



Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

July—Aug. 2025★ Vol. 35, Number 04

My Last Letter To Christian Action Ministry of Vermont

By
William L. Parkinson

Inside

For Everything There
Is a Season: A Tribute

Page 2



Final Articles

CAM's president, Lauston Stephens, asked us a couple of meetings ago to consider what we would say if we were writing a final letter for the CAM newsletter. I didn't realize how prophetic that might have been. We have just suffered loss of a founding director in Dick Trudell, my health is such that this will probably be my last article and the probability of ending our 35 year ministry in the not too distant future. The first three words were very easy; the first thing I would say is "Thank You, Lord". It has been such a gift to be able to try and serve Him and our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Vermont. I think of meeting nationally known speakers, such as David Barton, Kris Ann Hall, Micah Winefield, and author William J. Federer, who CAM has brought to Vermont. I recall visiting Colorado to meet Dave and Shirley Dobson when we led the Vermont segment of the National Day of Prayer, meeting various Bishops working for a Right to Life, and along the way,

political candidates from legislative to gubernatorial and even presidential levels. One of the most hectic and rewarding times has been when we created the scorecards before the Vermont political elections, meeting to come up with the questions, contacting all the candidates, and talking with many of you about the issues. It has been wonderful to be a part of this ministry. Publishing a Christian Ministry newsletter since 1991 is a significant accomplishment and speaks volumes about those willing to labor in this way.

Second, I would say "Thank You" to the other directors, the writers, the pastors who have supported us, and to our readers, some of whom have been reading the newsletter for 34 years. Friendship began at our first sessions on how to organize the ministry, and has endured and thrived ever since. My prayer for them and all my brothers and sisters in the Lord is that they may also find a ministry that interests them and

allows them to participate. It is challenging when you are deeply involved in a ministry like ours, which has struggled to recruit new members, to wonder why everyone isn't participating. Then you have to stand back and realize all the ministries they are involved in that you are not. I may have been involved with CAM for 34 years, but I have not been teaching Sunday School, visiting jails or hospitals, mowing lawns, or cleaning the church, etc. I am sure some brothers and sisters have wondered why William isn't here helping us. Hot topics have evolved over the years, but small, encouraging victories have helped uplift us. Occasional new members and their new ideas and excitement have also encouraged us along. But there are certainly also the hard times, putting in so much work for something so obvious. Lord, why can't they see? This is when the fellowship you have built within the ministry becomes so vital. It can be a lot of work, but

you also need to keep it fun and light. As with many such ministries, we often wondered how we'd meet the next post office bill. It became a fun, ongoing joke between the treasurer and me that we needed a donut run. One contributor could always be counted on to write that last check of the month if Ray would stop by, donut in hand, and ask for a contribution.

Simply attending church is not enough, as James says, "faith without works is dead." Church ministries are one way to serve, and if you choose the one that suits you, it can be gratifying. If you are not involved in an outside ministry, I strongly encourage you to pray about where God would have you fit in and then join, giving it all you can "as if for the Lord". Colossians 3:23-24. Once in your ministry, remember not to look down on others who are not in your particular ministry. God may have called

them elsewhere, where they are much better equipped. The other advice I would give is start slow; be sure it is the right ministry for you both in terms of your emotions and the amount of time energy you can offer. You don't want the rest of the team to get the impression you are offering 40 hours a week when you are actually thinking 30 minutes.



Don't let your feelings be hurt. Remember, they might have been involved in this particular ministry for many years now and may see things you cannot. If it's important to you to talk it out, but remember, they may have had the exact same idea ten years ago and thought it was great until it wasn't. Use

their experience just as they should use your new ideas. The ministry is the Lord's, not ours, and where the Lord leads, the Lord feeds.

William Parkinson was a founding member of the Christian Action Ministry and attended Community Alliance Church of Hinesburg, VT.

For Everything There Is a Season: A Tribute

By
Kay Trudell

Geoffrey Chaucer, the esteemed 14th century English poet and author of The Canterbury Tales, is often referred to as "The Father of English Literature" and "The Father of English Poetry." One well-known quotation attributed to him is "all good things must come to an end."

The Bible itself gives us a renowned passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1-4.

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born,
A time to die;
A time to plant,
And a time to pluck what is planted...
A time to weep,
And a time to laugh,
A time to mourn
And a time to dance..."

For the Christian Action Ministry Network and the CAM Newsletter, that time appears to have arrived.

This ministry and newsletter were started in Vermont 35 years ago by "people in the pews" – non-clergy church members who loved Jesus and hungered to see righteousness in the public square in Vermont, a state among the least religious and least pro-life in the nation. These faithful Believers came from several different area churches in northern Vermont.

Many people have been an active part of CAM over the years, involving themselves for varying periods of time. CAM members have written articles and poetry for this newsletter, distributed political candidate surveys and published the results in the newsletter to help Believers make informed choices when voting, conducted voter registration drives, been actively involved with the right-to-life movement in Vermont and nationally, testified to governing bodies at the local, county and state levels, supported home

schooling, religious schools, school choice, worked with pro Israel organizations, been invited to give presentations on cable TV and to church and lay groups, etc.

Numerous Christians have been involved with CAM for varying lengths of time, but three members in particular stand out for their participation, longevity, and faithfulness. They (and their wives) were a steadfast core of CAM for decades, until the Lord called these men home.

Ray Racine passed in 2021. He and his wife, Agnes, were totally dedicated to this lay ministry. And very recently, the earthly Church lost Richard “Dick” Trudell and William Parkinson within three months of each other due to illnesses. Dick died in January 2025 and William in March 2025. Their wives, Kay and Anne, were their partners in the CAM ministry and newsletter.

We who remain know where these men are. We are saddened by their passing, but we can rejoice because we know without a doubt that they have entered their heavenly mansions. They are healed! Their pain is gone! They can sing and dance in worship! And best of all, they can fly! Their names were written in the Lamb’s Book of Life years ago.

Each of these men “fought the good fight” here on earth. Ray served for many years as CAM Treasurer. He and Kit had a passionate love for Israel and the Jewish people, and traveled to Israel every year until illness prevented it. The pro-Israel stands taken by CAM over the years were led by the Racines.

Ray and other CAM Board members organized pro-Israel events and speakers open to the public, helped found a Jewish/Christian group called “We Stand with Israel,” and also helped organize “A Night to Honor Israel,” an event attended by approximately 400 people. Ray and Kit, along with other CAM Board members and their spouses, proudly attended the annual lighting of the Menorah on the UVM Campus in heartfelt solidarity with Vermont’s Jewish Community.

Dick Trudell had the spiritual gift of administration. He had served his church as both deacon and treasurer. He was CAM’s president and newsletter editor for several decades until he retired and spent winters in Florida with his wife Kay. Dick did part of every job that needed doing in CAM for over 30 years. He was the public face and voice of CAM with churches and in the community. He networked with fellow Christians and people of other faiths when confronting moral issues in the public arena where we were in agreement. Issues such as abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, school choice, antisemitism, etc.

Dick and his wife Kay wrote many articles for this newsletter. He and other CAM Board members and friends participated in voter registration drives involving fellow church members, testified in the Vermont Legislature, put together VT legislative candidate surveys and published the results in the newsletter, and were invited to be guests on several different Public Access TV shows.

The term “faithful servant” certainly applied to William Parkinson, a Godly family man who was most

at ease when working out of the limelight. He was a CAM Board member for many years. He was an expert on Vermont history and books, and ran for the legislature. He loved working on the National Day of Prayer event. He authored a book. He gave of his own funds, organizational skills and mail expertise, and the use of his and his wife’s home for many meetings. Anne always prepared and served such delicious snacks! William and Craig Lyman, another CAM Board member, were the reason we could distribute this newsletter. They printed the newsletters, organized the mailings, and navigated the regulations of the U.S. Post Office.

Ray, Dick and William enriched the lives of everyone who knew them. They were faithful to their families, the earthly Church, and to God. Their combined years of service to this ministry totaled approx. 100 years. If we indeed know each other in heaven, Ray, Dick, and William have found each other and rejoice together. Now the three of them are all doing what they often did on earth - waiting for their wives!

The names of these three men are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life in heaven, and in many hearts on earth. Well done, thou good and faithful servants.

And so, dear friends and readers, do not mourn for Ray, Dick and William. They are alive, and we will be reunited one day. To paraphrase from Psalm 42:5, “Why should we be downcast? Why are we disturbed? Put our hope in God and praise Him. He is our eternal Savior and Lord.”

Kay Trudell now lives in South Carolina and attends New Hope Baptist church.



William L. Parkinson 1952—2025

William was a founding member of this ministry, contributed many articles to the newsletter and contributed to the ministry in many other ways.

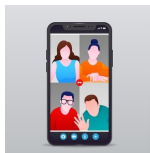
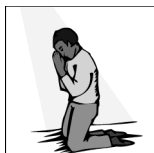
We express our condolences to his wife, Anne, and his children and grandchildren.

We will miss our brother and friend.

Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc. is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by contributions from the public. Personal, church, and business donations are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C) 3.

Information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

What Can I Do?



***Faith without
works is dead***
James 2:17

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>



CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

Aug. 12, 7:00 pm
Zoom

Sept. 9, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson's

camnetvt@gmail.com
**Email to confirm date and
location**

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**