

Notes from the May 25, 2026 Online PNG Meeting

Attendees: 15

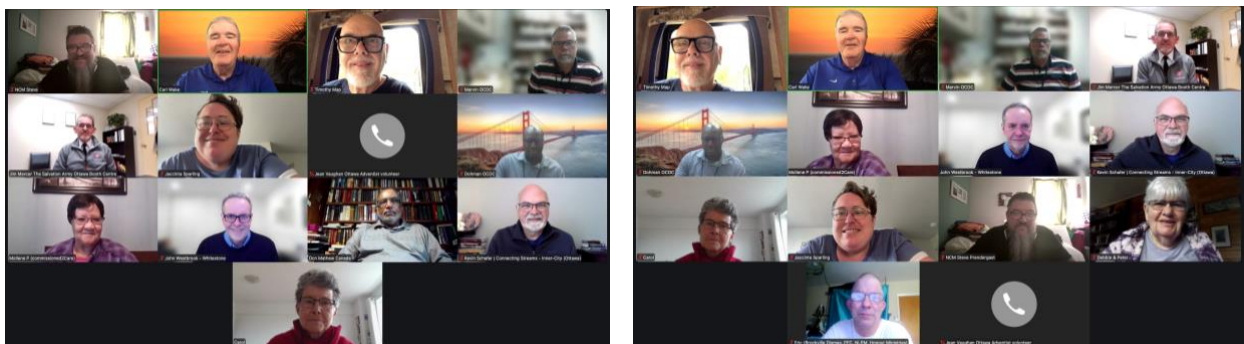
Carl Wake (NLPM volunteer and board member; Founder of Released for Good)
Carol Edgar (Anglican priest recently moved back to Ottawa)
Debbie Brown (Harvest House, Board member)
Dohman Williams (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Duty Chaplain)
Eric Richards (Brockville Dismas; Honour Ministries; PFC; NLPM)
Jean Vaughan (Ottawa Adventist Church, Volunteer)
Jim Mercer (Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre, Director of Spiritual Care / Community Ministries)
Jaccinta Sparling (Whitestone, Volunteer & chaplaincy student)
John Westbrook (Whitestone, Co-Founder)
Kevin Schafer (Connecting Streams, Inner-city Ministry Stream leader)
Marvin Sinclair (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)
Mathew Mathew (M.A.P. Reintegration, President)
Mollene Pearce (Commissioned to Care, C-Founder)
Stephen Prendergast (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House)
Timothy Meisenheimer (M.A.P. Reintegration, Co-Founder and board member)

Regrets: 5

Rob Burr
Shirley Buchanan
Dan and Janet Powell
Kristina Forbes

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

2. **Group Photo**



3. **Devotional and Opening Prayer** – Stephen Prendergast

Please watch this on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcloLCHH6I> (Time 00:05 to 07:51).
The full text for his devotional is included at the end of these PNG notes.

4. **Our next meeting** will be *online* on **Monday, June 29, 2026**, at 11 am.

5. Reports

Marvin Sinclair and Dohman Williams (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Chaplains):

- Thanked those who minister as volunteers inside for their faithfulness and commitment. This Thursday evening, May 28, they are hosting a volunteer appreciation night at the Ottawa Adventist Church on Benjamin Avenue.
- Reported that all is going well overall for chaplaincy. Nineteen of the twenty-one available program slots for the Worship Centre are filled with volunteers running programs.
- Marvin has taken on the Coordinator of Volunteers role while the regular one is off. Volunteer training is ongoing.
- Programs will be slowing down over the summer due staff shortages, as well as some volunteers take the summer off.
- God is still doing something in the lives of individuals at OCDC. Dohman gave some touching examples.

Please watch their report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 07:52 to 14:45).

Please pray for:

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for Marvin and Dohman's ministry at OCDC in all areas as they strive to make a difference.
2. God to work powerfully among the staff members.
3. The exciting inmate-led ministries within the institution to continue.

Stephen Prendergast led us in prayer for Dohman Williams and Marvin Sinclair and the chaplaincy ministry at OCDC.

Jim Mercer (Salvation Army Ottawa <http://www.ottawaboothcentre.org/>) reported that:

- He is thankful for the prayers, emails, and texts that people have been sending regarding his surgery.
- Highlights of his week are going into OCDC to run his program, and his ministry at the Anchorage Program. Anchorage now has twenty of their twenty-four beds filled. Gladstone Transitional House now has twelve of their fourteen beds filled. These are record numbers.
- He is thankful for the networking connections through the PNG. He gave more examples.
- He attended Souly Business with six guys from Anchorage to be a support for them, but ended up being incredibly ministered to himself.

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> Time 14:46 to 22:16).

Please pray for:

1. All the ministries in which Jim is involved. May God continue to protect, guide, and provide for God's ministry through him.

John Westbrook led us in prayer for Jim Mercer

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

- Five leaders and ten Whitestone men attended the Souly Business retreat May 1-3 at Camp IAWAH. One man attended the Band of Brothers conference the third week of May.
- Carl Wake and then Dan and Janet Powell have spoken recently at their Tuesday night Whitestone meetings. Kevin Williams will be speaking on June 16.

John introduced Jaccinta Sparling, who has a passion for, and is embarking into training for, prison aftercare ministry. She told a bit about herself.

Please watch their reports on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 22:17 to 29:42).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Whitestone.
2. God to lead / speak through the upcoming guest speakers at Whitestone.
3. Jaccinta as she trains for her ministry to ex-inmates.

Marvin Sinclair led us in prayer for John and Whitestone and Jaccinta .

Timothy Meisenheimer (M.A.P. Reintegration, board member <https://www.mapreintegration.ca>) reviewed his history of ministry in the Ottawa area and updated us on what he is up to now that he has returned to Ottawa. Deacon Mathew Mathew had to leave the Zoom call unexpectedly. Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 29:43 to 36:10).

Please pray for God:

1. To protect, guide, and provide (including funding and volunteers) for the ministry of M.A.P. Reintegration, Deacon Mathew Mathew, and Timothy Meisenheimer (his health and recovery from a recent stroke).

Debbie Brown led us in prayer for M.A.P. Reintegration, Timothy and Deacon Mathew.

Debbie Brown (Harvest House, Board member) reported that:

- A lot of things are changing at Harvest House, but not too much that is new.
- There is an open house this coming Saturday, May 30.

Please watch her report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 36:11 to 42:39).

Please pray for God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all areas of ministry at Harvest House.

Kevin Schafer led us in prayer for Harvest House.

Carol Edgar (Long time prison volunteer who recently moved back to Ottawa) reported that all is well with her ministry. She is a core member of the community online street group of the 7th Step Society (www.7thstep.ca) which ministers to ex-inmates and others. They meet weekly online to share. It is a “getting on with life” group. She is thankful for her 36 years of part-time volunteering in prison and what is happening with her current ministry.

Please continue to pray for:

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for her volunteer ministry with the 7th 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).
2. The success of the 7th Step Society's start of a weekly Zoom chat for female ex-offenders.

Eric Richards led us in prayer for Carol Edgar.

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

- He is busier now as co-chairman of the Boad for Dismas Brockville than he was as chair.
- It was confirmed that he does not have colon or kidney cancer but still needs further tests to determine what medical condition he does have.
- Eric continues to volunteer as a virtual instructor with New Life Prison Ministries. He also volunteers with Prison Fellowship Canada in their BridgeCare program.

Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcloLCHH6I> (Time 42:40 to 49:42).

Please pray for:

1. God's continued protection, guidance, and provision for Eric Richards and Kevin Belanger as they co-chair Brockville Dismas. Pray for safety as they travel to Kingston and Guelph on behalf of Dismas.
2. The medical professionals to be able to nail down what medical condition Eric has.
3. Eric as he volunteers with PFC and NLPM, and ministers musically with his Honour Ministries.
4. Wisdom for Eric and his wife as they raise Eric's 13-year-old son.

Timothy Meisenheimer led us in prayer for Eric and his various ministry involvement.

Kevin Schafer (Connecting Streams, Ottawa lead for Innercity Ministry) reported that:

- He is currently in the long, long onboarding process for Connecting Streams which involves partner development in four areas (prayer, financial, volunteer, and connector support). He is therefore not actively ministering on their behalf yet, but he wants very much to continue attending the PNG
- He will be helping Rick Ojala and Don Heron in the prison ministry stream.
- Kevin will be the National Capital lead their Inner-City ministries. Essentially, he will be a missionary in the Ottawa area.
- Please watch his report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcloLCHH6I> (Time 49:43 to 57:00).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue protect, guide, and provide for Kevin as he works his way through the onboarding process.
2. Wisdom for him as he takes on his new role at Connecting Streams.

Mollene Pearce led us in prayer for Kevin Schafer and his needs.

Mollene Pearce (Commissioned to Care):

- C2C outreach ministries are still going strong. God always ‘fills their jar’ (cf. 2 Kings 4:1-7; 1 Kings 17:7-16). She gave examples of God’s provision.
- We could deliver care packages and lunch bags as well as seasonal clothing to Shepherd of Good Hope; four Transitional Homes and hundreds of needy people on the streets.
- We also care for a number of individuals who are living on their own.

Please watch her report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 57:01 to 1:02:57).

Please pray for:

- The Lord to continue to fill their jars and to bless the ministry in unexpected ways.
- Mollene’s health and for her family.
- People to surrender and make Jesus Lord over their lives.
- Our hearts to be filled with compassion and for the joy of our Lord to be our strength.

Jean Vaughan led us in prayer for Mollene and Commissioned to Care.

Jean Vaughan (Ottawa Adventist Church, Volunteer) reported that:

- They continue to hand out sandwiches and other items at various places in Ottawa.
- Their church is preparing for The Big Give on June 6, 2026.
- Please watch her report on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHcIoLCHH6I> (Time 1:02:58 to 1:08:28).

Please pray for:

God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of the Ottawa Adventist volunteers.

Carl led us in prayer for Jean Vaughan and the Ottawa Adventist Church. He closed our meeting in prayer for all the active PNG member organizations by 12:30 pm.

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Carl realized as he was working on our meeting notes that he had forgotten to ask Stephen Prendergast to give his New Connections Ministries report. My apologies, Stephen. He graciously sent in this report by e-mail:

“Hi Carl,

No worries at all. These things happen. Thank you again for your encouragement regarding the devotional. I truly appreciated the opportunity to share.

Here is a brief ministry update for the PNG notes:

Our Spring 2026 Concert was a wonderful evening of music, testimony, and fellowship. Although the event itself was not financially successful and we essentially broke even, we still believe it was worthwhile. Unfortunately, having the concert on Mother’s Day weekend created challenges for many of our supporters and friends who understandably had family commitments. While that was disappointing, we are grateful for everyone who participated, attended, and supported the event.

Looking ahead, New Connections Ministries will be hosting an Open House at Liberty House on Thursday, June 25th, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for hamburgers, hot dogs, refreshments, fellowship, and a tour of Liberty House.

Fred Williams continues prison ministry work in three different institutions, primarily Bath and Collins Bay, where he leads Bible studies and music lessons. Although he was recently able to perform at the concert alongside his son and other musicians, his health has been the worst it has been in quite some time.

As a ministry team, we are currently carrying several health concerns among staff and leadership. Four of our ministry team leaders are dealing with moderate to serious health conditions, and I would also appreciate prayer personally. We simply ask prayer that the Lord would continue to strengthen us mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually as we serve. We are also continuing to brainstorm and explore new fundraising opportunities to help financially sustain and grow the ministry so we can continue providing the best support possible to our clients.

At the moment, we have one vacancy available at Liberty House, though I am currently processing three separate applications.

Thank you again for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement for New Connections Ministries.

Blessings,

Stephen Prendergast

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1bO2Os_AA0

***"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, being ready at all times to answer anyone's questions or accusations about the hope that you have. Do it with gentleness and reverence."
(1 Peter 3:15-16)***

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Devotional by Stephen Prendergast

Good morning, everyone.

I'd like to share a short devotional this morning about something we all know deep down in prison ministry — real transformation is usually slow, messy, and deeply human. But that does not make it any less powerful.

One of the Scriptures that has become very meaningful to ministries like ours is this:

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

— Hebrews 3:13

And another passage that reflects the heart of prison ministry is when Jesus says:ues

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

— Matthew 25:36

I want to share a real-life example of how God has been working through ministry partnerships and community support.

There's a gentleman we came to know who had gotten himself into serious trouble and experienced the consequences of his actions. This was not someone with a lifelong criminal history. In fact, it was his first time ever breaking the law and his first time ever going to prison.

Unfortunately, the mistake was a serious one, and the consequences changed the course of his life.

What he experienced while incarcerated does not need to be described in detail this morning. Like many who enter the prison system for the first time, he encountered things that deeply affected him emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

When he returned to Canada, he was blindsided with divorce papers and told he could not return home to his wife and four children.

Almost overnight, his entire world collapsed.

He eventually arrived at the border in the middle of subzero weather with barely any clothing and very little hope left.

And yet, even there, God was already at work.

He first connected with the Mission, then Whitestone, and eventually with New Connections Ministries. Through the ministry, we were able to provide housing and walk alongside him for over a year.

Now, I want to be honest about something.

This is not one of those stories where someone says a prayer and suddenly everything becomes easy and perfect overnight.

He's still rough around the edges.

He still struggles.

He still wrestles with life, emotions, frustrations, and relationships.

But that's also where we see the grace of God working.

Because discipleship is not usually instant.

Transformation is often gradual.

One of the interesting challenges for him has been community living. He never came from a history of chemical addiction, yet most of the men around him — including roommates and even staff members — have walked through recovery journeys.

That has forced everyone involved to grow in patience, understanding, tolerance, accountability, and grace.

And over time, I've watched this gentleman slowly change.

I've watched him become more patient with people.

More understanding.

More self-aware.

I've watched him begin to recognize that while actions do have consequences, repentance is still real, forgiveness is still possible, and Christ can still rebuild a broken life.

Recently, several of us completed an 11-week series called *Loving God, Loving Myself*. Honestly, it became more than a Bible study. It became a healing journey for everybody involved.

And week after week, you could see walls slowly starting to come down.

Not dramatically.

Not instantly.

But steadily.

I also watched this gentleman struggle with something many people face after incarceration — the expectation that rebuilding life would happen quickly.

I think part of him believed that once he started making better choices, everything else would immediately begin falling back into place.

But life doesn't usually work that way.

Healing takes time.
Trust takes time.
Growth takes time.
Restoration takes time.

And slowly, he's learning that.

Sometimes God works through miracles in a moment.
But many times, God works through process.

Scripture reminds us in Galatians 6:9:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

And Psalm 34:18 says:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

I believe that is exactly where this ministry often meets people — in the brokenhearted places.

Sometimes ministry does not look dramatic.
Sometimes it looks like:
sharing meals,
having difficult conversations,
studying Scripture together,
living in community,
showing patience,
and simply refusing to give up on someone.

And I think we all need that reminder today.

Because in prison ministry, we may not always see instant results. But seeds are being planted every single day.

God is still restoring lives.
God is still softening hearts.
God is still teaching people how to live again.

And sometimes the greatest miracle is not instant perfection —
it's watching somebody slowly become softer, humbler, more patient, more loving, and more open to Christ than they were a year ago.

Thank you.