



CARE QUARTERLY

Winter 2025

"Showcasing Church of God Care Ministries"



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FROM THE DIRECTOR



RAYMOND F. CULPEPPER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Care Quarterly!

I am so pleased and excited to introduce this inaugural edition of Care Quarterly. Most of you were on the Zoom call a few weeks ago when we discussed the aspirations and logistics of this publication. Thank you for your participation and feedback on that call to get us to a place where we were able to finalize some items to make Care Quarterly a communications piece that you will look forward to and use for your areas of ministry.

Allow me to summarize a few of the key points:

- This electronic newsletter will be published four (4) times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall
- It is intended to keep everyone up-to-date on the latest of what is happening with each of your ministries
- We are seeking "the latest" and "newest" information rather than updates of current programs
- Praise reports, as well as prayer requests, are welcomed



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FROM THE DIRECTOR (continued)

So much of what we do on a day-to-day basis represent miracles of provision that we may take for granted. It is my hope that this newsletter will remind us of the importance of sharing what the Lord has done in our ministries to serve as inspiration for all of us. It should also prompt us to keep each other in our daily prayers.

Cameron Fisher with Church of God Communications will be assisting in the compilation of Care Quarterly. *Deadlines for submission of materials by email will be on the 15th of March, June, September, and December.*

Should you have any questions about Care Quarterly, you can reach Cameron via email at cfisher@churchofgod.org.



Dr. Raymond F. Culpepper, Executive Director

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

What a celebration we had in December at the International Offices. It was a blessing for all the Care leaders who were able attend the Christmas gathering where they shared fellowship, a delicious meal, some entertainment, and powerful testimonies of how the Lord is prospering the ministries of Care.

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

In order to acquaint readers with the ministries of Care, some of which are rather new to the fold, this edition will feature at least one brief news item or report on each. To learn more or contact any of the ministries, please see the information supplied in this edition.

CHAPLAINS COMMISSION

QUICK FACTS:

- Over 16,000 Community Service and Vocational chaplains around the world
- Chaplains Commission Center in Romania recently dedicated

Chaplains Commission Continues Training – Two more Church of God ministers received assignments as Navy chaplains, adding to the Church of God influence in the military. These were assigned to Arlington National Cemetery, one of the most critical in the Navy. In the Army, the Church of God has two Chief of Chaplains stationed in Washington, D.C. One correctional chaplain recently reported 60 water baptisms in a prison in one day.

In a historic moment for the Church of God and the U.S. Army, Chaplain (LTC) Patricia Nichols achieved a significant milestone as the first woman Army Chaplain from the Church of God to be promoted to the distinguished rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The Chaplains Commission offers superb training in vocational and community service training supplied by the CC, the next course of which began in January.



LTC Patricia Nichols

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

MEN & WOMEN OF ACTION

QUICK FACTS:

- MWOA completed 110 projects in 2024, saving the Church of God and local churches \$7.5 million in labor and materials
- More than 1,000 volunteers completing 66,400 hours

MWOA Builds Two Churches in Bahamas – MWOA reported a very successful and productive two weeks in the Bahamas recently when their team constructed two churches in just two weeks...and they were able to raise funds to leave the churches debt-free!

This is in addition to other recent activities that included delivery of 800 boxes of food and Christmas gifts to needy families in Delbarton, W.V. It was reported that 100 people gave their hearts to the Lord during this event!

In ongoing disaster relief, MWOA dispatched a total of 22 teams and delivered three containers of materials to the residents of Western North Carolina in wake of the destruction of Hurricane Helene.



Teams assist MWOA during the recent distribution in Delbarton, W.V.

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

MINISTERIAL CARE

QUICK FACTS

- “Pastoring on Purpose” is one of the highest-rated podcasts
- SpiritCare serves more than 4,000 retired ministers and widows

CMC Serves Largest Number in 2024 – The Center for Ministerial Care reported that in 2024 they provided counseling to a record number of clients. The certified counselors with CMC offer exclusive services for Church of God pastors and family members in grief, mental health, and burnout.

It was reported that 45 states and regions across the nation now have SpiritCare representatives in their offices. In addition, the podcast “Pastoring on Purpose” is gaining listeners, reaching thousands dealing with pastoral care issues.



MINISTRY TO ISRAEL

QUICK FACTS:

- Since its founding in the 1990s, MTI has helped over 300,000 Jews back to their historic homeland
- MTI has a budget of over \$2 million, all through donations and gifts

Ministry to Israel Secures Space in Jerusalem – MTI Director Michael Utterback reports that over the past few months MTI has been in negotiations to purchase office and ministry space in a building in Jerusalem following decades of paying rent to others. In early 2025, MTI staff and contractors in Israel will begin renovating the building, putting in a second floor after the first of the year. According to Director Utterback, the cost is \$1.5 million, “but we are looking to the Lord with confidence, knowing He will touch people’s hearts to supply the finances.”



MTI Support Center in Jerusalem

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

NORTH AMERICA & HISPANIC PASTORAL CARE

QUICK FACTS

- Drs. Guillermo and Silvina Barrera provide networking and pastoral care services in South America from their native Uruguay.

OPERATION COMPASSION

QUICK FACTS:

- OC has worked and assisted in 72 countries and 41 states
- Distributed \$72 million in gifts and relief (2023)

Operation Compassion Expanding – Operation Compassion continues to impact the nation and world through providing millions of dollars in relief supplies. OC's main campus in Cleveland was recently expanded with a relocation to a new warehouse, nearly doubling their space to 120,000 square feet.

For the holidays, OC delivered a 53-foot trailer of toys to both the SMCH and needy families under Southwest Indian Ministries (SWIM).

OC has dispatched four semi trucks to the Dream Center in Los Angeles to assist fire victims.

In continuing disaster relief for Western North Carolina, Operation Compassion delivered and installed eight (8) water systems that produce 100,000 gallons of water per day...that's 800,000 gallons to the ravaged region. This is in addition to the 68 semi-trailer loads of relief supplies.

The expansion from the Cleveland main campus includes plans for OC West in Gallup, New Mexico, and OC South in Ocala, Florida.

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

PENIEL MINISTRIES

QUICK FACTS:

- Fully licensed treatment facility in Johnstown, Pennsylvania for over 40 years
- Peniel has seen 900 clients successfully conquer drug and alcohol addictions

Peniel Transforming Lives of Families - One of the newer ministries joining the Care family is Peniel Ministries. Long established in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, newly-appointed director Durean Coleman and his wife, Renee, continue the tradition of transforming lives through alcohol and drug rehabilitation.

The Colemans reported that they have taken the treatment one step further for single mothers in their provision of free childcare while the mother receives counseling and/or treatment. In addition, they reported the securing of a \$75,000 grant for a new playground recently completed on the campus.



Peniel playground

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

REAL LIFE VILLAGE

QUICK FACTS:

- RLV recently acquired 27 acres in Cleveland, Tennessee to build the first phase of their campus
- RLV was established to assist adults with developmental disabilities

Real Life Village Reports Successful 'Vision Banquet' – RLV Director Mitch Maloney reported there were over 200 people in attendance and many commented about the presence of God throughout the inaugural Vision Banquet held on November 19. Maloney reported \$47,501.18 in cash and \$76,408.00 in pledges received during the successful fund-raiser.

“My wife Sharon and I were so blessed to see so many busy people who cared enough to come and buy into our vision to provide housing, therapies, counseling, and training ‘For the Least of These.’”

RLV plans to begin construction of their first buildings and to develop Day Programs, and assist other people and cities to do what they are doing.



CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

SERVING ORPHANS WORLDWIDE

QUICK FACTS:

- 100% of donations go directly to orphan care around the globe
- SOW rescues, trains, and sustains struggling children's homes

SOW Reports Emergency Situation in DR Congo – In late November, Serving Orphans Worldwide liaison Ken Anderson reported an emergency situation at one of the partner homes in Bunia, DR Congo.

The recently constructed campus suffered a devastating fire. SOW helped launch the campus with large refugee camps and thousands of orphaned children. Thankfully, none of the 80 war-orphaned children residing at the home or staff were injured. An initial estimate to restore and refurnish the building and provide temporary housing and relief is \$75,000. Please continue to pray for our friends in DR Congo for the peace of Christ to intervene.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME

QUICK FACTS:

- SMCH ministries to over 500 children each year
- SMCH is the oldest benevolent ministry of the Church of God (1920)

SMCH Seeking Funds for Re-Build – In the fall of 2023, the Smoky Mountain Children's Home suffered a total loss of a staff house due to fire on their campus. Nine people that occupied the house miraculously escaped the flames.

It has taken almost a year for the insurance companies to finally provide a settlement, but the amount of \$100,162.52 is just not enough to cover replacement costs and rather than build a single dwelling, SMCH has plans to construct two side-by-side town houses that will house two staff families. SMCH is seeking to raise an additional \$200,000 to complete the project. Part of the mission and ministry of SMCH has been to find permanency for those in their care. Children and young people from all walks of life need a safe place to experience the love of family. During the calendar year of 2024, SMCH provided a forever home for 44 children and young people through their adoption agency. This is an all-time record.

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

SPIRIT CARE CENTER

QUICK FACTS:

- Provides 36 apartments with 30 occupants in Sevierville, Tennessee
- Receiving multiple upgrades this year

Spirit Care Center Gets New Equipment – The Iris B. Vest SpiritCare Center in Sevierville (adjacent to the SMCH), recently reported the installation of four new heat pump units. The generous donation will make life that much better for the residents who live at the center conceived by the late former first lady of the Church of God, Iris Vest.

S.W.I.M. (SOUTHWEST INDIAN MINISTRIES)

QUICK FACTS:

- SWIM supports 33 churches associated with the Navajo Nation
- Partnering with Operation Compassion in developing 100 acres to establish “OC West”

World Missions Gives Seed Gift Toward S.W.I.M. Grant - Church of God World Missions recently contributed the first \$10,000 toward a matching grant of \$250,000 to support Southwest Indian Ministries (SWIM) in Gallup, New Mexico.

The donation will go toward the “Living Waters Project” which seeks to raise \$500,000 for renovations and the installation of filtration systems capable of purifying 100,000 gallons of water per day. Operation Compassion and Men and Women of Action are also partners in supplying the water systems and skilled labor. (continued)

CARE MINISTRY UPDATES

The first system has been installed, along with a filling station where the local Navajo people come to fill containers with clean water. Pastors are filling large totes of water to deliver to their churches and people of their community.

David Galindo, director of OC West, inspects the first new water filtration system installed in partnership with SWIM



New SWIM Directors Making Impact – A new paradigm of leadership was implemented at the General Assembly which combined the state leadership of the Church of God in New Mexico with Southwest Indian Ministries (SWIM).

Combined, the two include 26 churches and 40 pastors. New Administrative Bishop Mike Newcomb and his wife, Stephanie, have logged over 20,000 miles in four months visiting and ministering to the residents of New Mexico and the Navajo nation.