

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

SEPTEMBER 2019

Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

CONCORD PRISON CHAPEL SERVICES

On July 20, I had a chance to speak to the seventy-five men attending the chapel service about how they can successfully reenter society with Jesus as their personal Savior. I gave words of encouragement, then a challenge, then I gave an invitation for anyone to accept Jesus as their Savior. Three men raised their hands and accepted Jesus. When I periodically go to the chapel services to speak, I am always blessed to hear their testimonies. Some read Bible verses and share praises and prayer requests. Jesus is at work in that prison!

27 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THE CONCORD PRISON CHAPEL

Twenty-seven years ago, then Chaplin Dan Smith asked Annie Lescard and Jean Metzger (CAM board member) to start a chapel service on Saturday nights. Every Saturday night since, Annie, and later Virginia Adams, with Jean, have faithfully participated in the chapel services. For all these years, Jean has arranged a rotation of pastors who bring the message every Saturday. Over the years, the church inside the walls has gotten stronger and stronger.

PRESENTING CAM AT CENTERPOINT CHURCH

On Sunday, August 25, we visited CenterPoint Church in Concord to present our ministry there. CenterPoint, right in the heart of Concord, is able to minister to and help men and women being released from the state prisons. What a blessing to be part of that church setting and to spend time with Steve Micucci (CAM board member) and his wife, Donna, who attend there.

~Paul

The Undivided Heart

By CAM Board Member
Mike Grady

The most conflicted people I have met are addicts—their hearts are divided between a desire to leave their addiction and to feed it. They may commit to follow Christ and do well when they can't feed their addiction (in jail or rehab), but even when the physical addiction can't be satisfied, unfortunately, the physiological addiction remains.

Although not experts in treatment, we at CAM see the results of a life transformed by faith in Jesus. This transformation may take time, and just as Jesus was long-suffering with us, we must also be patient with recovering addicts, walking that thin line between enabling and helping. Please pray for the discernment we need.

The only way anyone can follow Jesus is with an undivided heart.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV): *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

Just out of prison or jail, many see only their physical needs, not understanding what they heard or have been told about Jesus. They have seen the Gospel's effect on man but don't have the saving power of the Gospel that makes that change. **They are in "survival mode." They don't realize they put "things" before God—they have a divided heart.**

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(The Undivided Heart, *continued from page 1*)

They want the effect of the Gospel without undivided commitment. Jesus illustrates this by revealing the rich young ruler's heart as He questioned him in Luke 18. The man couldn't part with his wealth; focused on what he had, he couldn't see what he truly needed. Conversely, these men have nothing—no job, money, or family support—and they only see what they physically need. While in prison, all physical needs are met by the state, so it's understandable, in a worldly way, where they are at. Only by coming alongside of them and encouraging them to become part of a church where they can learn who this Jesus is and how the lives of Christians are changed can they get the true life they desire. Otherwise, they may walk in vain.

The Bible is clear that God wants nothing between us and Him.

Matthew 22:37 (ESV): *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

Even with faith in Christ we see a struggle to keep a pure heart. I can't imagine what it is like to try to walk the Christian life without truly knowing Him. Keep us in prayer that everything we do is in God's will, "*not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart*" (Eph. 6:6, ESV). Please also pray that God uses the time we have with these men and women effectively and that the Spirit would use our words and example to penetrate their hearts.

Matthew 13:18–19 (ESV): *Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.*

We love what we do, and it's a privilege to help those in need with the many items gifted to us by the generous support of His people and churches. Thank you for your support! These gifts give us an opening to share the Gospel and explain how it changes lives, and we use every opportunity afforded us to share this good news. ~ *Mike*

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY: "Crossing Over"

By Wayne Sargent

A life of crime: It began for me with simple theft of candy at the young age of five and grew into bigger things such as raiding junkyard cars after midnight and eventually into sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll music. I rejected the church and everything and anything that was connected to it. By the time I was thirty, I had been arrested and put in jail and eventually into prison for twenty-three years until my release to the half-way house. **My world had already been in chaos with a broken family and an extremely abusive childhood, and prison only made it worse until I found Kairos, a prison outreach ministry that ministers to inmates in the prison.**

Crossing over from darkness to light: My life changed, and I found myself on the road to a new life with Christ. Metaphorically speaking, when I accepted Christ as my Savior, I crossed over into a spiritual world of godliness.

John 12:46 (ESV): *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

After being shunned by my entire family for five years and by one older brother for twelve years, my family relationships have finally been restored. Much to my surprise, my whole family had found Christ themselves after I went to prison.

God answered my prayers. He healed the broken hearts and brought us back together again. Now, I look forward to actively seeking a music ministry to share my testimony with others.

This testimony doesn't capture or depict everything that Jesus has done in my life. I attend Gospel Baptist Church every Sunday and have found a good job. I can feel the Lord's hand of blessing on my life daily. CAM has been helpful with clothes, prayers, spiritual encouragement, and Bible studies. ~ *Wayne*

PRAYER REQUESTS

For God's wisdom and discernment in working with addicts, and for their complete transformation through Jesus Christ.

For churches to come alongside and encourage ex-offenders in the Lord, showing them agape love and patience.

Annual CAM DINNER & FUNDRAISER

YOU'RE
INVITED

**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*

Key Bible Verse for Christian Aftercare Ministries

This Bible verse is often quoted as we minister to men and women in and out of the prisons:

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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.

1 John 1:5-7




Editor's Note: Visit our website, www.Christianaftercare.com, to learn more about CAM, including our affiliate churches and ways you can help. You can also sign up to receive the *CAM Update* by email or read the current and past newsletters online.


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

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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.