UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION

MELL T. BRUTON]	
Plaintiff,]	
]	
v.]	No. 3:12-0563
]	Judge Sharp
MEN OF VALOR PRISON MINISTRY,]	
et al.]	
Defendants.]	

MEMORANDUM

The plaintiff, proceeding pro se, is an inmate at the South Central Correctional Center in Clifton, Tennessee. He brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the Men of Valor Prison Ministry and its founder, Carl Carlsen, seeking damages.

The complaint does not contain a precise statement of the plaintiff's claims. It appears, however, that the defendants are engaged in a program to help prisoners. They have allegedly discriminated against the plaintiff by denying him "the Absolute Necessary Assistance required to survive."

To establish a claim for § 1983 relief, the plaintiff must plead and prove that the defendants, while acting under color of state law, deprived him of a right or privilege guaranteed by the Constitution or laws of the United States. <u>Parratt v. Taylor</u>, 451 U.S. 527, 535 (1981).

The plaintiff has failed to show that the defendants were at

any time acting under color of state law. Nor has he alleged a specific violation of his federally protected rights. As a consequence, the plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which § 1983 relief can be granted.

When a prisoner plaintiff proceeding *pro se* has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, the Court is obliged to dismiss the instant action *sua sponte*. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).

An appropriate order will be entered.

Kevin H. Sharp

United States District Judge