

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

September 2023

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 25+ years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

Meet Dominic

We all need to hear God's success stories; they especially encourage those of us in ministry. When Dominic went to Concord Prison 18 months ago, his Christian cellmate invited him to chapel. Through subsequent chapel visits, Dominic accepted Jesus as his personal Savior with Pastor Chamberlain. I met Dominic 5 months ago when he arrived at Helping Hands. Since then, we have met every Monday for prayer, counseling, and encouragement.

Dominic's rap sheet was full of burglaries and drugs in ME, NH, and MA. When his court case came up in ME recently, his lawyer was absent. When the judge asked, "Where is your attorney?" Dominic said she had another case elsewhere. When the judge asked who was representing him, another attorney (planted by Jesus), stood up and said, "I know his case and I will represent him." The judge and Dominic agreed, and he was granted continued bail. It turns out, this lawyer that "just happened" to be there had represented Dominic 3 years ago. She said to Dominic, "I thought you would keep going in the wrong way."

Fast-forward to early July 2023, when Dominic had his day in MA court. A new judge said, "You will serve prison time," and the judge tried to have him arrested right there. But he couldn't because Jesus had other plans. A few weeks later, Dominic went to his last court date in MA for his final sentence. This new judge said, "I don't know why I'm doing this. You should be doing prison time, but I will continue your bail time. You are free to go."

Jesus was in the courtroom that day, intervening on Dominic's behalf. A miracle for sure! Dominic will share his testimony at the CAM dinner on October 14, 2023. Come and be encouraged!

~Paul

Editor's note: Ron Powell, a former NH Commissioner of Corrections, will be our special keynote speaker at the CAM dinner in October. This is his first time with us. See page 3 for details.

Keeping It Simple

By CAM Board Member
Jack Shuler

In my 84 years, I have been privileged to enjoy over three decades of dental practice; forty short-term dental/medical mission trips; and in post-retirement, part-time work as a docent in two museums, duty as a court security officer for the state, and most importantly, working with CAM. I say all this to note that I have had the opportunity of meeting many people from all walks of life.

I love to talk about God, and it seems to me that the majority with whom I have talked "believes" in God—some refer Him as a "higher power," while others see Him as "The Man Upstairs." Some refer to Him as the "Big Guy," and on and on. Yes, as far as I can see, most people seem to know something "about" God . . . an old saying is that God created Man in His image, and Man has been trying to return the favor ever since! All too many people attempt to create God in *their own* image.

Genesis 1:27: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Yes, one can know a great deal *about* God without a personal knowledge *of* God. And one can know a great deal *about godliness* without a personal knowledge *of* God. But it is impossible to both know and love God without knowing Him personally. The fundamental difference between knowing *about* God and *knowing* God is about personal relationships, and one can't really know Him until one has a personal relationship with Him.

For instance, my knowing about the president of the United States would not mean that I

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emailchristianaftercare@gmail.com

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(Keeping It Simple, *continued from page 1*)

had met him personally and knew him. But there is one way to really know God—through Jesus Christ. Turning to God's Word (John 14:6), JESUS explicitly said, "I am the way the truth and the life NO ONE comes to the Father [GOD] except through ME." Simply put, this means that Jesus is the only way we humans can reconnect to God. (See also John 1:12, Acts 4:12.)

The only way to true salvation is through FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ, turning to Him and asking Him to forgive your sins, and surrendering your life completely to His lordship over your life. Think of it this way: God is HOLY, and being holy, He cannot tolerate sin. When Adam made the choice to sin, he created a bottomless gulf between sinful man and a HOLY God. But God, in His mercy and love, sent His most precious Son as a sacrifice on the cross and gave sinful man a chance to reconnect with God the Father, thus changing your life—it changed mine!

NOBODY WE SERVE AT CAM LEAVES US WITHOUT HEARING THIS SIMPLE GOSPEL:

God so loved the world that He gave His Son so that we may, through His Son's sacrifice, gain eternal life (John 3:16). He seeks to save each person from our natural state of sin. It is up to us to turn to Him. Then we can KNOW God for eternity.

Put simply, "What will you do with Christ?"

~ Jack

Prayer Requests

Continued prayer that all men and women inmates would have the opportunity to hear about our Wonderful Savior.

For the Lord to continue to bless CAM with many opportunities to share Jesus and, just as importantly, for receptive hearts.

God's plan for enlarging His kingdom is so simple—one person telling another about the Savior.

~Charles Stanley

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Part 2



by Vinnie Moser

In the June edition of CAM Update, Vinnie shared how he had lived a hard life. But a chaplain met him in prison and shared that salvation is by faith, not works. "Once I understood that [Jesus] died for my sins and that He wanted to transform me from the person that I once was to make me into the man that He wanted me to be, I became saved."

Becoming a child of God has changed my life in many ways. I'm a lot more sharing and caring for other people and their welfare. I see Christ at work in more areas of my life with success versus me trying to change on my own. He has CHANGED me like never before. I still ask the Lord to help me die to self and to allow Him to live in me.

Jeremiah 29:11 and 2 Timothy 1:7 bring me comfort, and I continue to learn to trust Him at His promise through His spiritual work. I have a desire to live for Jesus and to share more of me by fellowshiping with my brothers and sisters. Whereas in the past, when I was incarcerated, I was often hurt and betrayed by people that professed Christianity in the chapel circles. That betrayal shut me down to going to the chapel or partaking in any kind of groups/meetings for a while. It took the Lord showing me that it's all about Him. He began to work on me and started healing me of the pain that was caused by some. He is still working on that in me to this day. I realized that for Him to do this I must surrender to the best of my ability, and you know what? Christ accepted my surrender from where I was at in my life. I still struggle from time to time fully surrendering, and He continues to love me and shows up for me. This is astounding to me. I ask myself, "How can He continue to change me and love me after all of my continued failures?" The answer is in my relationship with Him. It's all about His grace. That doesn't mean that we have a license to sin: Romans 6:1–2 says, "Shall we continue to sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." To desire to continue in sin shows a misunderstanding of His abundant grace and a contempt for Jesus' sacrifice.

I've been blessed to attend church at a few places such as Grace Capital, CenterPoint, and Emanuel Community

ANNUAL CAM DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Keynote
Speaker
Ron Powell

Saturday, October 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Testimonial
by Dominic
Barbosa

Puritan Backroom Event Center
245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, NH

Reservations Required / At No Cost

~ A donation basket will be available at the door. ~

PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant requires an accurate head count in advance. Please call the CAM office at 603-669-5090 **by October 1, 2023**, to reserve your seats.

~ We look forward to seeing you there! ~

(My Personal Testimony, Part 2, *continued from page 2*)

Church. I've had support from some organizations such as Rise Again Ministries and CAM, just to name two. I've been provided with a bike. I've been supplied food and clothing too. I also have been involved with programs from CenterPoint. I attend a men's group and journaling group.

I've been blessed by the Lord, who placed the right people in my life once I was released from prison. He was and is still a major support to me. He introduced me to new (to me) Christians that are still in my life. I have a brother and sister that is family to me, and we do life together, and that's what is real to me. That's how God relates to me—through people he has given me who don't have any intentions of setting out to hurt me. Instead, they love me and have seen me grow.

The Lord has healed my broken heart some. This healing has allowed me to especially love that brother and sister and others that I would not normally allow myself to take that risk. The Lord has reunited me with people from my past. He has blessed me by allowing me to be in their lives after all that was said and done. I have also had the opportunity to share my testimony with them.

I'm still a work in progress, which is called sanctification. I believe that God has used my situations and past to hold me accountable to Him and others, which helps me to trust Him through accountability. I also understand that my freedom has been a blessing too. I thank my Lord and Savior for all He has blessed me with and how He has kept me and delivered/healed me from my past sins, hurts, habits, and hang-ups that had once led me down a path of destruction for myself and others. I really appreciate everyone who has come along side of me for my journey.

Trust, believe, and have faith in knowing that God is going to put the right people in your path and you into the right circumstances.

All of this is to the glory of God, He deserves all the praise.

~ Vin

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

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Permit Number 434

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS:
Microwaves, coffee makers, and vacuum cleaners are needed.
**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. 10:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Weds. 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Thurs. 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, Jack Shuler, David Grant, Ernie Kilman, Guy and Deb Torgersen, Steve Micucci, Steve Fulk

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 the CAM office at 603-669-5090.