

Notes from the September 28, 2026 Online PNG Meeting

Attendees: 12

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

Carol Edgar (7th Step Society volunteer)

Dohman Williams (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Duty Chaplain)

Don Heron (Connecting Streams – Ottawa)

Eric Richards (Brockville Dismas; Honour Ministries; PFC; NLPM)

Harry Nigh (CoSA and Dismas, Founder)

Jean Vaughan (Ottawa Adventist Church, Volunteer)

Jim Mercer (Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre, Director of Spiritual Care / Community Ministries)

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

Kristina Forbes (Chaplain, Love Soluble)

Marvin Sinclair (Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, Coordinating Chaplain)

Stephen Prendergast (New Connections Ministries/Liberty House)

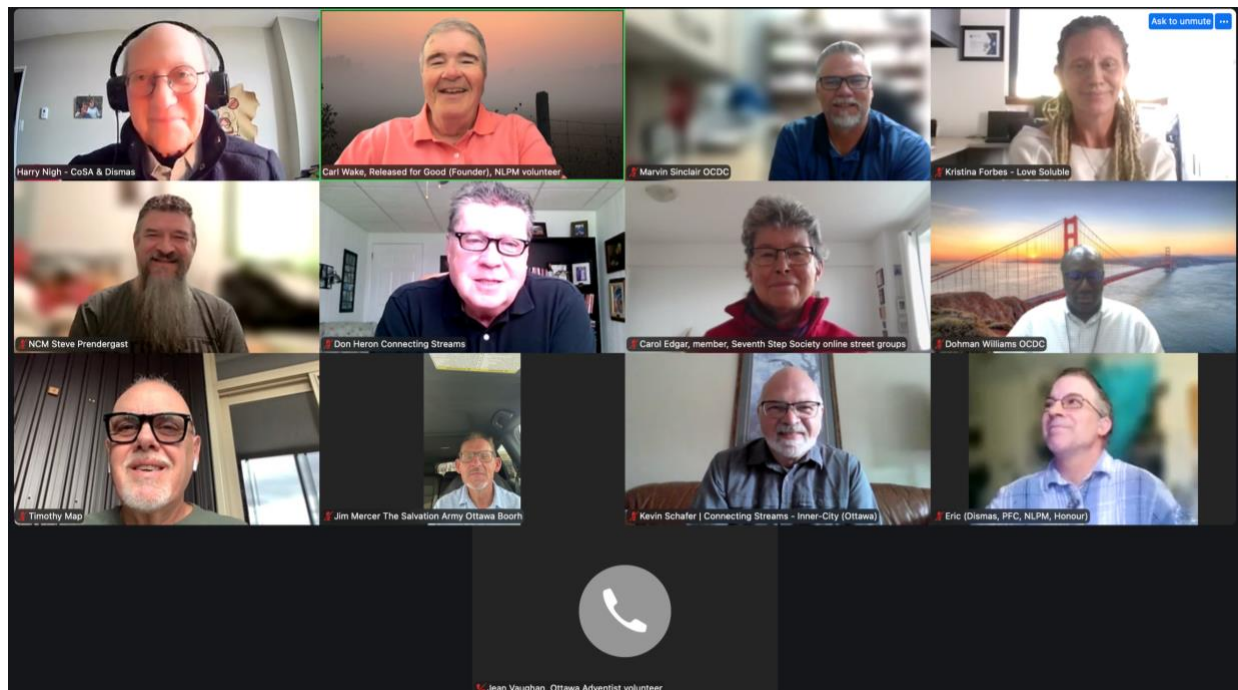
Timothy Meisenheimer (M.A.P. Reintegration, Co-Founder and board member)

Regrets: 6

Dan Powell; Janet Powell; John Westbrook; Mollene Pearce; Rob Burr; Shirley Buchanan

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

2. Group Photo



3. Devotional and Opening Prayer – Harry Nigh

Harry Nigh, who was involved with the founding of Circles of Support & Accountability and later of Dismas, has retired and moved to Ottawa. Carl welcomed him to our group and asked him to bring the devotional and open our meeting in prayer.

Harry shared what touched him in the story of Jesus' meeting with the Gadarene demoniac in Luke 8:26-39. He explored the importance of Jesus treating the man with respect in asking, "What is your name?" Harry shared lessons he had learned in his ministry to ex-offenders. He quotes Jean Vanier: "When you're walking alongside wounded people, words don't matter. They don't trust words. All they trust is vibes, the vibrations that people give." Harry wondered if it was what it was that about Jesus. That the vibes that he gave that allowed this man to come running toward him. We were encouraged to think about what "vibes" we give off.

Harry opened our meeting in prayer.

Please watch this: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 00:04 to 17:23).

4. Our next meeting will be *online* on **Monday, October 26, 2026**, at 11 am.

5. Reports

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

- It has been great month at OCDC, but it still came with some programming challenges.
- They are the last institution in the province to implement "Safer", where each inmate gets a score based on charges and behavior, etcetera. That has been pulling staff from programs a little bit.
- The Chaplaincy department is hosting an event where social workers, rehab officers, and discharge planners can meet with community, faith-based ministries and find out what they offer.
- They are starting into the Angel Tree program again this October to December.
- The staff calendars have been ordered. This is made possible by Whitestone.
- Nineteen or twenty inmates have now been baptized of late, with more to come.
- They are very thankful for the volunteers who give of their time to minister to inmates.
- Tomorrow, Dohman is celebrating his first-year anniversary as a chaplain at OCDC. Congratulations, Dohman.

Please watch their report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 17:24 to 22:04).

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.

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

Carol Edgar (The 7th Step Society, Core Member) is back from her summer break. She is looking forward to resuming her ministry with the online street group of the 7th Step Society (www.7thstep.ca) which ministers to ex-inmates and others. They meet weekly online on Tuesday nights to share.

Please continue to pray for:

1. God to protect, guide, and provide for her volunteer ministry with the 7th Step Society.

Jim Mercer (Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre, Director of Spiritual Care / Community Ministries <http://www.ottawaboothcentre.org/>) reported that:

- His vision to take twenty individuals from the Anchorage program, Gladstone Transitional House, and Spencer Kell's Manie Daniels Centre to a Salvation Army retreat in Huntsville in September was fulfilled and exceeded as we requested in prayer. He raised funds for twenty-two men to attend. From all reports, it was a wonderful event for all who attended.
- Many of the men spoke of experiencing God's presence at OCDC. Jim wanted to note this to encourage Marvin and Dohman.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgnwCk> (Time 22:05 to 27:38).

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.
2. God to continue to bless the twenty-two individuals who attended the retreat. May they each stay strong in the Lord.

Carl prayed for Carol Edgar and Jim Mercer.

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

- He missed August's PNG meeting because he celebrated his 7th wedding anniversary that day.
- Brockville Dismas is going through a lot of changes currently. They now have their third chairperson of the board who started last month. So far, he has been doing pretty well.
- Concerning his volunteering with Prison Fellowship Canada, he and his other PFC volunteer recently had a 5.5-hour meeting with someone from PFC headquarters. They are still waiting for inmates who are involved in the BridgeCare program to be released to Brockville.
- It is going great with New Life Prison Ministries. He gives feedback to inmates who send in correspondence courses. He feels that he has something to offer them from his experiences inside. But he is overwhelmed at times by the number of studies that come in for him.
- Honour Ministries is going well and moving ahead.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgnwCk> (Time 27:38 to 32:45).

Please pray for:

1. God's continued protection, guidance, and provision for Eric Richards and the new co-chair for Brockville Dismas.
2. Eric's mother's speedy recovery after surgery on her heart on September 28.
3. Bridgecare inmates to be released to Brockville.
4. Eric to be a blessing to his NLPM students.
5. God to bless Honour Ministries.

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

- Fred Williams continues faithfully to serve in prison ministry despite struggling with his health. He continues to go into Collins Bay, Bath, and Joyceville institutions. He was also asked to recently go into Frontenac Institution to meet with an inmate who requested.
- For Liberty House and Hope Horizons, things continue to move forward with men in both stages of their transitional housing ministry. They continue to focus on helping men coming out of treatment or incarceration. To help them establish stability, employment, healthy relationships, Christian community, and independent living. Unfortunately, they had to recently had to excuse two residents who broke the rules. In balance of that, two other longstanding residents are graduating very soon and moving out on their own.
- They are running the 12-week series “Loving God, Loving Myself” from September to December 2026.
- They are running a “Pick Your Own” pumpkin fundraiser at the end of October.
- They are moving ahead with the revamping of their website.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 32:46 to 37:23).

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. Their pumpkin sales to be successful.
5. Successful reintegration of the two graduates from New Connections.

Jean Vaughan led us in prayer for Stephen and his wife and New Connections Ministries.

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

- They had not been able to go into OCDC again 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 watch her report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 37:23 to 39:15).

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 again soon.

Kristina Forbes led us in prayer for Jean Vaughan and the Ottawa Adventist Church community outreach.

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

- It had been very busy for her and therefore did not attend the recent PNG meeting.
- She had the blessing of working the night when the men returned from their weekend away with Jim Mercer and they did nothing but rave about the food, the worship, the sessions, and the activities.
- They are going ahead with the expansion projects this fall. Stay tuned.
- There had been two mental health crises. She described how these had been well-handled. At one of their clients' sentencing hearing, the Crown praised the work the client had been doing at the centre. The judge is taking a month to look closely at the file and decide whether he should get a conditional sentence.
- They have one gentleman in their 90-day intensive program, and the rest are all in different stages of transitioning. Three are working full time. One gentleman is taking an addiction services course and another one is going back to school for social work. He's working full time so everyone's going in different directions. God is definitely providing.
- Their partnership with the South Lanark Community Garden is bearing fruit. This ties in with her chaplaincy ministry and creation care. She gave an overview of how this has developed.

Please watch her report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 39:16 to 47:00).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Love Soluble and the Manie Daniels 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.

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

- Through God's help, he has raised 56% of his support needed to start into his new role. While waiting, Kevin has been busy preparing for when he launches into ministry. He has been speaking at churches and getting volunteers ready.
- He does volunteer work at Bridges at the Connect Centre, which energizes him for his coming launch.
- The "Friends at Somerset" program launches mid-October.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 47:01 to 51:25).

Please pray for:

1. God to continue to protect, guide, and provide for all aspects of Connecting Streams.
2. Kevin to raise the full 100% of his support and thus launch into ministry.

Timothy Meisenheimer led us in prayer for Kevin Schafer and his work with Connecting Streams Ottawa.

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

- They are looking for a part-time residential housing worker. If anyone in the PNG knows someone, please have them apply to Deacon Mathew Mathew.
- Bethel Pentecostal Church has started a Celebrate Recovery group on Monday nights. This is the first Celebrate Recovery in the city since COVID shut everything down in 2020.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 51:26 to 53:15).

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).
2. To bring a successful candidate for their new part-time position.

Carl Wake led us in prayer for Timothy Meisenheimer and M.A.P. Reintegration.

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

- His health is pretty well back to normal. The doctor confirmed that Carl has a good and healthy heart, for which Carl is very thankful. He needs that to help care for their 7th grandchild born on September 24, 2026.
- He continues to quietly enable PNG networking behind the scenes, something he really enjoys doing.
- As of October 12, his three-year term as a board member for New Life Prison Ministries will end. Until January, he will continue helping a sub-committee vision cast the next three years. Great things are happening with NLPM. Carl continues his online instructor work, pouring into the lives of his students.

Please watch his report on: <https://youtu.be/ckftTmgwCk> (Time 53:16 to 56:38).

Please pray for:

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

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

Our meeting ended at 12:30.