

CAM UPDATE

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders

Non-profit Organization 501(c)(3)

www.christianaftercare.com

April 2025

Established 1994

Praising the Lord
for 30 years!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Mike Grady, Chairman and Acting Director

Sharing CAM'S Heart and Mission

Although the State by necessity must punish those who commit crimes, it does offer many good programs to help in rehabilitation. From a human perspective, it can be confusing to define what is against the law versus what is sin. According to scripture, they are the same. We need to understand the difference between regret due to consequences and true repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV): *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

After his sin with Bathsheba, David cried out to the Lord, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Psalm 51:4). As king, David did not realize any civil consequence but understood his need for forgiveness from God.

Isaiah saw the Lord in a vision and immediately realized his own sinfulness and need for cleansing in the light of God's holiness.

Isaiah 6:5: *Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!*

Upon reading scripture, we also understand our need for cleansing, especially if we have been raised in the church. With Christ in our hearts, guided by the Holy Spirit, we attempt to lead a decent life. However, when compared to Christ, we definitely need cleansing.

Both David and Isaiah saw their need for repentance and forgiveness. David's sin is obvious to us. Isaiah's is not. In Psalm 51, David knew the Lord wanted a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. Isaiah knew his lips were unclean. We all need to repent and acknowledge our own brokenness before God.

Hebrews 10:34: *For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.*

The Bible teaches that we should have compassion on those in prison. This scripture was written to a group of believers who were going

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God's Restoration

By New CAM Board Member
John LaCourse

Joel 2:25a (KJV): *And I will restore to you the years the locust hath eaten...*

The second chapter of Joel describes a time of judgment and calamity that was to come upon Judah because of their disobedience and rebellion. A locust plague is used as a metaphor for this judgment. Darkness and gloominess were on the horizon and coming soon to Judah. However, with repentance and a return to Him, God promised to relent and restore His beloved people.

God's promise of restoration is for us, His adopted children, as well. Whether it's our joy, our peace, our health, or the damage that incarceration brings to an individual and their loved ones, He promises to restore. He wants us to be whole, and He will do what it takes to bring about that wholeness. In this Easter season, we remember that He made the ultimate sacrifice of His Son to restore our relationship with Him. Our disobedience and rebellion have led us to many dark and gloomy places, but He promises not to leave us destitute. He draws us to the light of His presence and heals us so that we can remain there.

God is in the business of restoration. Some people enjoy restoring things like houses, classic cars, or antiques. God loves restoring people: their lives, their relationships, and their ability to answer and fulfill their call to serve Him.

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(From the Director, *continued from page 1*)

through persecution; some even imprisoned for their faith. **We believe those imprisoned for their antisocial actions who have accepted Christ as Savior deserve the same compassion. CAM's mission is to come alongside these men and help with spiritual guidance and material resources upon release or parole.** Although this is CAM's mission, we help anyone in need. This gives us the opportunity to present the Gospel, the only way to true repentance and a new life in Christ.



Please pray for the men in prison—that they will see their need for Jesus Christ and ask for forgiveness from the Holy God against whom they've sinned. Also please pray for CAM as we minister to those in the jails and prisons throughout New Hampshire, that we present the Gospel in love and truth.

Meet Our Newest Board Member

CAM is excited to welcome our new Board Member, **John LaCourse**. We are truly blessed to have John join our team. He brings years of prison ministry experience. Please take time to read John's bio on our website, [Staff – Christian Aftercare Ministries](#).

Upcoming Events

CAM has a speaking engagement at First Baptist Church in Manchester on Sunday, April 27. If you would like a CAM Board Member to speak at your church or group, please contact the CAM office at (603)669-5090.

We are pleased to announce that we will be renting the whole conference center at the Puritan for this year's annual dinner and fundraiser in October. This will give us more room and streamline the buffet line. Watch for details in later CAM Updates for details about this special night with wonderful speakers, testimonies, music, fellowship, and food!

~ Mike

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

EMAILS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL



MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

by Joseph Gagliardi

My name is Joseph Gagliardi. Let me tell you a little about where my life has been to help you understand what God has done in me. At a young age I was an altar server at a Catholic church and loved attending Mass with my family, so I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. I had a real experience with the Holy Spirit under a tent of a thousand kids at a youth retreat that church leadership brought us to, and I acknowledged that Jesus loved me so much that He went through extreme suffering and willingly died so that I could have a way out of sin and into eternal life in Heaven.

Come sophomore year in high school, I had replaced Jesus in the center of my heart with the heart idols of approval and comfort. My family, friends, and sports had become idols in my life. Living unaware of this led me to using and selling drugs, and shortly thereafter getting expelled. I experienced deep rejection and shame. This for me turned into depression and rebellion. I would think things like, "Nobody loves or cares about me so I'm going to do what I want to do regardless." This led me to prison for three years the day after I graduated, from a drug deal gone bad. I got out of prison still not able to put Jesus first in my life, and I quickly filled the hole in my heart with a romantic relationship, money, and drugs. **I would occasionally go to church knowing there was something I was missing, but the world overcame me every time.** I went deeper into the world of co-dependency, drug dealing, and getting high always with the goal of love, security, and peace, but with no real understanding of how to go about it especially since I was living still broken. I was trying to do it MY way instead of His way. I came to the end of my Self repeatedly. The cycles of extreme suffering and the lessons that Jesus was trying to teach me became more obvious. However, I was very hard-headed and refused to let go of the idols and put Him first in my life, and for that reason I was living blind and couldn't understand what I was missing.

By the end of my rebellion, I had done about ten years in prison, a year in an underground solitary confinement cell, overdosed eight times, and was put on life support twice. God has brought people to me many times in miraculous ways, always keeping me alive when I should've been found dead. Jesus met me in prison the last time I was there and let me know He was calling me.

A few years later, in the midst of building my life again, the Lord guided me to CenterPoint church in Concord, and I had this moment where Jesus spoke loudly to me and told me to drop

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(God's Restoration, *continued from page 1*)

People work to restore their treasured items to "mint" condition, to the way they once were. God restores His people not to how they used to be but to how they were *created* to be. He doesn't use skillful restoration to hide our blemishes, He removes the blemishes. He doesn't make us "like new," He makes us NEW.

The locusts (Satan) ate many years of my life by way of woundedness, bad decisions, and unhealthy coping behaviors. The people to whom CAM ministers, God's children, are in similar situations. Satan has worked to destroy them. Many, driven by the pain of their past, have made poor choices that have left them in the ditch, if they're lucky. So many have found that they traveled beyond the ditch, into the trees, the swamp, or worse. The result always involves tremendous loss—lost dreams, lost relationships, lost families, lost freedom, lost careers, lost potential, and tremendous financial loss. No one that I've met while ministering in prison ever dreamed that they would end up in prison one day.

However, God's promises are true, sure, glorious, and irrevocable. He promises to restore, and He always follows through on His promises. At CAM we see His tremendous ability to restore at work in individuals one at a time and time after time. Not everyone yields fully to God's restorative power, and they continue to struggle, but we still see Him at work. We continue to work with these individuals so they can allow God's healing power and plan to envelope and change them. Restoration doesn't happen at the same pace or in the same manner for everyone. We allow God to do His work in His perfect timing.

In those who fully yield to Him, we see amazing stories of God's transformation and restoration. The restoration is not to how their lives were before incarceration. It is now a life lived how God intended it to be. What a glorious ministry! We are blessed to walk beside and watch very broken individuals as they journey down God's path to freedom and restoration. We get to witness them as they blossom in their restored relationship with their Creator, Redeemer, and Restorer. Amen!

~ John

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

everything and go to His Mansion Ministries. I listened for the first time in my life, choosing to answer His call. The K-Men's Bible study that I was attending helped me to transition from the place I was staying to His Mansion, and the guys there have been such a blessing. They were the first people in my life that showed me the compassion of Jesus. **Jesus completely transformed me through a process of deep inner healing. It involved surrendering myself to Him every day, remaining teachable, being completely transparent and vulnerable with every detail about my past and present.** Being open-minded, staying out of judgment, and connecting with my brothers every day to know myself deeper; therefore, knowing Jesus deeper. He continued to draw me to Himself and allowed me to play a part in the transformation of other brothers in Christ.

In considering graduation and praying about the next steps, I've been given this call and acceptance to a Discipleship Training School (DTS) in Kona, Hawaii. I will be trained to evangelize, learn how to plant churches, and train people to share the Gospel with their culture as well as bringing Bibles to unreached people groups that have never heard of Christ before. To do this, I've had to put my complete faith and trust in God to provide the necessary things to get me there.

Upon leaving His Mansion, I did not have a safe place to live, nor did I have the \$10,000 to attend DTS. I was allotted a weekend at my parents' house and had two days to figure it out. In that 48 hours, the Lord put it on my heart to reach out to some of the guys at the Bible study I attended about support. A Christian Aftercare Ministries (CAM) volunteer called me back and mentioned that he could get me an interview for housing the following day and, if accepted, CAM could provide some rent assistance also. So, I prayed on it, and it felt like God was saying "Go." I was accepted at Helping Hands for housing and have also attended Zeal Church in Manchester, where a Christian brother approached me who happened to own a Christian construction business called Devoted Development. I had sold all my tools except for my framing belt. This was another sign from Jesus, and He provided me a safe job to work at while waiting for DTS to start. The Lord has been guiding me in every step. CAM along with K-Men's Bible study have also decided to help support me financially toward my upcoming missionary schooling.

Fully surrendering to Jesus has been the greatest choice I've made in my life, and it's one that I do again every morning. Jesus truly is using the bad for good in my life now. I will forever be grateful to Him for not only allowing me to break free, but for allowing me to help others find His ultimate love and peace in this dark world.

Galatians 2:20 says, *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

~ Joseph

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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:

CURRENT NEEDS

**Backpacks, Working Mountain Bikes,
Work Boots, sizes 9–12**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DONATIONS,
PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE: 603-669-5090.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

CURRENT NEEDS

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Co-laborers with the Church in ministry to ex-offenders since 1994

www.christianaftercare.com

Office Hours: Mon. 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Weds. 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Thurs. 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Phone: 603-669-5090

THANK
YOU!

Tax-deductible donations may be made payable to

Christian Aftercare Ministries at
50 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03101
or online at Christianaftercare.com

CAM is a 501(c)(3) ministry.



INVITE A SPEAKER: If you would like a CAM Board Member to visit your church or group to speak about this ministry, please call the CAM office at 603-669-5090 to schedule a date.

Board Members: Mike Grady, David Grant, Ernie Kilman, Guy Torgersen, Deb Torgersen, Steve Micucci, Steve Fulk, John LaCourse

CAM UPDATE is issued tri-annually and sent from Manchester, NH. Mike Grady 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.