

Notes from the August 31, 2026 Online PNG Meeting

Attendees: 12

Carl Wake (NLPMP volunteer and board member; Founder of Released for Good)
Dan Powell (Prison Fellowship Canada, Volunteer)
Dohman Williams (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Duty Chaplain)
Janet Powell (Prison Fellowship Canada, Volunteer)
Jean Vaughan (Ottawa Adventist Church, Volunteer)
John Westbrook (Whitestone, Co-founder)
Kevin Schafer (Connecting Streams Ottawa, Lead for Inner City Outreach)
Marvin Sinclair (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)
Rick Ojala (Connecting Streams – Ottawa)
Shirley Buchanan (Prison Fellowship Canada - VP Programs & Mission)
Stephen Prendergast (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House)
Timothy Meisenheimer (M.A.P. Reintegration, Co-Founder and board member)

Regrets: 7

Carol Edgar
Dan Byrne
Deacon Mathew Mathew
Eric Richards
Jaccinta Sparling
Mollene Pearce
Rob Burr

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

2. Group Photo



3. **Devotional and Opening Prayer** – Marvin Sinclair

Marvin based his devotional on **Acts 16:25-26**, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. At once all the doors flew open and everyone’s chains came loose.”

Here are some thoughts that he shared:

- Staff and volunteers need security clearances to come into prison, but God does not need a security clearance. He is already at work inside OCDC doing some amazing things.
- Though physically confined, inmates are finding spiritual freedom where they are at. real freedom can be found in Christ.
- Paul and Silas were in chains yet praising God. You too can have an impact as you reach out to Him as you are volunteering at OCDC. Keep that praise and worship going.
- He spoke of one individual he has known for years that demonstrates the fact that his ministry as chaplain is inmate and staff driven. God uses opportunities Marvin is given to make a difference in the lives of those with whom he comes in contact.

Marvin opened our meeting in prayer.

Please watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUEYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 00:04 to 10:44).

4. **Our next meeting** will be *online* on **Monday, September 28, 2026**, at 11 am.

5. **Reports**

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

- Marvin had been off for eight weeks but is back in the saddle now.
- There was a baptismal service held last Tuesday, where they baptized nine men and three women. PFC volunteers Janet and Ellen were in attendance and helped baptize some candidates.
- There will be another baptismal service soon.
- They are very thankful for the volunteers who give of their time to minister to inmates.

Please watch the report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUEYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 10:45 to 13:50).

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.

Shirley Buchanan led us in prayer for Dohman Williams, Marvin Sinclair, and the chaplaincy ministry at OCDC.

Shirley Buchanan (PFC www.prisonfellowship.ca, Vice President - Programs & Mission) reported:

- Twenty-two children of inmates at OCDC participated in the Angel Tree Camping program this summer, which was half of the number of children who applied from prisoner applications in Eastern Ontario. Nationally, three hundred and fifty children were able to go to participate.
- They are about to start Angel Tree Christmas, but she admitted that PFC now tends to focus on Angel Tree all year round.
- They have launched a new seven-week program called Return of the Lost Son, which they had piloted in a few institutions. The first two weeks focuses on the younger son, the second two weeks on the older son, and then the remainder on the father. There is a DVD series that goes with that program.
- In three weeks, she will be attending federal prison fall release fairs in the Kingston area to talk about the Angel Tree and BridgeCare programs. The fairs are run through the John Howard Society.

Please watch her report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 13:51 to 19:47).

Please pray for:

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Prison Fellowship Canada, including Angel Tree Christmas and Camping, as well as BridgeCare.
2. A special blessing on Shirley as she interacts with federal prisoners who come out to the fall release fairs.

Stephen Prendergast prayed for Shirley and Prison Fellowship Canada.

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

- Dan and his team have gone in for the last two Saturdays, after not being able to go in because of lockdowns. He still takes calls on Thursday mornings with “PF By Phone”. He spoke to his first female inmate recently which was a first in two years.
- As mentioned by Dohman, Janet and Ellen were able to attend the recent baptismal service. The female programs are going well.

Please watch their report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 19:48 to 23:16).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for the ministry of PFC Ottawa, especially new female volunteers.
2. The move of God to continue among the women and men living in OCDC.
3. The number of program cancellations be reduced.

Rick Ojala led us in prayer for Dan and Janet Powell and the PFC (Ottawa) outreach.

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

- He had two weeks of vacation in August.
- There is movement at Liberty House and Hope Horizons, two men have moved on. They have a great networking between Jericho Road and Anchorage programs right now where

they receive men out of those two programs. “They look at us as another phase to their program.”

- They are preparing for running the 12-week series “Loving God, Loving Myself” again, from September to December 2026.
- They are running a “Pick Your Own” pumpkin fundraiser at the end of October. Bill and Alice Ham are working with them on that. Stephen asked for
- Stephen spoke at an event at Lake St. Peter as a last-minute speaker. He was able to speak on behalf of Teen Challenge and New Connections Ministries.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 23:17 to 32:27).

Please pray for:

1. God to restore Fred Williams’ health, as well as that of John Austin.
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, raising financial support, and more and younger mentors for their increasing client list. Pray for good physical health for all their leaders and residents.
3. Wisdom, knowledge, and discernment for Stephen and his wife as they face physical, mental, and spiritual challenges as a family.
4. For wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to think outside the box on how they can fund raise. May their pumpkin sales be successful.

Carl Wake led us in prayer for Stephen and his wife and New Connections Ministries.

Rick Ojala (Connecting Streams - Ottawa <https://www.connectingstreams.com/ottawa/>. Please check out and subscribe to his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@rickojala-n9j>). He reported:

- He has finished developing a devotional chapel service curriculum that will be used by Connecting Stream prison outreach teams across Canada. There will be a new team in Moncton this fall.
- OCDC has a new Coordinator of Volunteers named Laura. Rick looks forward to expanding their presence there with her help.
- Connecting Streams’ Don Heron has become a board member for Bridges of Canada.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 32:28 to 34:45).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for Rick Ojala and all aspects of Connecting Streams prison outreach across Canada.
2. Don Heron to become a valuable tool in God’s hand as he settles into serving on Bridges of Canada’s board.

Marvin Sinclair led us in prayer for Rick Ojala and his ministry.

Kevin Schafer (Connecting Streams Ottawa, Lead for Inner City Outreach) reported that:

- He has raised one third of his support needed to start into his new role. His home church just yesterday commissioned him for full-time service. It means a lot to him to be supported in this manner.
- July has been chaotic since his house was one of the 7,000 homes flooded by the July 1st storm. His insurance is NOT covering this, but God is nonetheless providing for their needs in amazing and incredible ways.
- He does volunteer at Bridges at the Connect Centre. Kevin told about giving away a stack of harmonize gospels.
- He has been in contact with the Coordinator of Volunteers at OCDC in order to start the process of going in there.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JPs&t=15s> (Time 34:46 to 42:01).

Dan Powell led us in prayer for Kevin Schafer and his work with Connecting Streams Ottawa.

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

- They had not been able to go into OCDC this past month, but they faithfully pray for the women inmates.
- Every two weeks their church hands out sandwiches and other items at various places in Ottawa on Sundays. They have already handed out ninety-four school backpacks by the end of August.

Please listen to her report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JPs&t=15s> (Time 42:02 to 45:31).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of the Ottawa Adventist volunteer ministry. May they continue to be a blessing.
2. Jean and her team be able to go into OCDC soon.

Timothy Meisenheimer led us in prayer for Jean Vaughan and the Ottawa Adventist Church community outreach.

Timothy Meisenheimer (M.A.P. Reintegration, board member <https://www.mapreintegration.ca>) reported that:

- He had nothing to report concerning M.A.P., since their ministry is on hold.
- He gathers weekly with other intercessors. He shares our YouTube meeting videos with them, and they pray.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUeYQ8T1JPs&t=15s> (Time 45:32 to 48:15).

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).

John Westbrook led us in prayer for Timothy Meisenheimer and M.A.P. Reintegration.

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

- Things are good at Whitestone. They continue to meet every Tuesday night. It is very encouraging to see more women (five to seven) attend the meetings. The meetings follow a monthly rotation of activities:
 - One week they have a guest speaker.
 - One week they work through Prison Fellowship Canada's *Re-entry Journal* 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?"

They provide a meal at each meeting.

- Whitestone already have fourteen men attending the Souly Business retreat in September at Camp IAWAH. In April 2027, some of their women will be attending Lavish, the female equivalent.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUEYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 48:16 to 53:30).

Please pray for:

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

Kevin Schafer led us in prayer for John Westbrook and Whitestone.

Carl Wake (Founder of Released for Good; NLPM volunteer and board member) reported:

- He continues to quietly enable PNG networking behind the scenes, something he really enjoys doing.
- As of October 18, his three-year term as a board member for New Life Prison Ministries will end. Until then he is helping with sub-committee helping Nadia Zerversenue vision cast the next three years. Great things are happening with NLPM.

Please watch his report on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUEYQ8T1JP&t=15s> (Time 53:31 to 54:59).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Released for Good and NLPM.

Jean Vaughan prayed for Carl, Released for Good, and New Life Prison Ministries.

Carl led us in prayer for all the active PNG organizations by name.

Our meeting ended at 12:28.

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Eric Richards (Brockville Dismas brockvilledismas@gmail.com; Honour Ministries; NLPM and PFC volunteer) e-mailed this report:

"Greetings brothers and sisters.

I am unable to make it to our meeting this month. My wife and I are celebrating our 7th wedding anniversary.

Update on Dismas:

We are having a situation that I am not at liberty to fully give out, but I am asking for prayers for our Chairman. We might be forced to take a break and shut down for a few months. I will keep you better after September 10th.

Update on NLPM:

Going well. I have taken on a new inmate and love that I am able to help fellow inmates as they seek God and all that He has to do for and through us.

Update on PFC:

No updates to offer. Still waiting for someone to be released into Brockville that have been through the PFC program.

Update on Honour Ministries:

Last week, I sent an audition to Cornfest in Athens, On. to play a concert next year. I will find out this Fall if we get into it or not. I will put a copy of the audition to this email.

<https://youtu.be/BDR58iU9qPM?si=Hf2xNXKrGlgVPtbt>

Now I have something to say on a personal matter.

I have received word that there is someone interested in my past.

I have been to jail and have never hid it. If there is anyone that wants to know anything, you can email me at my personal email. I would be happy to tell you what you need to know. Maybe not what you want to know.

richards.eric.73@gmail.com.

Thank you and God bless you all in what you do to serve God.

Eric Richards."

Please pray for:

1. God's continued protection, guidance, and provision for Eric Richards and Kevin Belanger as they co-chair Brockville Dismas.
2. Eric as he volunteers with PFC and NLPM, and ministers musically with his wife in their Honour Ministries.