

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

JUNE 2019

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

PRISON VISITS

About every five weeks I accumulate a list of four or five inmates who have written to CAM and go visit them at NH State Prison. Chaplain Jim Daly sets up the visits in the chapel, and we are able to spend time with each one to see what their needs are and where they are spiritually.

Our ministry provides bus passes, through Chaplain Daly, for people being released to go from Concord to Manchester or Nashua. We have a good working relationship with Chaplain Jim, and he calls occasionally to see if we can help an inmate being released. We answer every letter we receive from inmates and generally follow up with visits.

CAM BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Samson Duclair, Dave Grant, Ernie Kilman, Guy and Deb Torgersen, Don Grosso, and Steve Micucci

We are truly blessed with our 12-member board of directors—6 retirees and 6 still working. Each one is involved in some form of prison/jail ministry. We feature an article by different board members in every *CAM Update*. It gives our readers an opportunity to learn their stories and hear about their areas of ministry.

For me, each member is a special blessing as I see their love of Jesus and their burden to help and pray for men and women in prison. It is a privilege and blessing to serve Jesus in this amazing ministry. We meet just about every month to discuss issues that come up, vote on various reports, and discuss our vision for CAM. With the Lord's guidance, we plan our path forward and end every meeting with prayer.

~Paul

My Career Change Testimony, Part II

By CAM Board Member
Guy Torgersen

See Part I of Guy's testimony in February's CAM Update. When the Lord began leading him to work with those struggling with addiction, he became a Certified Recovery Support Worker and eventually started working full-time at Helping Hands while pursuing further education.

The Lord continued to guide me on my journey by opening two jail internships at Rockingham County and Merrimack County Jails; this work prepared me to help others getting out of correctional settings and to help run clinical assessments and groups. I recently took the required Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counseling (LADC) exam. I studied for weeks and was a little nervous. The pray warriors from CAM and Helping Hands prayed for me, which gave me a sense of peace.

Psalm 37:23 (KJV): *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

I completed my degree in Addiction Counseling in December, graduating with high honors, and passed the LADC exam.

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

I feel the Lord is now calling me into my next phase of life as an addictions clinician. I am applying for an LADC position in the NH State Prison and will continue to also work part-time at Helping Hands as a clinician.

I would like to help men getting out of prison who are required to have an LADC evaluation, which can cost more than \$600. This evaluation is required for the courts and for parole. I am willing to offer them a substantial reduction in cost to help the men get this evaluation. I will also counsel those that may relapse at Helping Hands, and help them build a recovery plan to get back on track.

Lastly, I have seen the Lord at work through other men here at Helping Hands. I play on the worship team a couple times a month at 1269, a homeless ministry and church in Manchester. Tim Lanigan, our chaplain, preaches there once a month. We have had four men in the last five months share their Christian conversion stories and how their chains of addiction were broken with the help of the Lord, Helping Hands, and CAM support.

John 8:36 (ESV): *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

We have a powerful ministry in Manchester, and I expect the Lord to continue to bless CAM as well as Helping Hands Outreach Ministries. We praise God that we have not had an overdose in our sober house for over 11 months in a city that sees them every week! I believe that it is the work of His faithful servants in this building and the Holy Spirit changing the hearts of men one soul and one day at a time. ~ *Guy*

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Mike De Marco

How Jesus Christ delivered me from darkness and took His rightful place as Master over my life.

I am the only child of a Jewish mother. As a newborn, I was rejected at the synagogue our family attended because my mother did not marry a Jewish man. My parents eventually divorced. Then, when I was 8 years old, my mother remarried and we joined that man's religion. While with that man, we experienced the miseries of life with an unemployed drunkard. I recall asking God to deliver us but then rejecting Him before He answered the prayer.

Instead of waiting on God, I discovered pornography at a young age—and with it, instant gratification—which I began using to escape. Over time, I found that many men whom I looked up to as role models had pornographic materials in their homes, leading me to justify my use of it. By my late teens, the Internet became public, and I had easy access to it.

As I headed into my twenties, I was deeply ensnared by alcohol and marijuana. A few years later, I went through a messy divorce. The stronger my desire to escape, the worse my pornography, alcohol, and marijuana use got. I would try to break those chains, but I always returned, and each time it was worse than before (Matt. 12:43–45). Some years later, I met a lovely woman and became a successful businessman, yet—even with life seemingly great—I was still unable to completely stop using these sinful coping skills to deal with pressure.

The day I was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography my world crumbled. In one week, that lovely woman prepared to leave me, nearly all my employees quit, my daughter's mother filed for and was granted emergency custody of her, and I was left in a state of utter despondency (Prov. 16:18, Matt. 7:26–27).

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PRAYER REQUESTS

For chaplains, counselors, teachers, and other prison volunteers to be able share the Gospel freely.

For women and men inmates to receive Christ and be faithful in their walk.

For Bible studies to grow and thrive in prisons.

Annual CAM DINNER & FUNDRAISER

**Come and hear excellent speakers, worship music,
... and a great testimony.**

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church, 508 Union Street, Manchester, NH

Reservations Required / At No Cost

Please note: Seating capacity is limited, so please reserve your seats by contacting Paul Roussel at the CAM office by September 29, 2019.

Phone: 603-669-5090 ~ *Thank you*

YOU'RE
INVITED

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

At my darkest hour, God sent one of His servants, Pastor Jerry Wilcox, to teach me His Gospel. Pastor Jerry shared that the guilt I was experiencing before God had only one Way to be reconciled, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). Jesus lived the sinless and completely obedient life (Phil. 2:8–9) that I failed to live. Jesus paid the penalty I owed God, which is death (Rom. 6:23), in my place and was ready to make an exchange with me (2 Cor. 5:21).

Ephesians 2:4–5 (NASB): *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

So, that sunny August afternoon in 2014, I accepted Jesus' gift, and He exchanged my wretched sin-stained life for His perfect, holy, and righteous life, causing me to now stand righteous before God clothed in Christ's righteousness (Rom. 3:22–26).

The Lord began to teach me His standard of living, according to His Word, and gave me the power to put down pornography, alcohol, and marijuana use once and for all. He extended mercy to me by allowing me to live on bail for one year, during which time the Lord was pleased to save my girlfriend, provide her with secure housing and work, and bless her with a loving and supportive church family.

After that year, I pled guilty to the charges against me and was sentenced to four to eight years in NH State Prison. While in prison, the Lord continued to teach and prepare me and my girlfriend to obey and serve Him. Currently, we are working with church leaders to honor God with our relationship by coming together in marriage (Gen. 2:24, Heb. 13:4).

Looking back on my time of incarceration, with all its trials and tribulations, I can agree with the psalmist: "It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes" (Ps. 119:71, NASB). The Lord allowed me to share my new faith with many other men while in prison.


Looking forward, my fiancée and I are both grateful that God has taught us to commit our ways to the Lord and trust in Him (Ps. 37:5).

Please pray for us as we seek to continue serving the Lord with our lives. ~ *Mike*

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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:



URGENTLY NEEDED DONATIONS:
small refrigerators, coffeemakers, shoes, socks,
jeans, slacks, boots, pots and pans, large towels,
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: 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, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, 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.