



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Psalm 95:1-3 (NIV)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is a great God, The great King above all gods.

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have enjoyed a beautiful summer. With Thanksgiving approaching, continued thanks are being given for your faithfulness and support in this ministry of God's Kingdom work. May our Lord Jesus shine His favour and blessings upon you and your families.

The Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes in a new way recently, allowing me to see a community in need that was invisible for so long.

This spring, I was introduced to a local motel that's being used as emergency housing. I had driven by this motel countless times, but never saw the need myself. UCO had the opportunity to support the residents in very practical ways.



A small group was requesting support in the form of gift cards and groceries for the residents. After being introduced to some of the residents, UCO provided them with these needed items along with some other support and encouragement. During this time of connecting with some of the individuals and families, we began building relationships. As they shared their stories I felt confirmation with the Holy Spirit that this was an assignment from God.

The residents here are isolated and don't have easy access to amenities, making it difficult to access essential services, such as public transportation, groceries, medical care, and even reliable internet service. The location of this housing also makes it incredibly challenging to navigate the process of applying for programs and social housing, making appointments, keeping deadlines and accessing the resources that are mostly available in the urban core.

Knowing that God had opened my eyes to this situation, I was grateful that UCO could supplement and help in practical ways, in bringing opportunity to unite in service, alongside other "parts of the body."

1 Corinthians 12:12 (CJB)

For just as the body is one but has many parts; and all the parts of the body, though many, constitute one body, so it is with the Messiah.

Throughout this summer, we made phone calls, networking between the City of Ottawa, social workers and other ministries to complete documents and solidify housing contracts. This experience was overwhelming to one of the residents, who was doing her best to provide for her young family while juggling paperwork and phone calls in order to secure housing that she had applied for.

It was in this moment, sitting on the curb at the shelter where she was staying, that we connected, prayed and worked through these challenges and obstacles together. Despite her different faith belief, she graciously accepted my prayers, help and friendship. I was able to pray that God would clear a straight path, remove the stumbling blocks, and allow the documents to be received on time. I sat with her until the offices were closed and there was nothing more that we could do. We just had to wait, in faith, and trust that God was working on it.

Psalm 27:14 (ESV)
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

I love how this Psalm begins and ends with wait for the Lord! Sometimes we need things repeated when we are in stressful situations and emotions are high. I find that the second reminder helps to bring focus to the truth that has already been spoken; the Lord is the beginning and end of all things.

He is also present with us in the middle of our waiting, and it is his strength that gives us hope and courage while we wait in the gap with faith.

The very next day I got a call from this young mom, saying that her rental was approved. Hallelujah! Glory be to God!

What a privilege and honour it is to be a part of the body of Christ, and to be a reflection of God's great love, to shine the light of Jesus to those in need of him. God hears us and He loves us. We can trust Him! Let's praise Him in all circumstances!

**For God's Glory,
Cheryl Bradley**



UCO's 30th Anniversary

God-willing, next year, UCO will be celebrating 30 Years of Ministry to the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized of downtown Ottawa. We give thanks to God for all those who have been so faithful over the years, and especially to Katrine Barton Coward, our founding Executive Director. We hope to celebrate with a service of thanksgiving, followed by a luncheon. Please mark the date on your calendar: Saturday, May 06, 2023. 10:00 a.m. More details will follow.

How to Donate:

1. By **Interac e-transfer** to: donate@urbanchristianoutreach.ca
2. **By mail**, send a cheque to: Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) P.O. Box 77033 Ottawa, ON K1S 5N2
3. **By Credit Card**: follow the links on our website at www.uco-ottawa.ca
4. **By Credit Card**: through **Canada Helps** at www.canadahelps.ca
5. **Through the United Way**