

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

OCTOBER 2018

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

STEWARDSHIP

Our commitment as a ministry is to be good stewards of every penny donated to CAM. On that note, our phone carrier, Comcast, raised our rates to about \$1,000 a year. To save money, we have switched to Tracfone and may save approximately \$500 a year.

COORDINATION AMONG NH JAILS AND PRISONS

Recently, Holly, a Christian advocate in the Grafton County court system, asked what our ministry does and what kind of coordination takes place among the jails and prisons. Specifically, jails don't coordinate with other county jails except for official business. We work with and talk to Christian volunteers in Valley Street, Rockingham, Merrimack County, Sullivan County, and Cheshire County jails. We know there are Bibles in the cells at the small Stewartstown, NH, jail.

In the state prison system, there are Christian chaplains in Concord and Berlin state prisons and at the new Concord women's prison. Our ministry interacts with volunteers and does visits at Concord State Prison. Christian volunteers do Bible studies in the three prison halfway houses at Calumet in Manchester and North End and Shea Farm (for women) in Concord. The Lord has raised up at least a hundred plus Christian volunteers throughout the state who minister in the jails and prisons. The Lord uses many ways to reach inmates for Him. Recently at Bible studies at Valley Street jail, two men accepted Jesus as Savior—Ahmed from a Muslim background and Max from a Jewish background. Praise the Lord! ~Paul

*RECIDIVISM IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

According to a 2014 report released by the NH Department of Corrections, the percentage of ex-offenders reincarcerated in the state's prison system within three years of their release was 43.2 percent, an 8 percent decline from the previous year of study.

Source: New Hampshire Department of Corrections, *Recidivism in New Hampshire: A Study of Offenders Returned to Prison within Three Years of their Release, FY2008 Cohort* (Concord: NH Department of Corrections, 2014).

CAM: Helping Clients Make the Right Choice

By CAM Board Member
Don Grosso

National numbers reflect a 66 percent recidivism* rate for those released from US prisons. Ministries such as CAM can dramatically reduce the number of those returning to prison. Located at 50 Lowell Street in Manchester, NH, CAM has a close relationship with Helping Hands, a 38-bed drug- and alcohol-free facility located at the same address. A second chance for an honorable life can be found at the twin beacons of light provided by these organizations.

1 John 1:7 (KJV): *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Once back in society after serving all or part of their sentence, a path of choice is opened up: going back to old habits that led to incarceration, or stepping onto a new path of a Christ-centered life. **The national recidivism statistic indicates that without assistance the odds favor a return to prison for most.** For many, the release from a very structured life is traumatic and challenging. To function and become independent again requires a determined, disciplined approach.

(continued on page 2)

(CAM: Helping Clients, *continued from page 1*)

A proper ID and short- or long-term housing are critical first needs. Those not on disability must find a job quickly in order to afford housing. Work clothes and work boots must be attained. Bus passes or bikes are needed to get to work. Just as important are spiritual, encouragement, friendship, and mentoring needs.

Psalm 133:1 (KJV): *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

The CAM board members supported by twelve Christ-centered churches form the body of believers that provide some or all of the critical support needed for a transition to an honest and productive life. Financial support for the first week's rent at Helping Hands, a no-charge clothing store, bus passes, and bikes are a major assist for those without funds. One-on-one mentoring and individual and group Bible studies are held every week.

Proverbs 22:4 (KJV): *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*

For the past twenty-four years, CAM has assisted many to meet their goals on this new path; those that make it are the ones that put their trust and faith in the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. Their sins are covered by the blood of Christ, guilt no longer reigns, and a new life begins on this acceptance.

More good news is that recent reports indicate much higher rates of employment in New Hampshire for those released from prisons, and employers are impressed with the work ethic being shown. Praise the Lord! ~ *Don Grosso*

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Richard Bernier

I grew up in Manchester in a good family, but at age eighteen I turned away from my family and turned to motorcycle gangs and drugs and alcohol. By age thirty, my life was a disaster, and I was sent to prison for vehicular manslaughter.

While in prison, I cried out to Jesus for help, and while in prison I was somewhat committed to Jesus. But when I was released, I went right back to my old ways.

While doing my own thing, I had two sons with a woman I had met. Over the next ten years my life spiraled downward. I would try to hold down a job, but my drug use made me undependable. Finally, my life was just a shell—no hope, no peace. I had given up on life.

Psalm 42:11 (KJV): *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

Then about six months ago, while homeless, I met Henry Demers from Harmony House in Manchester. Henry paid my way to a Christian-based drug rehab in California, and my life has been transformed ever since.

I have been clean and sober for seven months and currently live at Helping Hands (Christian-based transitional housing). **Jesus has changed my life and given me purpose.** My true joy is helping others. The Lord has provided work for me to help meet my financial needs. I attend church every week at Hope Tabernacle.

~ *Richard*

PRAYER REQUESTS

For new believers in the CAM ministry to grow in the Lord and make good choices.

For the Lord to keep prison doors open to Christian volunteers.



CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Guidelines for Successful Reentry into Society for Ex-Offenders

We continue to share our eight Bible-based guidelines that are critical to an ex-offender's successful reentry into society. The first four, featured in the February and June newsletters, focused on a personal relationship with Christ, an understanding of His power to transform lives, relying on the Holy Spirit, and faithfully attending Bible studies/church. These next two spiritual truths emphasize walking with the Lord and being well-grounded before seeking a relationship.



- Truly understand that the Lord has a wonderful plan for the rest of your life, and He will bless you as you walk with Him.

Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV): *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law; of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

- Do not immediately get involved in a relationship with the opposite sex (unless you are already married). You need to get your own life grounded and stabilized before entering into a romantic relationship with another person. This may take some time. Wait on the Lord for His timing.

Psalm 27:14 (NKJV): *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!*

STAY TUNED . . .

We will share photos and highlights from the annual CAM dinner and fund-raiser in our next issue.


CAM OFFERS THESE SERVICES TO OUR CLIENTS:

- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
 - BIBLE STUDIES
- BIBLICAL COUNSELING
- PRE-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
- CAREER PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT
 - JOB DEVELOPMENT
- ASSISTANCE WITH JOB SEARCH
 - REFERRAL SERVICES
- REFERRALS TO SOURCES OF CLOTHING AND MEDICAL PROGRAMS

CAM UPDATE
Christian Aftercare Ministries
50 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101

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TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT:



URGENTLY NEEDED DONATIONS:
winter coats, large towels, small refrigerators,
coffeemakers, shoes, socks, jeans, slacks, boots,
pots and pans, 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: 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

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.