

# Notes from the March 30, 2026 Online PNG Meeting

## Attendees: 15

**Carl Wake** (NLPM volunteer and board member; Founder of Released for Good)  
**Carol Edgar** (Anglican priest recently moved back to Ottawa)  
**Dan Powell** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa volunteer)  
**Dohman Williams** (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Duty Chaplain)  
**Eric Richards** (Brockville Dismas; Honour Ministries; PFC; NLPM)  
**Janet Powell** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa volunteer)  
**John Westbrook** (Whitestone, Co-founder)  
**Kevin Schafer** (Teen Challenge, Eastern Ontario Men’s Centre)  
**Kristina Forbes** (Manie Daniels Center, Chaplain and Horticulture Coordinator)  
**Marvin Sinclair** (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)  
**Mathew Mathew** (M.A.P. Reintegration, President)  
**Molléne Pearce** (Commissioned to Care, Co-founder)  
**Rick Ojala** (Connecting Streams – Prison Ministry)  
**Shirley Buchanan** (Prison Fellowship Canada - VP Programs & Mission)  
**Stephen Prendergast** (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House)

## Regrets: 3

**Rob Burr** (Prison Fellowship Canada – Ottawa, Volunteer)  
**Tom Cuddihy** (Ottawa RC Diocese, Deacon and Prison Volunteer)  
**Heather Kern** (Joyceville Institution, Chaplain)

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

## 2. Group Photo



### 3. Devotional and Opening Prayer – Eric Richards

#### *Transcript of Eric's devotional*

“**Psalm 23:4** “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I shall fear no evil. You are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me.”

“Even though this is about Dismas and the fact that I have stepped down and stepped away from Dismas, I don't want to talk about it. I want to show you how God has been working in my life through this organization. As of May 2018, I started attending Dismas as a way to get into the community after being released from Bath institution. I'm looking for a community that would allow me to be relaxed, as well as welcomed without being judged or looked down on.

“**John 3:16** says, “God loved the world. He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” We are reminded that God loves every one of us, no matter what our past is. God holds a special place for each one of us as we all are perfect in His creation.

“So why Dismas? Well, this is a simple question to answer. I wanted to be able to give to a community that had my back for five years. I wanted a community that knows what it is like to be down as they have walked those pot-holed roads. We have worked our way out of a sludge and know first-hand what it is to start over again in a world that does not know how to give second chances.

“**Romans 13:1** says, “Let every person be subject to a governing authority, for there is no authority except from God, for those that exist have been instituted by God.”

“God has opened many doors for me. God has allowed me the ability to see what it is to be locked up and to work with next to nothing. God has also allowed me the ability to be there for those men and women and help them to have a fresh start in the outside world. One thing I have learned is that God works with all of us, whether or not we are the chairman of the board of an organization or a so-called nothing. We can do God's work here on earth.

“So, to finish that, I want to remind you that we can all be doing God's work as we are called to do so. I know that even though I am no longer with Dismas, God is still going to put me somewhere to continue His work.”

Eric opened our meeting in prayer.

4. Our next meeting will be *online* on **Monday, April 27, 2026**, at 11 am.

### 5. Reports

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

- Monday, April 13, 2026, is his last day at Dismas. He is not confident in its future.
- He has new teeth. He is pleased with the confidence these are giving him

#### **Please pray for:**

1. The Brockville Dismas group and that new leader will be found.
2. God's continued protection, guidance, and provision for Eric as he continues to volunteer with PFC and NLPM, and minister musically with his Honour Ministries.
3. Eric to find full-time employment that will help him support his family.

Kristina Forbes led us in prayer for Eric and the Brockville Dismas.

**Carol Edgar** (Long time prison volunteer who recently moved back to Ottawa) reported that:

- She is a core member of the community online street group of the 7<sup>th</sup> Step Society ([www.7thstep.ca](http://www.7thstep.ca)) which ministers to ex-inmates and others. They meet weekly online to share. Valid ministry is always reciprocal. It does her good and she hopes it good for those to whom she ministers.
- Her and her partner have found a family doctor.

**Please pray for:**

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for her volunteer ministry with the 7<sup>th</sup> Step Society and the l'Arche community, and her partner's ministry as a spiritual care volunteer at a rehab hospital and volunteering with CoSA (Ottawa).

Rick Ojala led us in prayer for Carol and her partner.

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

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

- He continues to come alongside and partner with Jarvis Lepper, chaplain at the Southeast Regional Correctional Centre in Shediac NB.
- He (Rick) is desperate to grow the team of volunteers that go into the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre.
- Connecting Streams is going into three prisons out west and they desire to expand into more institutions.
- He also is being led to do more ministry up in Iqaluit.

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of the prison ministry of Connecting Streams.
2. Specific guidance for the timing of, and strategy for, ministry in Iqaluit.

Carl led us in prayer for Rick and the prison ministry of Connecting Streams.

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

- They are seventeen of their men to the Souly Business retreat May 1-3 at Camp IAWAH.
- In two weeks, he and Murray Baker (one of their leaders) are going on a leader impact international global exchange trip. Two years ago John went on one of these and was used powerfully.
- Their Tuesday night Whitestone meetings have speakers coming in the next few weeks, which include farmer Jeff ? (April 28); Carl Wake (May 12); and Kevin Williams (soon-to-be retired Executive Director of Jericho Road Ministries speaking on June 16).
- These meetings have a monthly rotation of activities:
  - One week they have a guest speaker.
  - One week they work through Prison Fellowship Canada study materials.
  - One week they watch a video (currently working through *The Chosen* series).
  - One week they break into small groups and do a check-in with each person, asking them to share, "What is the cry of your heart?"

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Whitestone.
2. The seventeen men going to Souly Business in May.

3. God to lead / speak through John and Murray as He opens opportunities to minister on this Leader Impact trip in April.
4. God to lead / speak through the upcoming guest speakers at Whitestone.

Stephen Prendergast led us in prayer for John and Whitestone.

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

- They want to support their inmates as much as they can during this Easter season. There will be no gifts bags handed out this year due to last-minute circumstances. They hope to have that back in place for next year.
- Marvin has been filling in for the institutional Coordinator of Volunteers of late. There have been some volunteer security training and orientation sessions in March.
- Staffing issues have caused program cancellations of late.
- The coordinator of Alpha for Prisons across Canada came for a visit recently.
- Ramadan is over now and went smoothly.

**Please pray for:**

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for Marvin and Dohman's ministry at OCDC in all areas.
2. The number of program cancellations due to staff shortage to be reduced.
3. God to work powerfully among the staff members.
4. 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.
5. The exciting inmate-led ministries within the institution to continue.

Dan Powell led us in prayer for Marvin and Dohman and the chaplaincy ministry at OCDC.

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

- Dan goes in one Saturday for the male inmates, and Janet goes in the next for the female inmates. But their programs have been cancelled the last two times they were to go in.
- Andrew Brown is a new volunteer. David Chuah is a blessing whenever he can make it in.

**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.

Eric Richards prayed for Dan and Janet and the PFC Ottawa ministry.

**Shirley Buchanan** (Prison Fellowship Canada - VP Programs & Mission) reported that:

- There are now eleven PFC volunteers going into the Brockville Jail, with three more being trained at this time.
- They are currently clearing two volunteers to go into Bath Institution. She also brought our attention to the Island Radio "Spiritual Connection" broadcast run through the chaplaincy department on Sundays at 10 AM CJAI 101.3 FM (<https://www.cjai.ca/>). The chaplains involve inmates in their program. Check out their program archives: <https://www.cjai.ca/archive/shows/spiritual-connections>

- They have fifteen clients who have joined their BridgeCare program and are going to be released in the Kingston, Ottawa and Cornwall area. That's a lot. She asked for prayer for the recruitment of volunteers who will walk with them on the outside.
- Thirty-five Ontario kids have registered for Angel Tree Camping at Camp IAWAH and Camp Cherith. There is still room for more.
- They are rolling out their "Return of the Prodigal Son" program. It's under a new umbrella of programs they are creating to do with fatherlessness called "Father to the Fatherless." The "Return of the Prodigal Son" program is based on the Henry Nouwen book.

**Please pray for:**

1. God to provide for the finances and volunteers necessary for all PFC's programs.
2. The eleven PFC volunteers ministering in the Brockville Jail.
3. Volunteers to be found who will walk alongside these fifteen BridgeCare participants who are being released shortly.
4. Success of the Angel Tree Camping program in Ontario and across Canada.
5. Success of the "Return of the Prodigal Son" program in prisons across Canada.

John Westbrook led us in prayer for Shirley and Prison Fellowship Canada,

**Kristina Forbes** (Chaplain and Horticulture Coordinator, Manie Daniels Center) reported that:

- March 30, 2026, is a special day at the MDC: Two men are graduating and leaving, and another one is celebrating one year sobriety.
- They have a growing partnership with the South Lanark Community Garden. This ties in with her chaplaincy ministry and creation care. She gave an overview of how this is developing.
- They regularly receive food donation from the Metro store in Perth.
- They are looking at two expansion projects for the near future.
- Their eight beds are full and there are currently 75 applicants for admission to the Manie Daniels Center. There is a huge need for more space.
- Carl recently interviewed Kristina at the Manie Daniels Center:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0rIjvX\\_v00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0rIjvX_v00)

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Love Soluble and the Manie Daniles Center.
2. Kristina's ministry and recovery to be blessed and thrive.
3. The details to come together for their expansion projects. Wisdom for staff and board as they deal with issues as they arise.
4. More staff to be able to hand the increased workload.

Kevin Schafer led us in prayer for Kristina, Spencer, and the Manie Daniels Center.

**Mollene Pearce** (Commissioned to Care, Co-founder) reported that:

- C2C is still going strong, despite this being a harsh and tough winter for her as she suffers from severe arthritis.
- They are planning to do an Easter weekend outreach downtown on the streets, the halfway houses, and shelters. They are gathering supplies this week.

- They were able to raise money to help a family going through tragic circumstances. A very touching story.

**Please pray for:**

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for the ministry of Commissioned to Care. May they be able to help more people in any way possible that will bring glory to God.
2. Mollene's daughter-in-law who has flown to Australia to be with her dying mother.

Kristina Forbes led us in prayer Mollene Pearce and Commissioned to Care.

**Mathew Mathew** (M.A.P. Reintegration, President <https://www.mapreintegration.ca>) reported that:

- M.A.P. Reintegration is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Please listen to his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3uecZ5kt9E> (Time 20:43 to 23:43).

**Please pray for God:**

1. To protect, guide, and provide (including funding and volunteers) for him and the ministry of M.A.P. Reintegration.
2. To protect, guide, and provide for the two clients for whom Deacon Mathew requested prayer.

Carl Wake led us in prayer for Deacon Mathew and the needs he expressed.

**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. One will be leaving Teen Challenge tomorrow. There have been a lot of turnovers at the centre. But with new staff members, it looks like they will soon be able to fill all their beds now.
- Kevin will be leaving Teen Challenge at the end of April and starting to work with Rick Ojala and Dan Byrne at Connecting Streams. Kevin will be their Inner-City Lead. He will also be helping Rick with the prison and addiction recovery 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. The new graduate to have a successful reintegration back into society.
4. Kevin's future, that God would guide and provide for him and his wife Sandy. Wisdom for him as he takes on his new role at Connecting Streams.
5. For a successor to be found soon, so Kevin can mentor him or her before he leaves.
6. This year to be a year of growth for the Men's Centre.

Eric Richards led us in prayer for Kevin Schafer and his needs.

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

- 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.
- They will continue to put on men's breakfast as an outreach. They had one in Arnprior recently and Bruce North is hosting one in Maberly in May.
- Their beds are full at Liberty House. One client is graduating and moving into his own house but will return as a volunteer to help.
- Four staff and volunteers are experiencing serious health issues, including Stephen. Prayer would be appreciated.
- His daughter Courtney has relapsed on fentanyl, which is devastating to Stephen
- At Liberty House they are working through a twelve-week series called, "Loving God, Loving Myself" which he highly recommends.
- Satan is also attacking him through a close relationship that has been fractured

**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 faces physical, mental, and spiritual challenges currently. Pray for good physical health for him in 2026.

Kevin Schafer led us in prayer for Stephen and New Connections Ministries.

Carl closed our meeting in prayer by 12:40 pm.

*Note Taker:* Carl Wake

**Please Remember**

Robert Greaves and the Ottawa Adventist Church 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).