

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

MARCH 2012

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

REVIEW OF 2011

This past year the Lord continued to bless CAM both financially through generous donations and spiritually as we ministered to approximately 400 clients including:

*Board members leading hundreds of Bible studies in CAM office & prison.

*Providing clothing, bedding, shoes, boots, gloves, furniture and bikes to ex-offenders.

*Giving rent money where needed and helping to secure and pay for birth certificates and picture ID's.

*Spiritually. We pray for each one and present the gospel individually so they have an opportunity to accept the Lord as Savior. We also give spiritual counseling and try to help them connect with a local Bible church.

SUPPORTING CHURCHES ASSISTANCE

What a blessing for us as our supporting churches donate new and used winter coats, work books, shirts, sweaters, pants, towels, sheets and winter gloves. When men and women receive these items, they are overwhelmed with gratitude to the Lord for what He has done through His people.

EX-OFFENDERS GIVING BACK

Many of our former clients now doing very well, come back to help us to minister to new clients. They are able to relate to all the struggles to be faced as ex-offenders are released back into society. They testify to the Lord's assistance and leading in their lives

and how the new clients can depend on God to help them in their new way of living.

Many thanks to Roberto, Shawn, Domenic, Stan, Peter and Raoul for taking time to encourage these new believers.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

The Lord has raised up Shawn Kane, (a past client who now walks faithfully with the Lord), to serve as mentor/teacher here at Helping Hands for our Transitional Housing program.

We are now seeking committed Christians who are being released from prison who would like to be part of this program as clients.

We trust that being in this program will help them walk in new pathways leading lives that will glorify the Lord.

***"Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever
And ever,
Amen!"
Revelation 7:12***

The Privilege of Serving the Lord

By Mike Grady
CAM Board Member

As we go through life our journey can become routine, but this is not part of God's plan for us. At CAM God, through His word and His people, keeps this from happening for any length of time. Someone will come into my life who shows God's Word working in his life. This happens regularly at CAM. In this ministry any routine or complacency won't last long; seeing God's Word working in His people makes it fresh and alive – that is why we love what we do. The Christian walk is about changing from the old to the new. Paul writes about needed changes in Colossians 3:8-11 *"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."* We see many men struggle with the old self as God's Word draws attention to changes needed in their world view and conduct.

Just as most people are conscious of what they wear; they want to wear the latest styles, not clothes that suggest we are not up to date.

(continued next page)

(Mike Grady - continued from page 1)

We at CAM get to see the new clothing God has designed for us all when we are born again – accepting Jesus as Lord of our life. We must change our clothes. The old clothes (verses 3-8) don't suit the new creature; before we can wear new clothes, we must get rid of the old ones. We must because they don't fit any more – because they didn't fit Christ. As the apostle Paul continues in Colossians 3:12-17 *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. If anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”* The words **“put on”** in the Greek means “clothe.” Paul exhorts us all as Christians to put on the things that show Christ. We should be clothed in virtues and qualities that are Christian conduct and not draw our standards from the world. This new life is radically different, and the concern of the believer is not that he should please the world and stand well before it, but that he live a life pleasing to God. Through His Word, they learn to know Him better and thus are kept in His fellowship. This bears the fruit of joy and praise and spiritual fellowship with the saints.

At the Bible studies at the jails, prisons, halfway houses or in the office, we are privileged to see these scriptures come alive. Knowing the circumstances some of the men have been through or are struggling with, I know only God can make the changes in their wardrobe.

What a joy to be a part of all this! The men are so appreciative of the time we give them. I don't think they understand that we are blessed by their changed lives far above any effort we put in.

MIKE

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

~ Erik VanWinkle

I moved to NH in 2002 because of my job at the Mt. Washington Hotel. My plan was to leave Illinois and a drug-filled past behind, with hopes and dreams set upon finding a clean life, a great job, a wife, and starting a family. My life appeared to be heading in the right direction yet I knew something was missing. I met a beautiful woman who would later become my wife. From 2002 through 2006 I lived a lie; a God-less life full of drugs, lies, and many other sins including pornography. Finally in 2006 my wife had had enough. She walked out on me due to drug use, chatting on line with other women, and me not paying attention to her. My life collapsed, after she left, with heavy drinking and drug use. I totaled two cars between October 2006 and December 2006. **Mt life was spiraling downward, and still I had no God in my life. I was doing things my way and was failing. Finally in December 2006 I was arrested and sent to jail.**

Most guys would have taken this as a wake-up call, yet even in jail, with many Christians ministering to me, I laughed at God - mocked Him even. Still on the path of thinking I could do it my way. Over the next two years, in and out of jail, having my chances to “straighten up” I again ended up in jail in March of 2008. I was lying in my bunk one day and just felt an urging to find a Bible and open it. As a child I went to church and read some of the Bible but never understood it. I found a Bible and just opened it – it was Galatians 6:9. At that moment I realized something had to change and I began to again open my eyes and heart to God. Shortly after this, I met Paul Roussel who would slowly help to open my heart and soul to God.

While in jail it was easy to claim to be a Christian; not too many of the world's temptations are around, so I talked the talk – yet still had reservations about God and religion. I was released in July 2008 and received a lot of assistance from Paul Roussel and Christian Aftercare Ministry. But, once I was in the free world again, drugs, alcohol and the sins of my past surfaced, and I turned away from God – again.

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Prayer Request: That the Lord would raise up committed Christian clients for our Transitional Housing program.

SUPPORTING CHURCHES

*First Baptist Church of Manchester is privileged to support
Christian Aftercare Ministries.*

The Lord used Paul Roussel to move me to begin a weekly Bible study at the Valley Street Jail.

Since May of 2010 we average between twelve and fifteen men per session, and have been blessed to minister God's Word to more than 135 men who have passed through our classes. We regularly offer a collective prayer of repentance and for salvation. Since only God knows the hearts, we continue to pray daily for each of those who have attended. Who knows what the Lord is doing or may yet do?

Our church also ministers to men who worship with us after their release.

All glory to His name and blessings on Christian Aftercare Ministries.

Pastor John Cerrato

(Erik VanWinkle, continued from page 2)

In August 2008 I was sentenced to state prison. This was rock bottom. I told God I no longer thought He was real; that I didn't need Him, I can handle this. **When I got to prison, the only book in my cell was a Bible. I picked it up and began to read. From that day on, I read it daily. Since Christmas 2008 I have been clean and sober. I prayed daily asking God for forgiveness, to guide my life and He was now in control. What I realized was God had always been there allowing me to have free choice; that He was waiting for me to open my eyes.**

Upon my release from prison in March 2011, I felt upbeat and hopeful due to the fact that now **God was guiding me and I was listening.** I knew I was following His plan and couldn't do it on my own.

My first trip to Christian Aftercare Ministries to visit with Paul (Roussel) was an amazing experience. We spoke about my time in prison; my final finding of God; my family and plans. We prayed for my safety, health, work and a continued following of the right path.

For three months I prayed for work. Then through a friend I met Victor from Adopt A Highway. I was given a good job working for a great God and family-loving man who helped minister to me and appreciate the love of God and life. At first I was unaware of Paul and Victor's friendship, but I do know God brought them both into my life for a reason.

Toward the end of the summer, work was slowing down. On a Sunday afternoon I received a phone call about a kitchen manager position. That Wednesday I interviewed for the job. Two days later Victor had to lay me off due to a slow down. At that moment I knew God had brought everything in my life to order by answering my prayer. On Saturday, I was called and told the job was mine! Isn't it funny how God makes things work out.

After three and a half years of being clean, sober, following God, and doing the right thing, my life is going in the right direction. **Through the prayers of many people, faith in God, and a much more clear look at the world, I am now doing what I love - cooking - and I now know my peace and happiness lay in faith and prayer, and in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and God.**

Erik

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 OF MEN'S WINTER COATS, BOOTS, JEANS, SHOES, SNEAKERS, TOWELS, BEDDING, POTS, PANS & UTENSILS. FOR DELIVERIES, CALL THE OFFICE MONDAY OR WEDNESDAY 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M., OR THURSDAY 2:30 TO 6 P.M.

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Co-Laborers with the Church in ministry to ex-offenders since 1994
www.christianaftercare.com

CAM UPDATE is
Compiled by:
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Prepared by:
Marjorie Frank
Financed by:
Your donations
Mailed from:
Manchester, NH Post
Office tri-annually

Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30 – 6 p.m.
Phone: 603-669-5090

CAM MINISTRY ALWAYS NEEDS:
Men's jeans, sneakers, work boots, gloves,
clean shirts in good repair, and
YOUR PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
Thank you for helping to meet these needs.

Tax deductible
donations may be
made payable to
Christian Aftercare
Ministries. Send to:
50 Lowell St.,
Manchester, NH
03101

Thank You

NOTICE: If you would like a CAM board member to visit your church or group to speak about this ministry, call Paul Roussel, Director, to schedule a date. Phone: (603) 669-5090.

Board Members: Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, Dave Rattigan, Dawn Beaulieu, and Ernie Kilman