

# CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

NOVEMBER 2011

Non-profit Organization

[www.christianaftercare.com](http://www.christianaftercare.com)

Established 1994

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

### ANNUAL CAM DINNER

Our Dinner in October was a blessing to a capacity crowd with representatives from all our supporting churches. We personally thanked all our supporters who gave financially to, and prayed faithfully for CAM. We were honored to have four of our chaplains there; Dana Hoyt, Berlin Prison; Dave Carlson, Valley Street Jail in Manchester; Kent Threlfall, Rockingham County Jail. Dana, our keynote speaker, outlined the work in the north country and how the Lord is transforming broken lives there by the power of the Gospel. Testimonies from ex-offenders spoke to hearts and the music by Sue Brown was uplifting.

The kitchen staff did an outstanding job, led by David Grant, our chef, and Mike Grady. The College and Career group from MVBC served dinner and many others helped make the evening so memorable. A speaker from Federal Prison Jim Bernier, spoke of appreciation of CAM's work helping ex-offenders as they transition back into society. Many of our ex-offenders who have been helped by CAM stood up and were recognized. For this we truly rejoice.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Three years ago the Lord raised up a Christian ex-offender to serve as our House Parent/Mentor. During that time we ministered to eight men who lived at Helping Hands. After reviewing the success rate of these men who went through the program, we felt that due to circumstances – such as lack of true commitment to walking daily with the Lord, lack of job opportunities, and a House Parent who faced many

medical issues plus other job commitments himself – we decided that we would seek out a mature Christian gentleman who could serve as mentor for four evenings a week and to be available to take the men to church on Sundays. Please **PRAY FOR THIS REQUEST** and if you know of someone who feels led to serve in this way, please call the CAM office.

### INSIDE THE WALLS

As we serve in CAM, it has become very clear that the Lord uses not only outside volunteers to reach inmates, but fellow inmates themselves lead Bible studies and pray with one another as they are doing time. This is most encouraging to them as they seek to walk with the Lord behind bars.

### BOARD MEMBERS INVOLVED

In the last three months we have seen seven men accept Christ as Savior. We minister to and share the Gospel with 35 men per month. Board members lead 40 Bible studies per month. I visit Valley St. Jail each Monday morning to lead Bible study. It's a blessing to see their walk with the Lord become stronger each week. They tell me they grow stronger as they study God's Word and pray!! Praise the Lord for these men!

**"I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Praise be to You, O Lord..."**

**Psalm 119:11,12a**

## THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE

By Dave Rattigan  
CAM Board Member

Being involved with CAM is a two-way street. As I heed the call of the Holy Spirit and give my time, effort and money to assist the least of His brethren, I too receive a powerful feeling of accomplishment. Family and friends see this and become engaged in the process also. Now this isn't an "I do good deeds to receive good in return" thing, since I have learned from Scripture not to be boastful or entitled. Three scripture verses come to mind:

JAMES 4:6. He gives more grace. Therefore it says, "*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*"

LUKE 16:19-31. "*There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.*"

JAMES 5:11. "*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the* (continued page two)

(Rattigan - continued from page 1)

*Lord is compassionate and merciful.*"

God teaches us through many ways. If we become reborn and devoted to Him, He will reveal many things, over time, to us personally. We will begin to learn the answer to the age old question: "**What is the meaning of life?**" He also provides us with an instruction manual, called the Bible, to assist us. The Bible even includes a large section called the New Testament -- the accounts of His greatest gift, He son Jesus, the perfect example to emulate.

JOHN 3:16. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*"

Remember as you move forward in life that the greatest gift is love. Jesus teaches us through His example.

MATTHEW 22:35. "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'"

Jesus said to him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Dave Rattigan

### **PRAYER REQUEST:**

**Pray that men and women in prisons will continue to respond to the call of Jesus by accepting Him into their hearts and lives, and that they then begin to live as He would have them live.**

### **MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

By John Seier

My name is John ; I am an only child; brought up in Massachusetts; I was a member of the Roman Catholic Church. My story is a little different from most. My father was an abusive man to my mother and myself. My parents were both alcoholics. However, they stopped drinking when I was age 12. I never got into trouble as a child or a teen (because) I feared my father greatly – he was strict and mean. I did well in high school, but did not have the financial resources to go to college.

I learned a trade and was always employed. I met a nice girl and we married. We both had good jobs and had all material things. I only drank alcohol on rare occasions because when I did I always got drunk. My poor wife suffered great embarrassment because of me.

As the years went by I became selfish and depressed - went to psychiatrists and was given all sorts of medication. Then I started to mix alcohol with the medications. At this time I had no God in my life. By the time I was 51 years old I was in a bad way ... had all kinds of legal and financial trouble ... and my marriage was crumbling, so I reached out to a Baptist minister for help.

I started to get the message of a loving, forgiving God (Jesus Christ). My wife had divorced me, but one night we were trying to reconcile. At some point, my wife left the room and I started going through her pocket book looking for medications I knew she had for pain. She caught me, and I felt such guilt and shame, and I ran outside, took her car and drove it into the back wall of the garage of our home. I was trying to hurt or kill myself, but I was not hurt seriously. I was arrested and charged with numerous crimes and sent to the Valley St. Jail.

I was in jail for four and a half months. I asked God for help and received it. There I met Mike Grady (CAM board member) who led me in Bible studies; he also gave me compassionate counseling and encouragement as did Chaplain Dave Carlson. Through these men, I came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I also saw Paul Roussel helping inmates secure things they needed upon release. These Godly men helped me secure a full time job. I started going to AA meetings regularly, read the Bible and other spiritual readings every day.

This all happened six years ago. I have not had any trouble in my life since I turned to God. I wake up every day and rejoice in the Lord and have a sublime feeling of gratitude for all the gifts I have been so freely given.

~John Seier

**Praise God** for the power of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men like John Seier who love the Lord! Thanks for that true testimony John, and for how the Lord continues to work in your life. Give courage and support to such men wherever you find them. "If the Lord delights in a man's way he makes his steps firm." Psalm 37:23

## The Irrevocable Standard

By Pastor John Cerruto Reprinted here with his permission

*Most church members today are more concerned about being judged intolerant, narrow-minded, or old-fashioned than being guilty of continually grieving the Holy Spirit and neglecting or rejection Christ's standard of commitment.*

*With skillful double-think and double-talk we have managed to interpret away Jesus' clear call. When He saw "a great multitude with Him" He knew that they didn't get it.*

***"... He turned and said unto them, 'If any come to me and hate not his father and mother, and wife and children and brethren and sister, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me cannot be my disciple.'" Luke 14:25 -27***

*We know these words must be interpreted as "comparative." The rest of the Bible and indeed the general teachings of Christ make it impossible to believe the Savior was advocating actual hate of loved ones. But there is a clear implicit word here. It is the message of an irrevocable standard.*

*The call is for a deep and radical transformation of human desire and affection. It tells us that there can be an attitude and spirit which is so committed to an absolute obedience to Christ that all other loyalties are measured in its light. In other words, in the midst of all our duties and obligations to those to whom and for whom we are responsible, our undisturbed relationship to Jesus must never be compromised. This is all about attitude and feeling and the direction of our affection.*

***The question is:*** *Do I really want fully to please the Lord? Is it my dominant desire, above all, and controlling all other desires, to please Him at any cost? We cannot be perfect but we can ask the Lord for a perfect intention.*

*Do I trust Him to ask of me, or take from me, only those things which I should not have? This trust is the key to the full blessing of God. If we are hesitant, which is natural, we can begin by asking the Lord for a willing heart.*

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CAM Dinner, October 2011. Chaplain Dana Hoyt of the Berlin Prison was the featured speaker.

**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](http://www.christianaftercare.com)

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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