



## Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Dear Friends in Christ,

THE LORD IS RISEN!!! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! HALLELUJAH!

*Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2 ESV*

*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel... 2 Tim 1:8-10 ESV*

On December 02nd, I required surgery to repair my injured wrist. On December 03<sup>rd</sup>, as I was drifting off to sleep in the afternoon, I heard the Lord speak to me in a firm and loud voice, "Call Heather!"

Too tired and too selfish to obey, I answered in a whiny voice,

"Oh Lord, I just can't; I'm so tired. I'll call her later."

And again, He firmly said to me,

"Call Heather!"

By the power of the Holy Spirit, I sat up and called my sister Heather. We chatted and prayed together for two and a half blessed hours. It was an ordained appointment in time. Five hours later I received a call from my brother, telling me that my sister Heather had unexpectedly died.

How great is our God, that he would offer me that beautiful gift of grace to have that precious time with my beloved sister, Heather. She loved Jesus, and I know that she is with him in Paradise this very day. Jesus takes the sting out of death. He did this on the Cross. He knows what we are going through. He knows what we are about to go through. He knows everything. How great is his love for us! We are called to live intentional, radical, and obedient lives to our Lord, to remember him and to follow him every moment of every day. Only then can we truly find wholeness in Jesus. Only then can we truly find healing and Peace, because if we are not walking with him, or listening to Him, or at least open to listening, we might just miss out on his sweet miracles. In our imperfections, he makes a way, by his gift of grace. If you are reading this, and want to draw closer to Jesus, we are here to listen, and to pray with you. Sometimes being poor just means being poor in Spirit.

Call us at 613-233-6633 and give us the joy and honour of coming alongside you, expectantly, in prayer. We serve a huge God, who is always faithful. to listen, and to answer our prayers, according to his perfect will for us.

***“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 ESV***

Jesus loves the poor, He was poor, and he was homeless. He died for us, He died instead of us. He died for the poor, for those addicted to drugs; he died for the mentally ill. When our Father calls us home, we will all be equal and at home in Heaven. There will be no poor, no homeless, no marginalized, no addictions, no mental health illnesses, no dementia, no sin, no sore knees or hips, no shame, and no condemnation. We won't judge one another, and may God helps us not to do that here on earth. We pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Lord, please help us to love those whom we have trouble loving, so that your Kingdom may come indeed. Open our eyes to see others as you see them. Give us the eyes of Jesus. Open our hearts to love those who are hard to love. Give us the heart of Jesus. For when we accept that we are fully loved by Jesus, and when we receive his love, we have the extraordinary, supernatural ability to love others. Only then are we able to see Jesus in one another, to love and to be loved, not only by others but by Him. Because of Him. Because of his love that was poured out on the Cross for us, so that we might have eternal life, and so that, filled with the love of Christ, we might serve and love one another. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: thank you for your love for the poor. They need our love more than ever.

How do we at UCO, show Christ's love to the poor? Because of your financial, and prayer support:

- \*we come alongside the poor and befriend them; in return they become our friends
- \*we help in practical ways, with housing, furniture, clothing, referrals to various agencies, etc., including tax preparation
- \*we are authorized to confirm addresses for the homeless to get on municipal, provincial, and federal voting lists, including addresses such as ‘behind bushes,’ and under bridge #1, etc.
- \*we help to find doctors, dentists, lawyers, counsellors, and other professionals
- \*we facilitate ‘Caring for the Wounded Heart’ groups, a joint initiative of The Bible Society and The Trauma Institute
- \*we accompany the poor to medical appointments, and sit with those who are dying
- \*we manage ‘My Chart’ for a few and help them to keep track of medical appointments
- \*we attend court hearings, and visit our friends in prisons, hospitals, and care homes
- \*we offer Bible Study, usually one-on-one
- \*we offer the Alpha Course from time to time, as the Holy Spirit leads
- \*we break bread together
- \*we worship together through prayer and singing
- \*we introduce people to our friend Jesus
- \*we pray for them, and with them
- \*we hang out, and sometimes we go for a walk, or to a movie, or to the art gallery, or a museum
- \*we offer basic literacy and math instruction
- \*we share the hope that we have in Christ Jesus with others, and we share Jesus' calling for us to be born again

**“ Probably no Gospel theme apart from, “Ye must be born again” is more relevant today, and I preach on some facet of this subject in virtually all of my crusades. Our world is filled with fear, hate, lust, greed, war, and utter despair. Surely, the second coming of Jesus Christ, his “re-entry,” is the only hope of replacing these depressing features with trust, love, universal peace and prosperity. For it, the world, wittingly or inadvertently, waits.” Billy Graham, in his forward of John Wesley White’s book, “Re-entry” 1970**

The poor are so very grateful to our community of Urban Christian Outreach, which includes our volunteers, Board members, supporters, and prayer partners. They sometimes donate financially, as well. One of our poor friends who is on ODSP, and has very little disposable income, donates \$5.00 per month. She also donates \$5.00 most Sundays to her church! How beautiful is that!

We facilitate, opportunities for prayer and healing ministry. We all need healing, even when we think we don't - especially when we think we don't, and we continue to seek God's healing ourselves. I recently attended a 'Victorious Ministries Through Christ' Prayer Ministry School, After that, I had the privilege of attending Bridlegrove Bible Chapel in Toronto, where one of the elders was sharing a reflection about hymns, and he said,

**'Often we get caught up in the melody of a hymn and miss the impact of the words.'**

How true. Worshipping God is so important to us and to those whom we serve. I like to sing my little heart out at home, in praise and worship to Jesus. Perhaps you do, also. Sometimes I will ask Alexa, (my little music box, who I often mistakenly call Siri) to play a song on repeat where I can sing for hours. The music takes me from my worldly troubles, and selfish ambitions, to the foot of the throne, where Jesus meets me, and transforms me. I am in this place at the moment, and felt our Lord's calling to sit at my computer and write.

I've been listening to a worship song by **Chris Tomlin, titled, "Is He Worthy?"**

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't  
Stop the light from getting through (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)  
Is all creation groaning? (It is)  
Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Of all blessing and honour and glory, Is He worthy of this? He is

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy?  
Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From every people and tribe  
Every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
To reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honour and glory, Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy of this? He is! Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
He is! He is!

Thank you, dear friends for your continued support of our ministry work, especially as we soldier on through very troubled times and spiritual battles. Please pray for us, especially for protection and provision. Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!

*So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts her mouth. Job 5:16 ESV*

May our Lord bless you this Easter season with his Peace and Joy.  
With Gratitude, and In Christ Jesus, Jill

**My Song is Love Unknown, Samuel Crossman (1624 - 1684)**

My song is love unknown,  
My saviour's love for me;  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be:  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange and none  
The longed-for Christ would know:  
But O my friend, my friend indeed,  
Who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way  
And his sweet praises sing,  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their king:  
Then 'crucify' is all their breath,  
And for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight:  
Sweet injuries! yet they at these  
Themselves displease and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The prince of life they slay!  
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,  
That he his foes, from thence, might free.

Here might I stay and sing  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like thine! This is my friend in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend. Amen.