



BILLBOARD EVANGELISM

A Christian Aid Ministries Program

UPDATE

P.O. Box 360 | Berlin, OH 44610 | 330.893.4888

From peace **to** endurance

An update on *From rejection to peace*

In our March 2020 Billboard Evangelism newsletter, we published the article “From rejection to peace.” This was the account of Tina* and Carrie, friends who were adopted from orphanages in Romania by different families. Traveling together, they called after seeing one of our Gospel billboards. This led them to spend several days in a phone team member’s home, and together they experienced their first Anabaptist church service and a family devotional time.

A thirst for spiritual truth led Carrie to study God’s Word. Then in June she became deeply troubled after failing to stop the suicide of a friend. Carrie again visited our team member’s home and church and asked them to help her become a Christian. With her Anabaptist friends kneeling in prayer with her, Carrie tearfully repented of her past life and invited Jesus into her heart and life.

Since her decision to follow Jesus, Carrie has faced many challenges but has remained faithful. While traveling to place flowers on her adoptive mother’s grave, she was devastated when a three-year-old girl dashed out in front of her and was killed. Carrie also began losing sight in her left eye due to a brain tumor, which was removed. Following that operation, she not only became blind in her left eye, but also began experiencing seizures for the first time in her life. These seizures caused a fall resulting in brain bleeding and damage to the part of the brain that allows sight. She is now completely blind. Being unable to read her Bible or see the creation of God is very difficult for her. But through it all Carrie has maintained faith in Jesus and has witnessed to many of the hospital staff.

More recently, Carrie’s father Robert, who was communicating with our team member, also wanted to become a follower of Jesus. During a lengthy phone conversation, our

team member knelt in Ohio as Robert knelt in Indiana. There Carrie’s father who was a former atheist, repented, confessed his sins, and invited his daughter’s Jesus to become his own.

During one of Carrie’s operations, her doctor, an atheist, was forced to stop in the middle of the surgery when her heart and breathing stopped. He worked frantically to save her life. Later he listened intently to her testimony, including her vision of Jesus while she underwent surgery. He confessed, “Carrie, three days ago, I was an atheist. Today I am not—I believe.”

Thank you for praying for Carrie. Her story and her father’s story, like many others, are not over. God is still redeeming the world to Himself.

**Names in this publication have been changed to protect identities.*



Largo, Florida

TRASH to TREASURE

—A billboard caller who repented and later wrote this poem

The sign in the yard said “Rummage Sale.”
With some change in his pocket he blazed a trail
Through the odds and ends—A bargain gives him pleasure.
He searched through the junk on the table,
Scattered in boxes, he picked through what he was able;
He was hunting for lost treasure.

He dug through what others looked past.
Underneath discards, he found it at last.
It was priceless, beyond measure.
Years of neglect had taken its toll
On a tarnished, broken, and bent-up bowl
No one wanted—No one but him.

He bought that old bowl with his last dime,
And with some TLC and a little time,
He restored it, to its former glory.
What once was black now shined like gold;
He made new what once was old.
No one believes it when they hear the story.

He polished it till he could see himself;
And it never gathers dust on a shelf.
It’s a master’s reflection, that others can see.
Who would have thought it could shine so bright—
Like a candle in the night?

He uses it now for so many things;
It’s held water and bread and offerings
For a higher calling—it’s never been empty;
Since the day it was found in disrepair,
And he took it and gave it some loving care.
Trash to treasure—No one knew it but him.

I see it and I see my life;
How the Lord saw through my pain and strife;
How He saved me, when I was lost in sin.
He saw beauty that no one else saw,
In a tarnished vessel with ugly flaws.
He restored me, and made me whole again.
What once was trash is treasure instead;
I hold living water and daily bread,
In a higher calling—For no one but Him.

Trash to treasure—No one knew it but Him . . .

Phone team members talk

Brother Jonathan,

I was blessed by listening to this call recording between you and Gary. Specifically, I appreciated the following:

- 1) You did not get rattled or defensive when you were strongly challenged by Gary.
- 2) You kept saying “the Bible says,” even though this skeptic insisted you shouldn’t do so.
- 3) You were able to keep the conversation non-argumentative and focused on reasonableness.
- 4) You strongly emphasized the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

God bless you for your patience. It’s a pleasure to labor together. —Curt Wagoner, *Billboard Evangelism phone team member*

Brother Curt,

Thank you for your kind thoughts! That was one of those calls that I felt there was something else I could have presented. Immediately after the call with Gary, I was wondering if maybe some of you other phone team members who have more experience with billboard calls have some input. I am interested in learning, so feel free to share your thoughts. —Jonathan Sommers, *Billboard Evangelism phone team member*

Brother Jonathan,

I often have second thoughts about the things I either could have said or did say. Sometimes, though, even when I know my presentation of truth was weak or inadequate, I have had callers commend me on the light that just impacted them. That is without doubt the power of the Holy Spirit transmitting truth even through human inadequacies! One thing that has helped me greatly, is realizing that we have irrefutable truth to present, not the philosophical ramblings of the humanists, evolutionists, and skeptics. As such, those opposers don’t really stand a chance. We can speak with assurance and confidence, knowing that our God and His truth shall stand forever! We should never tremble in the face of adversarial intellectualism. Our God reigns! —Curt

BILLBOARD EVANGELISM PURPOSE STATEMENT

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins . . .” Acts 26:18

Caller question:

"Do I have to go to church to be a Christian?"

Phone team member response:

First of all, going to church will not make you a Christian. There are many people today who go to church regularly but are not true Christians. To be a Christian is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, a relationship characterized by faith, love, and obedience to His commands. We enter this relationship by surrendering to Christ through repentance, faith, and baptism. We maintain this relationship by staying faithful to the instructions given to us by Christ and His apostles, as recorded in the New Testament.

To summarize, becoming a Christian does not happen by going to church, but rather through allegiance to Christ. On the other hand, any person who has pledged his allegiance to Christ will naturally desire to meet regularly with others who have done the same. This regular gathering is both to obey the command in Hebrews 10:25, and to open the door for obedience to many other Scriptural commands that can generally be practiced only in the gathered assembly.

Acts 2:38 — John 15:4-6 — Hebrews 10:25



Baltimore, Maryland

Caller quotes and questions

"What is peace?"

"I never expected to receive this much help simply by calling a billboard number!"

"How do I surrender and start a relationship with God?"

"I am gay. Am I going to heaven or hell?"

"I have really appreciated your answers to my questions. I have much to think about."

"I'm really curious as to how many people see your billboards on the highway and actually call. I have seen them in multiple states and I've wondered. Do people really call you based upon the highway billboards? I had to ask."

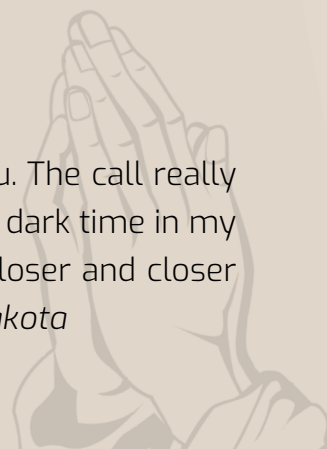
—An atheist woman

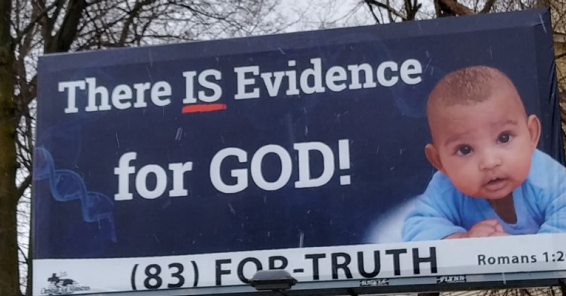
"My daughter was diagnosed with COVID and we were worried. I looked up and saw *Concerned? Jesus can be trusted*. God is so good!"

New phone team prayer card enclosed

Our devoted phone team spends hours on the phone quoting Scripture, praying with callers, and answering hundreds of questions. Daily, many American travelers are touched by the Spirit-filled answers and heartfelt prayers of our phone team members. They desperately need your prayers.

"I really want to say thank you. The call really helped bring me out of a hard, dark time in my life. I have only been getting closer and closer to God since then." —North Dakota





Announcements

Phone team dialogue calls

Listen to a recording of a conversation between a phone team member and an actual caller.

Recording playback line: 712.432.8776

Conference ID number: 22320

"Seeking Jesus during COVID-19"	Sharing ID: 1
"How do you know God Created?"	Sharing ID: 2
"Who is Jesus?"	Sharing ID: 3
"Love your enemies"	Sharing ID: 4
"What does it mean to be a Christian?"	Sharing ID: 5
"Does moral law point to God?"	Sharing ID: 6
"Why is there evil in the world?"	Sharing ID: 7
"Why should I believe in God?"	Sharing ID: 8
"What is Truth?"	Sharing ID: 9

Volunteers needed

Several months back, we informed you of the need for volunteers who could mentor callers as the need arises. Some of you responded to this request and we thank you for that. We still have a real need for such volunteers. If you would like to help in this way, please contact John Smucker by phone (541.999.7467) or by email (jsmucker@camwest.org).

Spanish interpreters needed

From time to time, callers would like to visit an Anabaptist church. Some of these people speak Spanish and are interested in visiting a church that could provide them with real-time interpreting of the English service. If your church can provide something like this, please contact John Smucker by phone (541.999.7467) or by email (jsmucker@camwest.org).

Billboard Evangelism conference line presentation

March 31, 2021

Would you like to hear firsthand experiences of our phone team as they answer calls from CAM's Gospel billboards?

Billboard Evangelism is giving a conference call presentation on March 31, 2021, at 4:00 EST.

- » To access this live presentation, call 712.432.8787 (conference ID 22620 #).
 - » To listen to the recorded presentation at your convenience, call 712.432.8730 (conference ID 22620 #).
- The sharing ID will be 33121.

If you wish to discontinue receiving the Billboard Evangelism Update, call 330.893.2428 or see the enclosed response coupon to unsubscribe.

Colorado residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, 303-894-2860, www.sos.state.co.us/ re: Reg. No. 20113021578. Florida residents: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH35002. Georgia residents: A full and fair description of Christian Aid Ministries and its financial statements are available upon request at P.O. Box 360, Berlin, OH 44610. Illinois residents: Contracts and reports regarding Christian Aid Ministries are on file with the Illinois Attorney General. Maryland residents: For the cost of postage and copying, documents and information filed under the Maryland charitable organizations laws can be obtained from the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 800-825-4510. Michigan residents: The registration number of Christian Aid Ministries in the state of Michigan is CS 46826. New Jersey residents: Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 1-973-504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement. New York residents: A copy of the most recent annual report is available from the State of New York Department of Law,

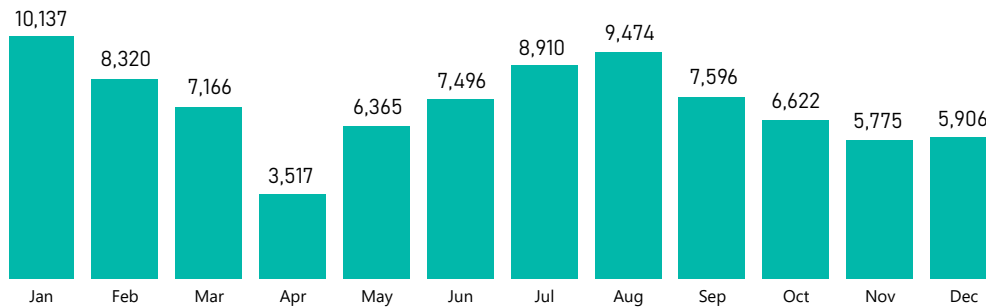
Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York, 10271. North Carolina residents: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-919-733-4510. The license is not an endorsement by the State. Pennsylvania residents: The official registration and financial information of Christian Aid Ministries may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Virginia residents: A copy of the financial statement is available from the Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, 1100 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or call 1-804-786-1343. Washington residents: Thank you for supporting Christian Aid Ministries. For additional information regarding the organization's activities or financial information, Christian Aid Ministries is registered with the Washington State Charities Program as required by law and information may be obtained by calling 800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378. West Virginia residents: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capital, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Christian Aid
Ministries
Staff &
Board of
Directors**



2020 in review

Calls per month in 2020



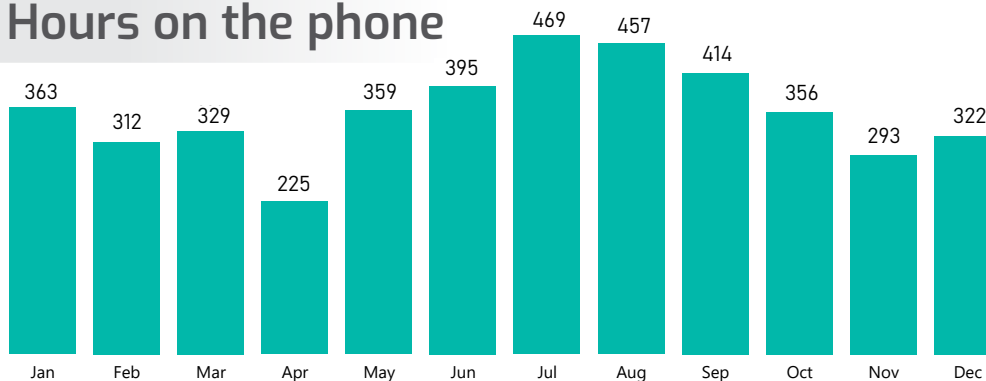
Total calls in 2020

87,284

Average calls per day

238

Hours on the phone



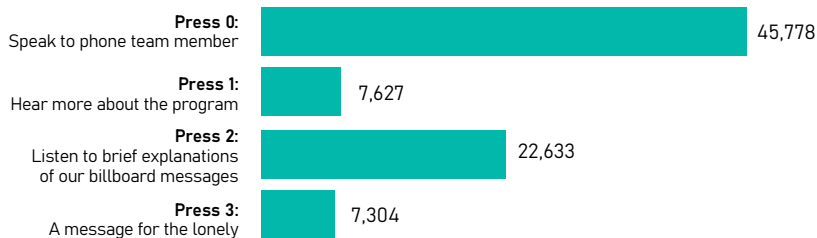
Total call time

4,294 (hours)



Phone menu selections in 2020

The toll-free number posted on every CAM billboard forwards calls to a menu with the following options:



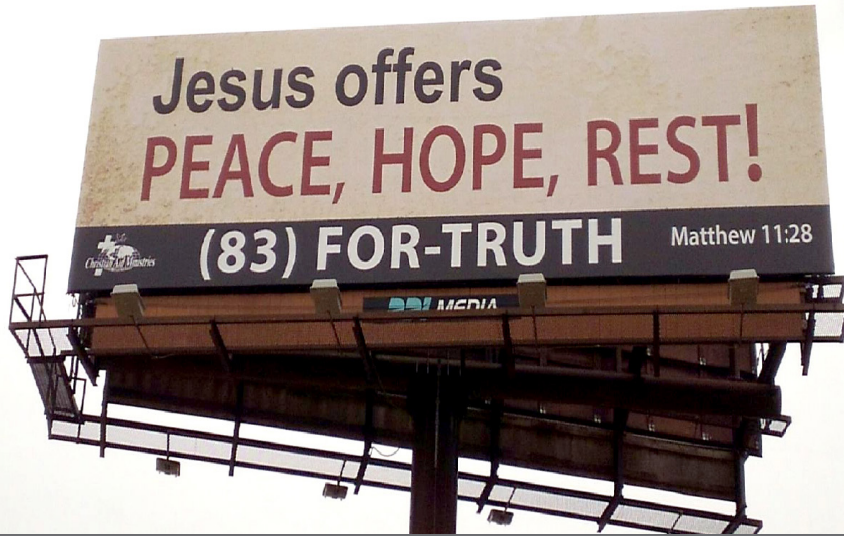
Estimated average viewers per day in 2020

24.1 million

Caller comment

Miguel, a 20-year-old agnostic, admitted he wasn't quite sure why he decided to call. Our phone team member suggested to him that perhaps the God he doesn't know was actually nudging him to call.

Our team member briefly explained his personal journey from agnosticism to faith in Christ, and emphasized the essential role that reading the Bible had for him. When our team member discovered that Miguel didn't have a Bible, he offered him one. "I'm excited to read the Bible!" responded Miguel.



1,640

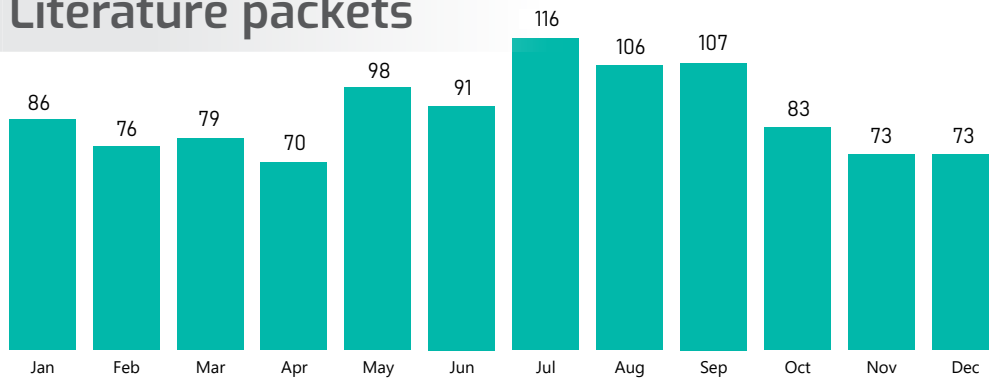
Gospel messages scattered across all 50 states and one U.S. territory



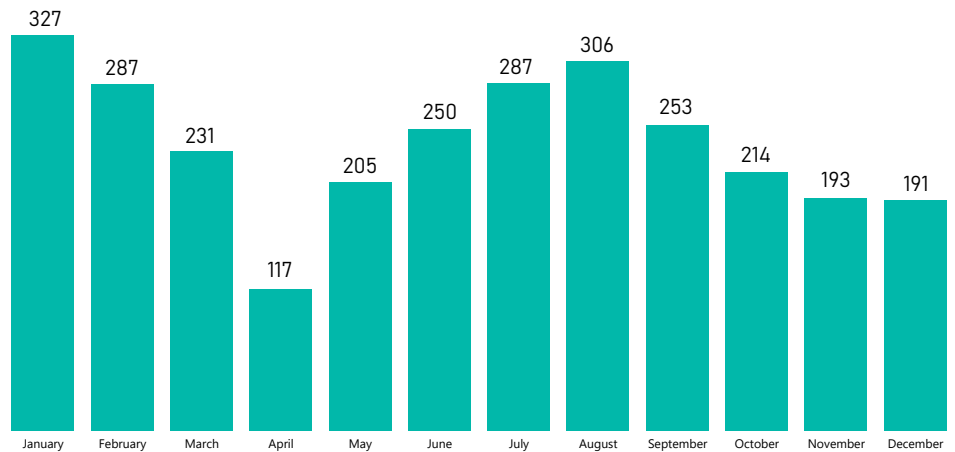
Packets sent in 2020

1,058

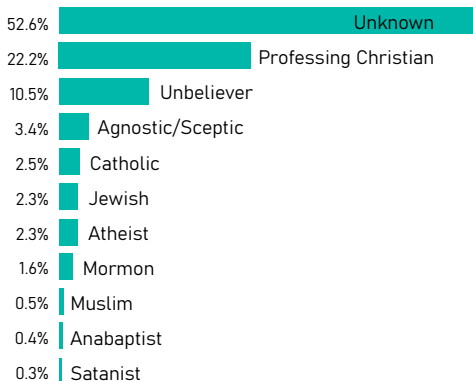
Literature packets



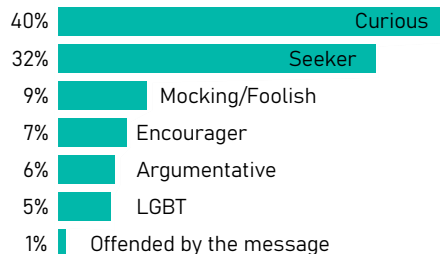
Average calls per day



Religions



Caller types



Temperature of calls

