

# Notes from the February 23, 2026 Online PNG Meeting

## Attendees: 12

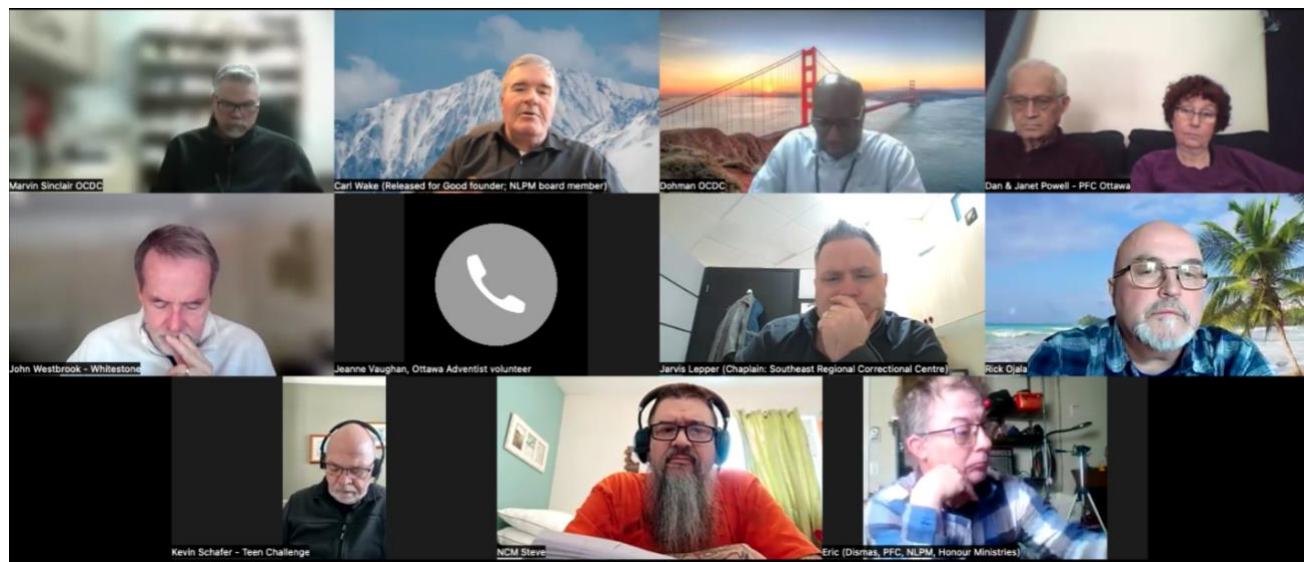
**Carl Wake** (NLPM volunteer and board member; Founder of Released for Good)  
**Dan Powell** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa volunteer)  
**Dohman Williams** (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)  
**Eric Richards** (Brockville Dismas; Honour Ministries; PFC; NLPM)  
**Janet Powell** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa volunteer)  
**Jarvis Lepper** (Southeast Regional Correctional Centre – Shediac NB, Chaplain)  
**Jean Vaughan** (Ottawa Adventist Church, Volunteer)  
**John Westbrook** (Whitestone, Co-founder)  
**Kevin Schafer** (Teen Challenge, Eastern Ontario Men’s Centre)  
**Marvin Sinclair** (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)  
**Rick Ojala** (Connecting Streams – Prison Ministry)  
**Stephen Prendergast** (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House)

## Regrets: 6

**Angelika da Silveira** (Monica prayer ministry, Founder)  
**Carol Edgar** (Anglican priest recently moved back to Ottawa)  
**Jim Mercer** (Salvation Army Ottawa, Chaplain)  
**Molléne Pearce** (Commissioned to Care, Co-founder)  
**Rob Burr** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa, Volunteer)  
**Shirley Buchanan** (Prison Fellowship Canada - VP Programs & Mission)

1. Permission to Record - The participants agreed to video record our proceedings.

## 2. Group Photo



### **3. Devotional and Opening Prayer – Carl Wake**

Please watch this on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 0:00 to 8:23).

Carl read the following quote from a Scottish theologian named Dr. George Macleod (1895-1991):

“I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace, as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a high cross between two thieves: on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew, in Latin and in Greek... At the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that’s where He died. And that is what He died about. And that is where churchmen ought to be and what churchmen should be about.”

The cross should be right in the mix, right where people are. This is about being relevant. There are lies going around that say Christianity is not relevant anymore. But they are categorically false. We stand firm on the fact that because of Christ and what He accomplished on the Cross, people’s lives are being changed today. Here in Ottawa and all over the world.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4**who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. **5**For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.”

Things happen to us so that we can pass our comfort on to others who are going through what we went through. They ARE relevant to us and we can make connection with those to whom God leads us. We are relevant. We have relevant ministries. Carl applauds you and wants to encourage you through these prison networking group meetings. Anyone who is doing prison ministry inside or in aftercare, you are making. Such a difference.

Carl noted Chuck Swindoll’s current teaching series “Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives” on CHRI radio (<https://insight.org/broadcasts/series/fascinating-stories-of-forgotten-lives-2>). He sees this as an idea for the devotional time at each PNG meeting. Come and share a short story that demonstrates how the Gospel is relevant in prison and upon release. How is God using your ministry?

Carl wants to build a collection of true stories that encourage and inspire us to continue doing what we do. Please also include a passage of Scripture that is demonstrated by, or applicable to your story. Stories of answered prayers are welcomed.

Eric Richards, John Westbrook, and Steve Prendergast will be the first to share in the upcoming three PNG meetings.

Carl opened our meeting in prayer.

**4. Our next meeting** will be *online* on **Monday, March 30, 2026**, at 11 am.

## 5. Reports

**Marvin Sinclair** and **Dohman Williams** (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain and Duty Chaplain, respectively) reported:

- Marvin has been filling in for the institutional Coordinator of Volunteers of late. There will be a volunteer security training and orientation session early in March.
- Overall, ministries doing well with many great stories of interaction with the inmates.
- Ramadan started on February 18 and is going smoothly.
- Staffing levels have been very low recently, which has caused program cancellations. Despite that, Marvin and Dohman work well together and are getting much accomplished.

Please watch their report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 8:24 to 12:29).

### **Please pray for:**

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for Marvin and Dohman's ministry at OCDC in all areas.
2. The glitches in the launch of the New Life Prison Ministries A.R.C. devices (nicknamed "God Pods") for inmates be ironed out and finally get into their hands.
3. The exciting inmate-led ministries within the institution to continue.

**Jarvis Lepper** (Southeast Regional Correctional Centre – Shediac NB, Chaplain) was invited by Rick Ojala to attend the meeting today. He introduced himself and told a bit about his background as a Baptist pastor and working with the homeless community in the Moncton area. Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 12:30 to 17:14).

### **Please pray for:**

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for Jarvis' ministry at the Southeast Regional CC in Shediac in all areas. May he settle in quickly as the new chaplain.

**Carl Wake** (Founder of Released for Good <https://www.releasedforgood.com>; NLPM volunteer and board member [www.nlpm.ca](http://www.nlpm.ca)) followed on two items from our January 2026 meeting:

- PNG member Robert Greaves requested that we mark the date when the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario will be hosting a Prison Ministry Convention here in Ottawa starting Friday evening October 16th, continuing Saturday morning October 17th. The location will be 2200 Benjamin Ave. (Ottawa Adventist Church).
- Stephen and Carl had a follow-up meeting online to discuss Stephen's proposal further.
  - They agreed that the PNG needs a way to tell Bible college and seminary students about volunteer and career opportunities in prison ministry.
  - Carl is designing a webpage that gives basic information about PNG member organizations and individuals. When Steve visits career days, he can pass out business cards with QR codes for that webpage. At the end of these notes, please find a list of the basic information we need from your organization or personal ministry. Clip and paste that list and your information into an e-mail and send it to Carl at [carl.wake@gmail.com](mailto:carl.wake@gmail.com). Thank you.

Please watch this on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 17:15 to 25:50).

### **Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Released for Good and NLPM.
2. Good response from PNG members and wisdom to put it all together well.

**Eric Richards** (Brockville Dismas [brockvilledismas@gmail.com](mailto:brockvilledismas@gmail.com); Honour Ministries; NLPM and PFC volunteer) reported that:

- He confirmed that he is stepping away from Dismas as of April 30, 2026. The group held a vote on whether to continue or shut Dismas Brockville down. It was a tied vote, so they will try again next meeting.
- For the last two years, he has been meeting weekly with a group of people involved in Prison Fellowship Canada. Eric is also involved as a volunteer instructor who provides feedback to inmates who send in NLPM correspondence courses.
- On a personal level, he has had to give up his side job due to the strain on his heart.

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 25:51 to 30:14).

**Please pray for:**

1. The vote of the Brockville Dismas group to continue or shut down. For clear guidance
2. God's continued protection, guidance, and provision for Eric as he continues to volunteer with PFC and NLPM, and ministers musically with his Honour Ministries.
3. Eric to find full-time employment that will help him support his family.

**Jean Vaughan** (Volunteer, Ottawa Adventist Church <https://ottawaon.adventistchurch.org>) reported that:

- Their church continues to distribute bread, lunch bags, food baskets, and backpacks of school supplies to various missions downtown, who minister not just to ex-inmates but all the vulnerable population.
- There is a new leader from community services and big plans. She will report on those next meeting.
- She is still ministering to the female inmates at OCDC. Saturday will be the next time in.

Please watch her report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 30:15 to 32:15).

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all the ministries of the Ottawa Adventist Church, **including sending younger volunteers for prison ministry.**
2. Continued blessing on the women who come out to their programs. May they hunger for more of God.

**John Westbrook** (Whitestone, Co-founder) reported that:

- All is well with Whitestone.
- On Tuesday February 24, Pastor Robert Greaves will be speaking at the Whitestone meeting on the topic of "Let Your Life Speak".
- A few weeks ago, Whitestone held a Super Bowl Party.
- The men's retreat Souly Business is coming up May 1-3. That begins a series of retreats their men attend through to the fall. There is a generous benefactor who is willing to pay for any of the men who wish to attend these retreats.
- They are going through a season of training for the eleven leaders at Whitestone. Their volunteers taking the Plan to Protect training as they minister to the vulnerable in society. There is a course on safety, boundaries, and mentorship.
- Their Whitestone meetings have a new monthly rotation, which he described in detail.

- He will have his colleague, Wayne Mosely, come to the April 2026 meeting to tell us about The Big Give (<https://thebiggive.ca>).

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 32:16 to 38:42).

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Whitestone.

**Dan and Janet Powell** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa volunteers) reported that:

- Their programs have gone well this past month, with Dan going in one Saturday for the male inmates, and Janet going in the next for the female inmates.
- Dan still volunteers with PF By Phone on Thursday mornings, but the call volume has dropped off since he started during Covid.
- God is moving amongst the female inmates. She described one example.

Please watch their report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 38:43 to 42:05).

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for the ministry of PFC Ottawa.
2. The move of God to continue among the women and men living in OCDC.

**Rick Ojala** (Prison Ministries Coordinator, Connecting Streams

<https://www.connectingstreams.com/ottawa/>) reported:

- God is moving as well in their Sunday afternoon programs at OCDC. He gave exciting examples. There are similar reports from Connecting Streams prison volunteers in Alberta.
- That they just finished some recording of training videos that can be used on an online platform. Two Alberta staff came to help with that project. These two hope to participate in our regular PNG meetings, along with other staff from the Maritimes. That is also how Jarvis came to join us for today's call.
- That he wants to build his Ottawa team of volunteers. He also is being led to do more ministry up in Iqaluit.

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 42:06 to 47:05).

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of the prison ministry of Connecting Streams.

**Kevin Schafer** (Teen Challenge Canada, Eastern Ontario Men's Centre) reported that:

- They currently have seven men at the centre, with talk of more coming. The dynamics of the house are wonderful right now.
- He will be leaving Teen Challenge at the end of March 2026. If you know of anyone who might be interested in filling Kevin's shoes, have them check out: <https://www.teenchallenge.ca/contact-us/employment>.
- There will be a graduation this Friday.
- There is a possibility that Kevin will be working with Rick Ojala and Connecting Streams.

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (Time 47:06 to 52:11).

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of the Teen Challenge Eastern Ontario Men's Centre, especially that it will soon be able to operate at full capacity.
2. Wisdom to deal with changing dynamics as each new person comes in or someone leaves.
3. Kevin's future, that God would guide and provide for him and his wife Sandy.
4. For a successor to be found soon, so Kevin can mentor him or her before he leaves.
5. The new graduate who came to the Lord while at the Centre to have a successful reintegration back into society.
6. This year to be a year of growth for the Men's Centre.

**Stephen Prendergast** (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House/Hope Horizons <https://newconnections-ministries.org>) reported that:

- With the departure of one resident, they now have one vacancy at Liberty House.
- The construction of a new office and meeting room at Liberty House nears completion. They expect to run their first program there next Wednesday.
- They are putting on a free music concert with Joel Williams at The Metropolitan Church on Saturday, May 9. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Two of their residents will also be giving their testimonies.
- There is great stability at both of their homes currently.
- They are looking for ministry mentors who will come around their clients and support them.
- If you have any referrals for New Connections, please contact Stephen at his e-mail address: [stephen@newconnections-ministries.org](mailto:stephen@newconnections-ministries.org).

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnfBKmkm484> (*Time 52:12 to 58:11*).

**Please pray for:**

1. The new graduate to successfully transition to living in the community.
2. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of New Connections Ministries, Liberty House, and Hope Horizons, including the outreach breakfasts, the construction projects at Liberty House, raising financial support, and more and younger mentors for their increasing client list.
3. Wisdom, knowledge, and discernment for Stephen as he considers the possibilities of ministry and employment opening for him. Pray for good physical health for him in 2026.

**6. Corporate Prayer Time**

Each person had the opportunity to pray in turn. Our meeting ended by 12:30 pm.

*Note Taker:* Carl Wake

## Gathering Basic Information for a PNG Information Page

- Title of Organization
- Photo / Logo
- Full contact information
- Vision / Mission Statement:
- Tagline
- Web Address
- Social Media Links: (E.g., Instagram, Facebook, YouTube)

***If you already have a website, all the above information should be available. It would just help us to efficiently gather accurate data. Thank you.***

For a future possible database, which of the following categories best reflect what your organization offers? Include as many as are applicable.

### **Examples of Searchable Categories / Metadata:**

Addictions Recovery Support	Name of your municipality
Advocacy	Mentoring
Community	Non-Faith-Based
Correspondence Courses	Programs Offered (such as "Pre-Employment Training/Services"; "Prevention"; "Life Skills")
Counselling	Regular Meetings
Daily Devotionals	Residential
Direct Contact	Restorative Practices
Discharge Planning	Sex Offenders
Drop-In	Target Group: e.g., Men; Women; Families of inmates; the Poor and the Homeless
Employment	Treatment
Faith-Based	Volunteer Opportunities
Housing	Volunteer Training Offered
Indirect Contact - Resource	
Institutional	
Intervention	
Literature	

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carl Wake.