

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

JULY 2017

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

On April 13, 2017, Pastor David Carlson led an Easter service at Valley Street Jail. Approximately 65 men and women attended. I had a chance to speak at both services about CAM, explaining how the Lord can transform lives. Evangelist Larry Brown preached at both services and at the end of each service gave an invitation to accept Jesus as Savior. Approximately 12 men accepted Jesus and approximately 12–15 women made professions of faith. What a blessing both services were!

ANSWERED PRAYER

Merrimack County Jail (Boscawen, NH) had been without much spiritual direction for about twelve months. Many of us prayed that the Lord would provide a born-again chaplain there. Sure enough, about two months ago, Pastor Carlson called and said his retired pastor friend, Norman Jackson, had become the new chaplain. Since then, the Word of the Lord is being spread in that facility.

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF JESUS

Mike Grady and I met Bob Turner about thirteen years ago. For most of that time, Bob was in and out of prison and in and out of drug rehab. Then, about a year ago, Bob came to my office with a big smile and said, "I am serving Jesus seven days a week at the Christian ministry 1269 Café!" Craig Chevalier, the director of 1269 Café, which ministers to homeless people in Manchester, NH, told me, "Bob is a wonderful blessing/servant with our ministry." Isn't it interesting that the Lord would use Bob's past life as motivation to help homeless people, many of whom knew the old Bob and can marvel at what Jesus is now doing with the new Bob. ~Paul

A WIFE'S PERSPECTIVE

By CAM Board Member
Deb Torgersen

My husband leads a Bible study at Helping Hands Outreach Ministries* on Wednesday nights. Until I joined Guy in 2014 to help facilitate this weekly group, I did not have any experience in prison ministry. Guy had been involved in prison ministry for almost twenty years, and when he invited me to join the Bible study, I did not know what to expect. The men that attend have a variety of backgrounds and pasts that include addiction, incarceration, and homelessness. We set out to learn to love them like Jesus, and I quickly grew to experience a fellowship with the men that was fulfilling to all of us.

Our Bible studies include variety. We have movie nights, themed Bible Study series, as well as teachings from popular pastors like Andy Stanley. **A few occasions have stood out where the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt more strongly than others.** During one evening we learned that one of the men's friends was dying in the hospital. We stopped our study to pray for his friend, something that was new to many of the men in the house. This man at Helping Hands was early in his recovery and became very emotional as he felt loved by all.

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*Our ministry office is in the Helping Hands Building, so it is a good fit. ~Paul

(A Wife's Perspective, *continued from page 1*)

Guy has moved from volunteer facilitator of the Bible study to case manager at Helping Hands. Over the years I have seen some of the men come and go and some come and grow—growing much stronger in their faith walk with Jesus even with their life struggles. We are helping to plant the seed and pray that we can make disciples as it says in Matthew 28:19.

Matthew 28:19: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

We have seen a variety of men who had strong faith, no faith, or a false faith come to know who Jesus is and why He came. We tell the men that there is nothing that they have done in their past that the Lord can't forgive them for. They are loved where they are at presently, and we help them grow in a relationship from that point forward.

We currently have a man in our group who has spent much of his life in church but did not know Jesus personally. Our group recently watched *God's Not Dead 2*, and this man's eyes lit up afterward. When we went to prayer time, which we do at the end of each Bible Study, he asked us to pray to help him as he grows in his faith. For most of the men, this concept of being prayed for and asking us to lift their prayer requests is new. After the Bible study, Guy shared about *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, and he loaned his copy to this man. The Lord is using this book to spark a desire to know Jesus more. He is now asking us for good Bible resources regarding the gospels so that he can get a deeper understanding of them as he reads.

What started as a desire to work alongside my husband in prison ministry has become a growth process not only for the men but also for us as leaders. We have seen men stay clean and sober one day at a time and rely on Jesus to help them through the bumps in the road. We have seen homeless men regain their self-worth. We have seen men stay out of prison, turn their lives around, land gainful employment, and reunite with families. I have truly seen Jesus at work in Helping Hands over the last three years. ~Deb

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Paul Mancini

God has been so faithful. He has done an almighty work in me and through me. For nearly three decades behind prison walls, God had caused everything I did to prosper. In a place impregnated with sin and condemnation, a place of fear and hopelessness, He brought forgiveness, peace, and even righteousness. All my worship could never be enough to thank Him.

Isaiah 46:6–7: *I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.*

But there came a point when I got discouraged. My two sentence reduction hearings had been denied. What would my future hold? Jesus freed my soul a long time ago, and now I was ready to experience physical freedom from prison walls. I was ready to run with open arms to receive His bounty, but my path was being directed in ways I didn't want to go. My plans were stifled. My hopes were shut down. At times I felt like God had withdrawn His favor. It felt like God had stayed inside the prison, and now I was on my own.

*Lord, forgive my foolishness. Forgive my impatience.
Forgive my shortsightedness.*

His plans brought me to places far better than mine. His plans taught me lessons I still needed to learn. Thank God that His ways are higher than ours. Thank God that He is faithful even when we don't feel His presence. Thank God that He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is God within prison walls and without. I am very close to being released and look forward to being with my wife and walking with Jesus. ~Paul

PLEASE PRAY . . . *that more women being released would take advantage of the resources our ministry can help them with.*



And [Jesus] said unto them, . . . **Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.**

Luke 18:29–30

You Are Invited

ANNUAL CAM DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Come and hear our main speaker,
Commissioner of Corrections Bill Wrenn,
and some great testimonies.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017
6:00 P.M.

First Congregational Church
508 Union Street, Manchester, NH

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED / AT NO COST

A donation basket will be available at the door.



PLEASE NOTE: While attendance is free, *reservations are essential* due to limited seating capacity! Please reserve your seats by contacting Paul Roussel at the CAM office by October 1, 2017. Phone: 603-669-5090 ~*Thank you*



A CAM volunteer (*left*) sorts donations for CAM's clothing room. Robert and Jordan (*bottom*) are just two of the approximately thirty ministry clients who "shop" the clothing room each month.



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, Ron Menard

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.