

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

May 2020

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 25 years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

The Lord's Faithfulness

For the last 10 years, Chaplain James Daly has been the only chaplain at Concord State Prison for 1,400 inmates. Because of his workload, he has not been able to spend much time visiting individual housing units at the prison. **Good news!** Six months ago, the prison funded a second chaplain position. I stepped pastor, prison volunteer, and strong Christian Bill Pelletier to fill the position. Now, Bill is able to visit all the units (Infirmary, Special Housing Unit, Secure Psychiatric Unit, etc.) and give out Bibles and *Our Daily Bread* devotionals, as well as counsel and pray with anyone who has a need. **Praise the Lord!**

Working from Home: CAM Continues to Serve

Because of the coronavirus threat, CAM closed its offices around March 19. I have the office phone at home so that I can answer calls coming to the office. As direct, face-to-face contact is not allowed, we have turned to direct phone calls and prayer with those we have served all these years, including Peter, Richie, Dominick, Steve, Stan, Mike, Jim, Andrew and Angie, John, Martin, P.J., Mike, Mark, Bob, Wayne, Ashley, and Steve.

I have talked to and prayed with chaplains Dana Hoyt (Berlin), Dave Carlson (Valley Street), Kent Threlfall (Rockingham), and Bill Pelletier (Concord). They were happy to report as of this printing that there are no coronavirus cases in their facilities.

We still receive mail and answer inmate letters. We help Andrew, P.J., Levi, and Frank with rent money at Helping Hands because of lost work.

All the jails/prisons have been closed to outside volunteers since about March 17. In Concord, the Christians had their own services in the prison yard. In my morning devotions, I pray for people we have ministered to by name (about 70 names).

UPDATE AND PRAISE: During the week of May 11, I started going back to the office for a few hours to meet with those to whom CAM ministers. ~Paul

God Is in Control

By CAM Board Member
Kent Threlfall

PSALM 46:1 (NIV):

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

By definition, a refuge is a safe place. When the Bible describes God as our refuge, it is saying that God is our safe place when we need protection from something. Knowing God is our refuge enables us to trust Him more freely. We need not fear situations or people who threaten our well-being, whether in a physical or spiritual sense. **There is no situation we will ever face that is out of God's control, so the best place to be, always, is right with Him.**

We are living in a time of change because of COVID-19, trying to adapt to a "new normal," which creates all the more reason to rely on God. As Chaplain at Rockingham County Department of Corrections, I have had to make changes to reduce the spread of the virus.

All programs, whether staff- or volunteer-led, are currently suspended. All trials are put on hold as judges have closed the courts. Many inmates with less serious charges are getting personal recognizance (PR) bail. This has created a drastic new norm. Although my responsibilities haven't become any easier, to protect the staff and inmates,

(continued on page 2)

(God Is in Control, *continued from page 1*)

social distancing, good hygiene, and masks are mandatory. **Thank God, so far we have no staff or inmates with the virus.**

However, inmates are the first to be concerned about infection and spread of the virus in a close environment. I try to spread hope with one-on-one counseling. I share not only the Gospel but bring them to God's promises like Psalm 46:1. This has helped to relieve anxiety and fears.

When we could no longer have formal Bible studies and Chapel worship services, I began praying for an alternative that inmates could use to learn and grow in their faith. God led me to write a series of Correspondence Bible Studies that any inmate may request and return to me for grading. The response has been well received. God is in control and supplies our every need! **Inmates are getting fed and learning about who God is and as He relates to them.** His Word goes forth even during times of trouble. Praise God!

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV): *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

~ Kent

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Mark Yphantis

I grew up in Belmont, MA, in a stable home with good parents. From age 2 to age 18, my mother took my sister and me to a Protestant church. In high school, I was involved with sports and graduated in 1978 from Belmont High School. I moved out of our home as my father thought it was time for me to be on my own.

I joined a building trades union in Boston, where I worked for the next 20 years. Drinking alcohol after work became a habit, and that drinking started my downward fall.

Proverbs 2:13: *Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness...*

During these years I took up golf and became very competitive and had some good success. All the while, my drinking got worse, and I started having run-ins with the police. This resulted in jail time. By 1993, I was living in Manchester, NH, and having run-ins with Manchester police. I lost my license from having 13 DUIs but kept driving. Finally, in 1997, I was sent to Concord State Prison. When I was released, I started drinking heavily again. I got married in 2000 and divorced in 2014, in part because of my drinking. **Alcohol not only consumed me but was also destroying my life.**

(continued on page 3)

PRAYER REQUESTS

That the Lord would destroy the coronavirus in America, restore our economy, and draw more people to Himself through this pandemic

That the Lord would keep a shield of protection (no virus) on the lives of the 5,000 men and women incarcerated in NH, as well as all staffs

That the Lord would provide opportunities for current and former inmates to continue to grow their faith and maintain accountability during this time

That the Lord would reopen all the jails and prisons to volunteers so that CAM can get back to face-to-face ministry

Physical Distancing in NH Prisons

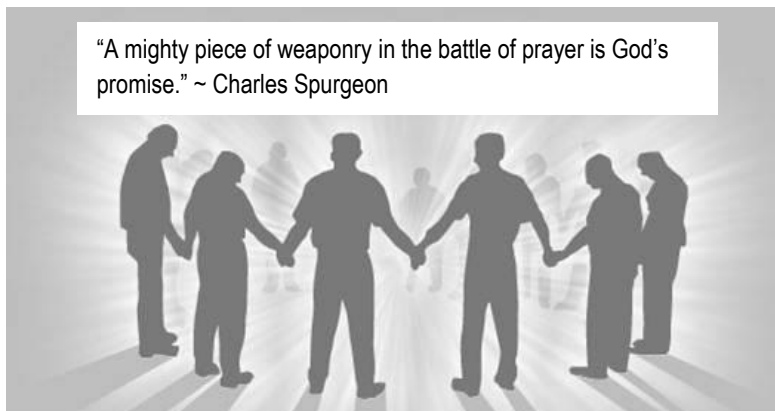
The NH Department of Correction (NHDOC) is following the CDC's recommendations for Correctional and Detention Facilities. Some of the social distancing implementations include:

- Increased space between individuals waiting in lines and waiting areas, adjusting locations of waiting to larger spaces, moved furniture apart when not affixed to the floor.
- Created recreational opportunities where individuals can spread out.
- Stagger time in recreation spaces and schedule them by living unit.
- Reduce number allowed in groups at one time to 10 or under.
- Adjusted meal times and movements.
- Implemented alternatives as appropriate to existing group activities.
- Rearrange schedule movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing areas.

Source: The NH Department of Correction (NHDOC), accessed May 14, 2020, <https://www.nh.gov/nhdcc/covid/index.html>.

The Lockdown Is a Good Time to Look Up: Praying the Promises of God

- *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. (Jeremiah 29:11–12, KJV)*
- *Whom have I in Heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire, besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. (Psalm 73:25–26, NIV)*
- *He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. (Psalm 91:4, NJKV)*
- *The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21–22, NASB)*
- *But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy. (Psalm 59:16–17, KJV)*
- *The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children. (Psalm 103:17, ESV)*
- *Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.] (John 14:27, Amp.)*



(My Personal Testimony, continued from page 2)

In 2014 I met Paul Roussel and Mike Grady and started a relationship with CAM. From 2014 to 2017, as I staggered about, homeless in Manchester, I met Pastor Mark Ploss, who told me about Jesus as he tried to minister to me. Finally, totally fed up in 2017, I accepted Jesus as Savior.

John 6:37: *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*


I went to rehab in 2018 and was released to live at Helping Hands. Since living in Helping Hands, my life, through Jesus, has been transformed. The Manchester police are now my friends (they watch me like a hawk), and I meet with Paul and Mike for prayer and counseling every week. When churches reopen, I will be attending Manchester Christian Church with Pastor Ploss. I have a great job, have been sober for 16 months now, and am surrounded by at least 8 Christian men who are my friends and who also hold me accountable. Jesus has given me the power to overcome my past drinking.

~ Mark

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:
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, 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.