

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization

www.christianaftercare.com

January 2024

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 30 years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul Roussel

CAM Annual Dinner a Blessing

The Lord once again blessed the 29th annual CAM Dinner held in October 2023 both spiritually and financially. Dominic Barbosa's testimony was riveting as he shared how Jesus has transformed his life. I want to share a few comments from worship band member Jeff, who has been out for 20 months and is now on his church's worship team. He said, "I was blessed by our Lord, in awe of all the people who made it possible for me to be at the dinner, and I saw the Lord's hands on the banquet and all the hearts [of the volunteers] who were there who do the Lord's work. I was humbled to see the Lord's hand in action." And so were each one of us who attended the CAM Dinner.

Entering CAM's 30th Year of Ministry

As I look back on 2023 and think ahead to CAM's future, I see how the Lord has blessed our ministry in the past—financially, spiritually, opening doors, raising more Christians who want to volunteer—and I have faith that He will continue to bless us in so many ways going forward. The CAM Board of Directors is composed of solid Christians—each one involved in different aspects of prison ministry. The Concord Re-entry group, made up of about 10 men and women, ministers specifically to about 20 men close to being released, just released, or successfully out one, two, or three plus years. Prison Fellowship has an academy inside the walls, where our Steve Fulk teaches.

Prayer continues to be a big part of our ministry. Every week we pick three names and send these prayer requests to approximately 18 churches. We pray with each person we minister to in our office. Also, we pray for approximately 40 men and women daily.

~Paul

Freedom in Christ

By CAM Board Member
Deb Torgersen

Loss of freedom, in one form or another, has been felt by every one of us. It can come in many different forms: it can take the form of discipline as a child. It could be incarceration or feeling trapped by a choice we have made or being in an unhealthy relationship. We may be stuck in a bad job without the freedom to move on. However this loss of freedom has occurred, it stands as a lesson we hope to learn from; we know who Christ is and understand that it is sin that enslaves us. There is a lesson in freedom that is given to all of us if we accept Christ. We find freedom in Him! Christ came not only to teach us a lesson, He came to free us from the wages of sin and death.

God gave us free will; we can choose to use it to follow Him or use it to move away from Him. When I chose the latter, it led me to a life of which I am not proud. What freed me from that life was when I chose to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. He said in John 8:31-32 (ESV), "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Many may believe that freedom means doing whatever is right in their own eyes, but in God's freedom, we make better choices.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV): "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything.

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CAM would love to include you in our email list for future communications, updates, and opportunities. Please take the time to send us your email address:

info@christianaftercare.com

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(Freedom in Christ, continued from page 1)

I see this example being set by my fellow CAM board members. Walking in the truths of Christ, they love those they mentor, those they visit and have Bible studies with, and their desire is to help each and every man and woman know this truth too. **There is Freedom in Christ!**

Romans 8:2 (NIV): *Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

~ Deb



At CAM's Annual Dinner, fiddler Jeff Paquin sported a T-shirt that reads, "If you bring up my past, you should know that Jesus dropped the charges."

Praise

We praise Jesus as He blesses people from prison/jail who have accepted Him as personal Savior.

Prayer Request

That all 5,000 men and women in the jails and prisons of NH would have an opportunity to hear "God's Plan of Salvation."

God takes that which is nothing and makes something out of it. When you become a Christian, you cannot patch your Christianity onto your old life. You are to start over. Accept God's call as a promotion. Burn the old bridges and fix it so you cannot go back; then serve God with all your heart.

-A. W. Tozer

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY



by Dominic Barbosa

We briefly introduced you to Dominic in the September 2023 edition of CAM Update. Here is a transcript of his testimony that he delivered at the CAM Dinner.

I grew up in Maine and did not learn much about faith in my home. I wasn't sure what I believed exactly. I knew that there was a God but didn't attend church, pray, or faithfully walk with Jesus.

I became addicted to methamphetamine in my early 20s and fueled this selfish habit by committing more sins than imaginable. I eventually got incarcerated for a year, and during my time in the New Hampshire State Prison, I met some inmates who invited me to the Chapel. I eventually realized Christianity was what I had always been missing. After attending Chapel in the State Prison for a while, I accepted Jesus as my Savior, which changed my life for the good. Even though I was in a terrible place, I found happiness, and positive things began to happen to me.

I got released from prison in March of 2023 and was accepted into a place called Helping Hands, a sober house in Manchester run by Larry Nice, Fran Raudonis, and Chaplain Tim Lanigan. Within three days of being at Helping Hands, I got a job as a sous chef for a local restaurant. I was also introduced to this amazing man named Paul Roussel, the Director of Christian Aftercare Ministries. He asked me about my religion, my personal life, and my career. After we chatted, we always prayed together. I soon came to realize that Paul is a great man, and I knew he was going to be an excellent mentor. I knew God had put me in his office for a reason.

In April I began being disciplined by Steve Mitchell, a volunteer who comes to Helping Hands to help young Christians grow in their faith. This past July I had the honor of being baptized by Chaplain Tim Lanigan in the Merrimack River.

I was facing some serious charges out of Massachusetts, which could have led to many years in prison. Paul and I had discussed this issue and prayed about it every time we met. The first time I went to court, a deal had

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CAM's 29th Annual Dinner and Fundraiser



Above, from left: Larry Nice (Helping Hands); Pastor Dennis Frediani, Chaplain Dana Hoyt (Berlin DOC), CAM volunteers and guests, keynote speaker Ron Powell (former NH Commissioner of Corrections), testimonial speaker Dominic Barbosa, and Paul Roussel (CAM).



Left: Al Franklin's worship team included Dave, Jeff, Chaplain Tim Lanigan, and CAM's Guy Torgersen.

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

been worked out with the prosecutor, and then the judge denied the deal and offered me over two years in jail. I heard God speaking to me and telling me to decline his offer, which I did. My amazing lawyer was able to find a small loophole in which we were able to go in front of a different judge. Paul and I prayed constantly for God to use His miraculous hand of intervention. When I went back in front of the next judge, he said, "I'm not sure why I am doing this, but I'll give you another chance and let you have probation." Paul and I knew why he was doing it; GOD had answered our prayer and intervened.

Paul and I continue to meet every Monday to discuss life, religion, and growth. He supports me religiously and mentally. He has helped me in my ongoing legal issues, keeping a steady job, improving my personal life, and most importantly helping me develop a closer relationship with Jesus, our Savior.

My personal life has also improved tremendously such as the relationships with my amazing and beautiful four-year-old daughter, Aaliyah, my Christian mother, and my Christian uncle.

I have seen God work through Christian Aftercare Ministries in the unlimited ways it supports ex-offenders by providing them with clothes, food, spiritual counseling, and mentorship.

I can say for certain that without Paul Roussel, Larry Nice, Fran Raudonis, Chaplain Tim Lanigan, my family, church, and God, I would have ended up becoming a drug user again and committing even more crimes. I have learned with their help to become a better person, better Christian, and a more supportive person in my community. I also have been attending church regularly, which should be a part of every person's life. Finally, I have been studying Substance Use Disorder at NHTI College, which I mainly have to thank Fran Raudonis for getting me interested in this field so that I can eventually help people with substance use disorders. I would like to help promote sobriety through Christianity.

Thank you again to everyone who supports me and everyone who supports CAM. None of this would be possible without you!

~ *Dominic*

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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS:
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**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 sent from Manchester, NH. Paul Roussel is the Director/Publisher. Kathleen Deselle is the Editor. To join our mailing list, email us at info@christianaftercare.com or call the CAM office at 603-669-5090 during office hours to speak with someone about our ministry.