



CARE QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2025

Showcasing Church of God Care Ministries



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FROM YOUR LEADERS



T. WAYNE DORITY
EXECUTIVE LIAISON



RAYMOND F. CULPEPPER
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Prison Ministry International Joins Care Division

The Church of God has added a thirteenth ministry to the Care Division family.

Prison Ministry International (PMI) is an organization that exists to, "reach the worst of the worst wherever they are across the globe." The Alcoa, Tennessee-based ministry subscribes to a vision that seeks to REACH OUT across borders and behind bars with compassion and purpose, RESCUE those imprisoned by crime, despair, and isolation with the love of Christ, and REHABILITATE the forgotten, RESTORE the broken, and help every soul discover REDEMPTION.

Second Assistant General Overseer T. Wayne Dority and Care Division liaison was pleased to announce the partnership.

"PMI is a powerful, well-established ministry that will enhance the opportunities for support, giving, and ministry in the Church of God," Dority said. "I look forward to them being a vital part of the Care Division."

Executive Director of Care Ministries Raymond Culpepper stated, "I appreciate Ronnie Hepperly's passion for souls and passion to care for people. I could not be more pleased with this announcement. We are so honored to have them in this division."

Rev. Ronnie Hepperly founded and leads PMI.

"We are excited about joining with the wonderful ministry partners in the Division of Care. We trade Bibles for shanks...when we remove a shank from a prison, we are standing between heaven and hell for other inmates who are at risk. Thanks to Drs. Dority and Culpepper for offering this opportunity to place PMI on the worldwide stage with the Church of God."

Hepperly and his wife, Jeannie, pastor the RIO Townsend (Tennessee) Church, a part of the RIO (Restoration International Outreach) Network of churches. He is also superintendent of the Southeast Asia region of World Missions for the Church of God.

To learn more about the latest Care Division partner, its outreach, leadership and other partners, visit prisonmi.com.



PMI Director Ronnie Hepperly, second from left, is joined by PMI workers in Panama.



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CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

OPERATION COMPASSION

Operation Compassion Offers Relief to Flood-Ravaged Texas

(Editor's Note: the following is a personal reflection from Tony Clanton, Director of Operations for Operation Compassion, on his recent travels to Leander, TX).

On July 9, I had the profound privilege of traveling to Leander, Texas, as part of Operation Compassion's ongoing mission to bring hope and aid to those affected by disaster. Kelvin Page, President of Operation Compassion, and our team, driven by compassion and determination, sent two truckloads of disaster supplies to the Leander Church of God, which served as the critical staging area for our relief efforts.

Leander, situated downstream from Kerrville— a town that had already garnered much media attention— suffered equally devastating damage from recent flooding. The destruction was widespread, and the need for help was urgent. Our supplies included cleaning essentials, water, tarps, sleeping bags, blessing hygiene boxes, linens, and much more. These resources were essential in helping families begin the long road to recovery.

Working closely with Texas Bishop Rob Bailey, his dedicated team, and the Men and Women of Action, we set up the staging area— a hub of hope amid chaos. From here, we began assembling food boxes for flood survivors and recovery teams alike. It was inspiring to see so many volunteers come together with one purpose: to serve others in their time of greatest need.

OPERATION COMPASSION (Continued)

The devastation was heartbreaking. It's hard to put into words the terror and destruction the floodwaters left behind. As we moved through the affected area, we had the opportunity to speak with many victims. We listened to their personal stories—stories of fear, loss, and resilience. We prayed with those who needed comfort and offered words of encouragement, knowing that sometimes, a simple prayer can bring peace to a troubled heart.

The need in Leander is immense, and it remains so. Yet, through these moments of hardship, I am reminded of the power of community and faith. It was truly an honor for me and Operation Compassion to be part of this effort—to stand alongside those who are hurting and to bring a glimmer of hope during their darkest hours. As we continue to serve and support disaster-stricken communities, I am grateful for the opportunity to witness the strength and resilience of the people of Leander, Texas. Our work is far from over, but I am confident that together, with faith and compassion, we can help rebuild lives and restore hope.



Tony Clanton, right, is joined by Texas Administrative Bishop Rob Bailey as they assist with the Texas floods



Damage in Leander was as devastating as other communities along the Guadalupe River.

MEN & WOMEN OF ACTION

MWOA Strengthens Partnerships During Latest Disasters

This summer has been an incredibly active season for Men and Women of Action, with teams serving across the globe and right here at home. From disaster relief efforts to church renovations and community outreach, the mission has not slowed down.

Disaster relief has remained a major focus for MWOA. This summer, our hearts have been with communities in Kentucky and Texas affected by devastating tornadoes and floods. MWOA teams and volunteers—alongside our incredible Church of God family—have responded with compassion and skill in areas hit hard by disaster. Volunteers have been on the ground assisting with tornado and flood relief, bringing hope and practical help to families in crisis. From removing trees and debris to providing clean water, shower trailers, laundromat trailers, food and supplies, MWOA and the Church of God family have stood by these communities in their time of need.

MWOA has also been working hard to prepare for future responses. We recently purchased trailers that will be refurbished and used in upcoming disaster relief efforts. Our team has been making important upgrades to ensure these trailers are fully equipped and ready to roll out alongside the rest of our MWOA disaster equipment when the next need arises.

MEN & WOMEN OF ACTION (Continued)

Our work hasn't stopped with disaster response. Over 30 volunteers partnered with Southwest Indian Ministries (S.W.I.M.) in Gallup, New Mexico, completing upgrades at the S.W.I.M. Campground and a local church (Manueliot Church).

Internationally, a team served in New Zealand at Papakaio Community Church, where they completed Phase One of a much-anticipated project—clearing land and preparing for future construction that will impact generations. Meanwhile, MWOA State Coordinators and Project Leaders have been leading the charge all summer long. Their dedication has powered efforts in outreach projects across the United States.



Work takes place at a housing unit with S.W.I.M. in Gallup, NM.

MINISTRY TO ISRAEL

Ministry to Israel Assists on Several Fronts

Since the previous issue of Care Quarterly, MTI has been engaged with government and people groups with critical assistance in the war-torn region:

- Twelve Day War with Iran: Of the 1,000+ ballistic missiles fired at Israel, 550 made it into Israel airspace. Twenty-eight people were killed, 1,400 wounded and approximately 15,000 people were displaced because of the rocket damage to their homes.
- At the end of the war, MTI assisted families in the city of Beersheba who had suffered from a direct attack by a missile. MTI supplied aid and finances for their immediate needs and will continue to help them get back to a normal life.
- From there MTI staff in Israel traveled to Eilat where they provided clothing and help for 60 families who were impacted by the war.
- In Eilat, MTI provided \$18,000 worth of assistance to a school of 400 where almost every child in the school was from a poor family and are new immigrants into the country.

MINISTRY TO ISRAEL (Continued)

- Finally, knowing of MTI's previous generosity, a special forces reconnaissance unit in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) requested if MTI could supply newer, lighter helmets as well as boots designed for desert warfare. Many of these warriors go as much as thirty days in battle zones where their helmets and shoes must be worn at all times. MTI Director Michael Utterback said, "Of course, we agreed and presented these items to them in mid-July."

To view an update video from Ministry to Israel, please click [here](#).

The apartment building in Beersheba struck by a ballistic missile.



REAL LIFE VILLAGE

Tennessee Governor Signs Legislation Benefitting Real Life Village

In April, the Tennessee General Assembly and Governor Bill Lee passed legislation authorizing Real Life Village (RLV) to operate as a campus-style residential pilot program that will house up to 32 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The legislation provides relief from stringent policies and authorizes the establishment of small residential homes—each housing a minimum of four and up to eight individuals—on a 26-acre integrated community site. The program is designed to offer more independent and supportive living options for disabled adults in a setting that fosters community and care. The pilot will become permanent on January 1, 2032.



RLV Director Mitchell Maloney, second from left, watches along with others as Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, seated, signs the pilot program legislation.

REAL LIFE VILLAGE (Continued)

In other news, RLV is delighted to announce they are gaining movement toward the launch of the “Real Life Day,” program. Next steps include creating the infrastructure on the future campus in Cleveland, Tennessee to start site preparation for their first building, the Community Center.

“We are grateful that Westmore Church of God has licensed the use of space at their Student Center, so that the Day Program can start sooner than originally anticipated,” stated RLV Director Mitchell Maloney. “We are currently moving our offices to this new space and over the next few months we will be preparing it and undergoing state licensure for day one of services.”

Finally, planning is under way for Real Life Village's second annual Vision Banquet. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, 6:00 pm at Westmore Church of God. Special musical guest will be Jason Crabb. Mark Richt, former head coach of the University of Georgia, will be the keynote speaker. Last year's Inaugural Vision Banquet was an overwhelming success. RLV is grateful to all donors and supporters for sharing with Real Life Village.

PENIEL MINISTRIES

PENIEL Dedicates Playground, Receives \$20,000 Donation

- **Grant Funding Secured:** We are deeply grateful to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Lee Initiatives Health & Wellness Endowment that is designated to support treatment scholarships for individuals in financial need.
- **Playground Dedication:** On July 18, Peniel hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for “TeeTee's Play Place,” our newly-named playground dedicated to the late Dr. Marion “TeeTee” Spellman. Her love for children continues to shape our women and children program's mission of family restoration.



Peniel staff and friends cut the ribbon on Tee-Tee's Playplace.

- **Peniel Praise Community Church Leadership Transition:** We were honored to install Rev. Rodney Hatfield as the new Lead Pastor of Peniel Praise Community Church, as Bishop Harold Spellman transitions to the role of Founding Pastor Emeritus. This marks a new chapter of leadership while honoring our deep and established roots.
- **Client Care Enhancements:** We have made significant strides in our transition to a full Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. All new clients are now enrolled through the platform, with full implementation expected by year-end.

PENIEL MINISTRIES (Continued)

- Community and Church Engagements:
 - Recently, we were honored to host a delegation of officials from Jefferson County, PA, who were given a tour of our campus and presentation of our program;
 - We welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Robert Sluder, Lead Pastors, Claysburg Church of God, for a visit to Peniel. Pastor Sluder subsequently invited our team to speak at his church, where the congregation responded generously with an offering challenge;
We spoke at Flood City Church during their recent service series giving special emphasis to freedom from addiction;
 - Peniel's Got Talent, now in its third consecutive year, was a time of creative celebration and fundraising for the ministry.
- Broader Ministry Exposure:
 - We were invited to serve as audience members for the taping of an episode of "Hard Questions" on Cornerstone Television in Pittsburgh. It proved to be a great networking opportunity and platform to raise awareness about Christ-centered recovery with other ministry leaders.
 - Bishop Anthony Pelt kindly agreed to feature our newly produced Peniel overview video at the Florida Cocoa Regional Camp Meeting in July.
- Peniel Graduation - August 23, 2025: We are looking ahead with great anticipation to Peniel Graduation 2025, August 23 at 1:00 PM. The annual celebration is themed "Through It All."
A report will be given in the next issue.

We thank God for the continued prayers, leadership and encouragement of the Care Division and our broader Church of God family.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME

SMCH Launches Worship and Arts Academy

At the SMCH Christmas Banquet, Dr. Dusty Wilson, Director of Global Worship Initiative (GWI), presented a generous donation of musical instruments to Dr. Walt and Tammie Mauldin. The gift, provided by a ministry arm of GWI called Instruments of Grace, included:

- Five electronic keyboards
- Three acoustic guitars
- One complete drum set

The instruments became the foundation of the newly launched Worship and Arts Academy at SMCH. In addition, the academy received a \$10,000 donation to help cover the cost of music lessons for residents.

The Worship Arts Academy will be coordinated by Patty Higgenbottom and will include instructors Dr. Pat Corn on guitar, Sean Evans on drums, Sandy Williams instructing dance, and Patty Higgenbottom who will teach four students at a time in the piano lab. Current enrollment is 40 students who have embraced the opportunity with great enthusiasm. The Academy is fast becoming a vibrant part of the SMCH community.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME (Continued)

A significant donation valued at \$35,000 was recently received from Ron Dopf of Cleveland, Tennessee, a longtime friend of the Mauldins. The gift was given in memory of his late wife, Diane Kay, who passed away on January 28, 2025. Her wish was for the Smoky Mountain Children's Home to receive her cherished materials and supplies.

The donation includes:

- Seven state-of-the-art sewing machines
- One embroidery machine
- Multiple looms of fabric and hundreds of spools of thread
- Numerous sewing accessories and tools

These resources are already making an impact. Barbara Miller, of Wooster, Ohio, will use many of the items to continue her meaningful work of making pillowcases and birthday cards for every student. Additional materials will support the SpiritCare Center, helping provide festive and beautiful decorations for upcoming holidays.

Finally, Dr. Walt and Tammie Mauldin traveled to various camp meetings this summer, sharing the mission and work of Smoky Mountain Children's Home across Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. Notably, at the invitation of Dr. Tim Hill, the Tennessee camp meeting took up a special offering to complete the \$200,000 goal needed to renovate the Tennessee Cottage.



SMCH supporter Barbara Miller poses next to the in-kind donation in memory of Diane Kay Dopf.

IBERO HISPANIC-AMERICAN PASTORAL CARE

Ibero Hispanic-American Pastoral Care Continues Ministry Outreach

The following report was received from Dr. Silvina González – Barrera:

In recent weeks, we have ministered in various places and countries. We were in Buenos Aires, Argentina, giving conferences to pastors and leaders, preaching, and counseling in various locations. In June, Guillermo was the speaker at the Northeast Hispanic Regional Convention. He gave several conferences to pastors and leaders from throughout the region who met in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It was a tremendous impact for the pastors!

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IBERO HISPANIC-AMERICAN PASTORAL CARE (Continued)

Afterward, he traveled to Newburgh, NY, preaching at the Central Hispanic Church of God there and providing pastoral counseling.

We then met several times via Zoom with orphanage directors from South America. We gave lectures and pastoral care to the orphanage directors, and we are consulted by them when needed. We have also been appointed by SOW to care for orphanage directors throughout South America.

Guillermo recently traveled to El Salvador, where he gave lectures at the National Library to a prestigious group from the Official International College of Doctors, Academics, doctors, businessmen, judges, etc. from various parts of the world. He was at the Church of God in El Salvador, preaching and giving lectures on pastoral care to the pastors.

Looking ahead, in September, we will be in Cleveland, TN, for a few days to meet with our leaders and participate in the Care Ministries Board meeting.

In October, we will travel to Newburgh, NY, for the Global Missionary Summit, and to San Antonio, Texas, where we will participate in a pastoral retreat.

What a beautiful privilege God gives us to minister to the whole being through Pastoral Care!



Guillermo Barrera ministers

CHAPLAINS COMMISSION

Chaplains Commission Certifies 118 New Chaplains

From April through June of this year, Community Service Chaplain (CSC) training took place in New England, New York, California, North Carolina, and Tennessee for a total of 118 newly certified CSC's. Following the training one participant shared: "I thank God for the Church of God and the CSC ministry training. I have been so enriched by this training, and I look forward to the implementation and utilization of the knowledge gained from this experience. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I am excited about approaching ministry through a whole new lens."

This and other testimonies reflect the heart of CSC ministry as we equip believers to bring compassionate, Spirit-led care to their communities. As new CSCs are commissioned across the country, we celebrate not only the number, but the deep impact this training is having on individuals and the lives they will touch. We remain grateful for the faithful instructors, guest presenters, and local hosts who make this ministry possible and look forward to the continued fruit of this important work.

CHAPLAINS COMMISSION (Continued)

Eight Chaplains Announce Retirement

Over the past several months, the Paces had the distinct privilege to attend the retirement ceremonies of six esteemed military chaplains:

- AF Chaplain, COL, Gloria Bun - Robbins AFB, GA
- AF Chaplain, LTC, Matt Boyd - San Antonio, TX
- Navy Chaplain, CAPT, Phil Bagrow - Washington, DC
- Navy Chaplain, LCDR, Jason Turner - Pensacola, FL
- AF Chaplain, COL, Lance Giannone - Bolling AFB
- Army Chaplain, COL, Steve Cantrell - Columbia, SC

Two other military chaplains bid farewell to military service this summer:

- Army Chaplain, LTC, Barron Wester
- Navy Chaplain, LCDR, Mickey Weikel

The Church of God Chaplains Commission salutes these fine chaplains who have served God and country with honor and distinction. We celebrate the work of all our chaplains, leaders, and volunteers who continue to serve faithfully. Together, we are advancing the mission of the Church of God Chaplains Commission, to bring the hope of the Gospel through a vocation with meaning and service with heart.

Graduations and Endorsements for Vocational Chaplains

We welcomed two new vocational Chaplains who were endorsed in April:

Kim Auten-Civil Air Patrol
Scott Ellington-Hospice.

Congratulations to Army Chaplain LT Juan Reyes, who graduated from the Army Chaplain Basic Course in April and to Army Chaplain CPT Mike Price, who graduated from the Army Chaplain Career Course in June.

Navy Chaplain CAPT Phil Bagrow is congratulated by Chaplains Commission Director Richard Pace.

