord area, Steve Fulk, who attends CenterPoint Church in Concord. Steve has attended the CAM dinner in the past and likes what CAM does and wants to be involved. Steve has already started working with our Concord men's group ministering to about five men recently released.

We recently received a letter from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Chaplaincy Service asking if our faith-based ministry wanted to be listed as a resource in New Hampshire for men and women being released in our area. We called the head chaplain for the BOP and were told we were **not** restricted in sharing about Jesus or any other restrictions, so we said yes! CAM is now part of a listing of 4,700 ministries around the United States helping released prisoners.

A Spiritually Uplifting Story

The other morning I had Richard Bernier (a success story; see *CAM Update*, October 2018) on the phone looking for work for another client. Before I could speak, Rich said, "I am overwhelmed with what Jesus is doing in my life. Before Jesus, I was drug addicted and in prison. I did not want to go to sleep because when I woke up I would be on drugs and still in prison. Now, as a believer I love going to sleep and waking up knowing that Jesus has something special that day!"

~Paul

Faith Comes by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God

By CAM Board Member
Ernie Kilman

As Christians, we have all been given "gifts," but the challenge is to reach out in faith to exercise these gifts in the various opportunities that God presents to us in daily living. The Lord has recently given me the privilege of serving men getting out of prison. I am part of a group of five other men who minister on a regular basis to six men just released from prison. It's a blessing to be able to help them successfully reenter society, but I have no background or education in this field. I am learning, however, through my accountability partners and, most of all, through God's Word and by the Holy Spirit. Psalm 121:1 says, "My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth" (NIV).

The pastor from my first church from years ago said that we can never talk enough about Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us to keep looking to Jesus:

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV): . . . fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our life is all about Christ who made us new creations in Him and not about us. Accordingly, since we have been bought by Jesus, let us call on Him to let the Holy Spirit make the following a reality in our daily walk as we abide in Jesus:

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(Faith Comes by Hearing, *continued from page 1*)

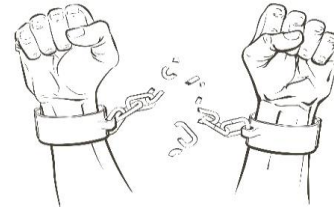
1. **Read the Word.** As Christians, we have a personal relationship with Jesus, who is the Living Word. It is good to have a regular plan to read through the Bible. Suggestion: get a blank journal to write in and list significant passages that “hit home” as you are reading daily. The context is that we have a love relationship with Jesus.
2. **Heed the Word.** Don't let stress “turn your ears off.” Hebrews 5:14 says, “But solid food is for the [spiritually] mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and what is evil” (Amplified). The more you think about something, the more it becomes part of your thought “database.” Proverbs 23:7a says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (KJV). Listening to truth leads to life and fruit in your life.
3. **Obey the Word.** Respond and act on what you read . . . don't just listen to it. James 1:22 says, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (KJV). Jesus puts others in our life so we can live life together equipping and encouraging one another. And the Holy Spirit works through us all as we surrender to Him daily. As we point to Jesus, we will have the ability to trust God and walk IN HIM while we go through the storms of life. Hebrews 12:2a, again, says, “. . . looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” (KJV). Jesus tells us in John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (NIV).

Romans 1:17 says that “the righteous will live by faith” (NIV). So do not let any form of pride prevent you from exercising your faith and gifts in doing what God has called you to do in serving Jesus.

Accordingly, in all that we do, let us give Jesus the glory.

~ Ernie

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY



By Jerome Thompson

This is the testimony of my life so far . . .

I had accepted Jesus as my personal Savior in 1997 at a Christian youth conference. But then I got derailed. I went to prison for a very big chunk of time, for 14 years to be precise. I had lost a lot of hope and faith in a lot of people, and mainly in myself. When I finally was able to earn the privilege of returning to society in some level, I went to the prison halfway house in Manchester. I didn't have easy access to my family; I didn't have easy access to any supplies or resources. When I finally found a job, they treated me fairly. It was hard labor, but I was working.

Psalm 9:18 (NIV): *But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.*

Then I was given a chance with a group called CAM. CAM is operated by a gentleman named Paul Roussel. He invited me to the Gospel Baptist Church, and I went. I enjoyed it and am still going. When I can't make it because my job is pretty busy, I watch it on Facebook Live.

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Prayer Requests

That the Lord would send more men and women to our ministry so that CAM can faithfully minister to them with all the resources He has given us.

What Is the Federal Bureau of Prisons?

The Federal Bureau of Prisons' website (BOP.gov) says its goal is "ensuring that federal offenders serve their sentences of imprisonment in facilities that are safe, humane, cost-efficient, and appropriately secure, and provide reentry programming to ensure their successful return to the community."* According to the website, the federal recidivism rate (defined by a rearrest or return to custody in any jurisdiction) is 20% lower than many of the larger state Departments of Correction.

We at CAM believe that successful reentry into society starts with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a clear understanding that only Jesus can transform a person's life. All our programs—the Bible studies, one-on-one mentoring, distribution of clothes and household goods, help with housing and jobs—are part of an ongoing discipleship and accountability strategy to aid in a successful transition for our clients. We are pleased that CAM is now listed with the BOP Chaplaincy Service as a resource for ex-offenders. The two closest BOP facilities to CAM are FMC Devens, in Ayer, MA, and FCI Berlin, in Berlin, NH.

*Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons, <https://www.bop.gov/> (February 18, 2022).

(My Personal Testimony, *continued from page 2*)

My first experience with anybody really on the outside, the "normal world" as we call it, was great. I went to CAM and was treated as a person for the first time since being out in society again. Needless to say, when I walked out of the building after the meeting, I paused for a few seconds and I literally thought to myself—and even said—"that was refreshing . . . that was amazing!" The feelings that I have when I go to church is also amazing. I am filled not only with joy, happiness, and the welcoming warmth of the people, but obviously the loving Spirit of God.

No matter where you are in life, there is always a way back up the ladder, and God is always helping you, holding out His hand. All you have to do is take His hand, and he will help you. I'm speaking from experience. Don't lose hope. There are resources, there are friends, there are loved ones, and more importantly, there is a loving God willing to open His heart for you.

Psalm 44:26 (NIV): Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.

~ Jerome

Ministry Needs


CAM is again accepting donations for men's clothes:

pants	shoes
shirts	belts, etc.


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:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS:
Microwaves, coffee makers, and vacuum cleaners are
needed, as well as men's clothes—pants, shoes, shirts,
belts, etc.



**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. 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 the CAM office at 603-669-5090.