

CAM UPDATES

Christian Aftercare Ministries for Ex-Offenders
Non-profit Organization www.christianaftercare.com

February, 2010
Established 1994

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Paul R. Roussel

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Pastor Carlson, chaplain at Valley Street Jail, conducted two Christmas services that were well attended. He shared God's plan of salvation at each service. Gospel tracts were available and our CAM business cards were given out. It's a blessing from the Lord to see the prison administration go to so much work and preparation to allow these services to take place.

CONCORD AFTERCARE MINISTRY

I have started to work with a new startup aftercare ministry group for the Concord area. Their plan is to have a store front on Main St. in Concord for men and women to come to who need help after their release from prison. The plan is also to involve the local Bible preaching churches in that area. It's exciting as we see the Lord working out all the details. Please pray for this new ministry.

CAM OFFICE

We continue to minister to more and more men and women when they are released. Generally we share God's plan of salvation with each one, direct them to a church, give out Bibles as needed and help with beautiful clothing (mostly donated) and some furniture. I lead weekly Bible studies and pray with Dennis, Chris, Brandon and Eric.

OUTREACH

Peter Dugas one of God's transformed ex-offenders, and I spoke about our ministry at Bethany Covenant church

in their worship service in Bedford, NH on January 24, 2010. Bethany Covenant has supported our ministry since its inception fifteen years ago. Thanks to God for their consistent support.

CLOTHING

A lot of beautiful clothing has come in to the CAM office. Thanks to God – the great provider – and those who are moved to donate from their abundance. We are blessed to be able to have the items available for the men and women who come to us. Many of them have commented on, and are blessed by, the clothing. I pass on their thanks and gratitude as well.

(See a short list of ongoing needs on page 4.)

**“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were there with them, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”
Hebrews 13:3 NIV**

A SEEKER AND A BELIEVER

By Dave Rattigan
CAM Board Member

[Editor's note: Dave heads up our furniture and bicycle ministry and is in charge of our internet web site.]

Two people meet. One loves the Lord and is a living example of such. The other has a seed trying to sprout inside him; a seed God planted there by putting someone in his life. The two share stories and the one who loves the Lord says: "Man I was lucky. Praise God!" The other asks the following questions.

A: "So, when will the Lord come through for me?" **B:** 2 Peter 3:9. "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." **A:** "Now that I've learned a reference to scripture, I sound impressive. Doesn't that count for something?"

B: Matthew 7:21-23. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name?' And then will I (continued on page two)

(Rattigan - continued from page 1)

declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

A: "OK, I want to change but what's one of the things I should do?"

B: 1 Peter 1:13, "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

A: "Can the strength of my belief in Jesus Christ as my personal savior be stronger than the temptations I may encounter in my daily walk?"

B: 2 Thessalonians 2:8. "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming."

A: "But all this good Christian stuff is hard work, is it really worth it?"

B: 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." And Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

A: "OK, so if I do some of this even though it seems hard, do I just worry about myself or do I have to try and help others?"

B: Luke 16:19-23, "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side."

A: "OK, last question. What proof is there in the Bible that if I do leave my old sinful life and truly accept the Lord as my personal savior, that I will be saved, and for this one, I want to hear it straight from Jesus' lips."

B: Luke 39:43, "One of the criminals who were hanged railed against him saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' **And he (Jesus) said unto**

him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"

-D. R.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

My name is Raul Dominguez. I was born in Cuba in 1958, the fifth of nine children. I was selfish and rebellious against authority from a very young age. At age 15, my parents could not handle my behavior, so after countless encounters with the law, they turned me over to the reform school, and then to prison in Cuba.

At age 22, the government gave the opportunity to free some of the prisoners by letting them go to America. I was placed in a refugee camp in Arkansas and I had to have a sponsor to be able to leave. My cousin provided me a Cuban sponsor from Miami. In Miami, I was doing the same things, drugs, alcohol and breaking the laws. The Catholic church had a program to give refugees a new start so I took it.

They sent me to Manchester, NH where I was helped with clothing, apartment and money. But it didn't take long before I was doing the same things all over again. I ended up killing someone in a street fight, and was sentenced to life in prison.

I spent the first 10 years of my sentence in maximum security (the SHU) because I just didn't want to submit to authority. I finally made it out of maximum security and was allowed to have visitors.

Out of the blue, I was told I had a visitor. There was a woman and a Bible on a table. She asked my name, and said, "You are the person I came to visit." She went straight to the point saying, **"Jesus is the only way your life could change." After the third visit, in my cell, I asked Jesus into my life.** I was willing to change my ways for His way. My attitude changed, my desire for drugs changed, my behavior with others changed. For the first time, I had hoped to be free from prison some day. God created a new vision for my life. I wanted to live a normal life, have a job, get married and have a church family. For the last 13 years of my sentence, God trained me to re-enter society as a new person.

One day they called me for parole. I was shocked because they had told me I would never get out of this prison. I didn't have to say anything at the parole board meeting; they released me from NH State Penitentiary. The next day, the immigration officers showed up to transfer me to the immigration prison. I asked where they were taking me. They said, "We are probably going to send you back to Cuba." After six months, the immigration prison released me with no money or home to go to. How can this be possible?

The only person I knew on the outside to contact was an ex-offender. Not even a Christian, he picked me up and helped me with a job and an apartment and I found a church family. I met a Christian woman and got married this year. I have been out of prison for five years now. Only God could do this.

I want to share this scripture with you: Jonah 2:1-2, "From the inside of the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said, 'In my distress I called to the Lord and He answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help and you listened.'"

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

-Raul Dominauez

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BERLIN PRISON

By Chaplain Dana C. Hoyt

I am here to testify that Berlin is not the end of the world, but on a clear day, you can see the peak of Mount Washington. The Hoyt family will stay right here, in the center of God's will.

That should be our message to the men we minister to: live in the center of God's will. I believe the degree to which a man has that attitude is inversely proportionate to his desperation to "get out of this place." I speak with men who are genuinely content (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6-8; Hebrews 13:5) to let GOD decide when they are ready to leave. Praise the Lord! God is infinitely better at deciding those things than we are. I think of Joseph: Genesis 39:1 tells us that Joseph was bought as a slave by Potiphar. The next two verses say, "And the Lord was with Joseph...And his master saw that the Lord was with Joseph..." At the end of the chapter after Joseph was wrongly accused and imprisoned, verses 21 and 23 report, "But the Lord was with Joseph...because the Lord was with Joseph..." Where in the world did we get the idea that the evidence of God's blessing on our lives is: "everything going my way?" I'll tell you where – it's not heaven! Other than salvation, the most important message we can convey to the men is that of Yield, Submit, and Surrender – to the will of God, of course.

I love inmates, but I love them enough to help them overcome, not enable them to continue with the same old mind-set. Guilty or not, they need to submit to what God has either caused or allowed in their life, and it is certainly one or the other. After thirteen years wrongfully enslaved and imprisoned, followed by another seven plus years as the vice-pharaoh of Egypt, what was Joseph's response to those who were responsible? "It was not you that sent me hither, but God..." Genesis 45:8

May it be our hope and fervent prayer that we may be instruments used of the Master to exhort men to become men like Joseph, who recognize God's blessings are on His terms – not ours. Instead of the naïve prayer that God would "let the good time law pass," or "let all these faithful men out as soon as possible," let us pray, as I often do with a man, "Lord, if 'Joe' here is a changed man and will walk with you on the outside, then please make it happen according to Your will. If not, help 'Joe' to reach that point, and, either way, help him to use his time here to develop a vibrant, victorious Christian life."

This will result in more calls like I have received recently from former inmates. Men with whom I worked up here, who some of you reading this have worked with in one of the facilities, men others of you have been faithfully praying for and giving a "hand up" to through supporting CAM financially to "put feet to your prayers." Men like "Frank" (not his name) who called from a program in Massachusetts to say how much he appreciated me the five years he was up here (he must have forgotten that he had boycotted my services his last several months here because I offended him). Evidently something stuck! Men like "Mark" who called to say "Thank you" to me and others, some connected with CAM, for all we did for him. And what a joy it is when – about once a month – Paul Roussel calls me with one of our former charges in his office, before or after their weekly Bible study time – Hallelujah! Now that's "Tag Team Discipleship" at it's best.

Some men will come back, but not the ones who have determined to make Jesus their Lord and King. Our job is not to sort them out, but to do our best to convince them to get into the latter group. And if they do come back, let's love them, pray for and with them, do everything we did before (because the solution is still the same: walk with God), and hope that this time they do develop "Just a Closer Walk With Thee."

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Manchester, NH 03101
Permit Number 434

TO:

CHRISTIAN AFTERCARE MINISTRIES

Co-Laborers with the Church in ministry to ex-offenders since 1994
www.christianaftercare.com

CAM UPDATE is compiled by Editor, & Director, Paul Roussel. Prepared by Marjorie Frank. Financed by your donations. Mailed from Manchester, NH Post Office three times a year.

Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30 – 6 p.m.
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Men's jeans, sneakers, work boots, gloves,
clean shirts in good repair, and
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
Thank you for helping to meet these needs.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to Christian Aftercare Ministries. Send to:
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Thank You

NOTICE: If you would like a CAM board member to visit your church or group to speak about this ministry, call Paul Roussel, Director, to schedule a date. Phone: (603) 669-5090.

Board Members: Paul Roussel, Mike Grady, Barry Brown, Kent Threlfall, Jean Metzger, Jack Shuler, Sampson Duclair, and Dave Rattigan.