PRISON CARE MINISTRIES

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Eulogy to Geoffrey "Geoff" McMillan

By Sev Simwinga



I write on behalf of the entire Prison Care Ministries family—our Trustee Board; our staff and volunteers, both current and former; our supporters, past and present; our current and former residents; and the many friends of PCM. Together, we gather with heavy hearts to remember and honour Geoffrey McMillan—known to us simply and affectionately as Geoff.

Geoff passed away in the early hours of 26 August 2026 at Waikato Hospital. His passing is a profound loss to his family, friends, colleagues, and the many people whose lives were touched by his compassion, wisdom, and faithful service.

I first met Geoff in 2012, when I was a Probation Officer. At the time, one of the men on my workload was receiving support from Prison Care Ministries. Through that connection, I came to know Geoff and gained an early appreciation of his deep commitment to helping men rebuild their lives after prison.

About three years later, I joined the PCM team on a full-time basis. This gave me the privilege of working closely alongside Geoff and learning from him. He was a man with a genuine heart for people—especially those whom society could easily overlook, judge, or abandon. He believed that every person had value and that, with the right support, encouragement, and opportunity, lives could be transformed.

Geoff and Jill may both be small in stature, with an unassuming presence that could easily conceal the strength within them, but their influence and the effect they have had on the lives of others are enormous. Together, they have been true movers and shakers—people whose faithful service has brought about lasting change, often quietly and without seeking recognition.

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Geoff had a heart of gold. He guided and led with a depth of wisdom and patience that could only be attributed to God. He was admired and respected by many, and I count it a great privilege to have had him as my mentor.

Two years after I joined PCM, Geoff passed the baton of leadership on to me. However, his guidance did not end with his retirement. He continued to serve as my mentor and supervisor, generously sharing his experience, wisdom, and encouragement. Whenever I needed advice, reassurance, or simply someone who understood the challenges of this work, Geoff was there.

He remained a steady presence in my life and in the life of Prison Care Ministries until his passing. His influence continued quietly but powerfully, and much of what PCM is today rests upon the foundation that he and others faithfully and painstakingly established.

Geoff's life reminds us that true leadership is not measured by position or recognition, but by service, humility, and the difference we make in the lives of others—one person at a time. He did not merely speak about compassion; he lived it. He offered hope to people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives and helped them see that their past did not have to determine their future.

For me personally, Geoff was much more than a former colleague. He was a mentor, a supervisor, a trusted adviser, and a friend. I will always be grateful for the confidence he placed in me when he passed the baton, and for the way he continued to walk alongside me in the years that followed.

Although we mourn his passing, we also give thanks to God for the life he lived, the people he served, and the legacy he leaves behind. His work will continue through Prison Care Ministries and through every person he encouraged, guided, supported, and inspired.

Geoff, thank you for your faithful service. Thank you for your wisdom and patience. Thank you for believing in people and for faithfully standing beside those who needed someone in their corner. Thank you for passing on the baton and for continuing to guide me as I carried it forward.

You will be deeply missed, but your legacy will endure.

May you rest in eternal peace.