

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #95

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

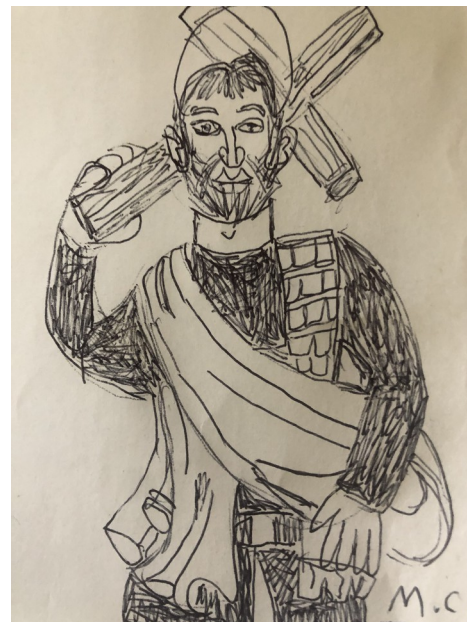
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25-26a

Life can be so painful at times. There is so much suffering in the world we live in. It can be depressing just to read about it, let alone live through it. Some of us may be struggling with medical problems, financial challenges, legal or relationship issues; perhaps we or a loved one are burdened with addictions to mind-altering or mood-altering substances or conditions, such as drugs, alcohol, gambling, work, pornography, spending, relationships, or television, etc. Perhaps our struggle is with depression, or dementia, or other mental health conditions. Perhaps we have become paralysed by the overwhelming agony that can come with such suffering. Imagine going through all of this without a place to call home, or without enough money to live day to day.

Now, imagine going through all of this without Jesus. This is the plight of those among us who don't have the hope that we have in our precious Jesus.

Jesus is our hope. In the midst of our suffering, he comes alongside us. He reminds us that we have a home with him in Heaven. He reminds us that we are not alone in our suffering. Jesus is our Divine example of suffering. He became homeless. He suffered to the point of death, and then he rose again, so that in our suffering we would not lose hope, and in our death, we would rise again too. What agony it is to suffer, and yet what a privilege it is to bear some of Jesus' pain!



Martin, not his real name, won't be celebrating Easter with family this year. Struggling with a personality disorder, Martin is estranged from family, and rarely gets to see his daughter. He longs to turn back the clock to happier days before he became ill. We are coming alongside Martin, in his legal battles, to help him in his quest to increase his supervised visitation with his daughter. Please pray for peace and for healing for Martin.

We witness so much suffering as we minister to God's poor among us, but we walk boldly in his Resurrection victory, as we imagine new life for our friends who don't know Jesus; we share the hope that we have found in our Christ Jesus! Like the Apostle Paul, who was filled with joy while chained in a prison cell, we imagine the joy that our poor friends can experience even in the midst of their poverty and suffering!

Dana, (not her real name) is facing serious health issues. Her housing situation is precarious, and she is struggling with depression. She is putting her hope in Jesus, and is asking us to pray that her faith will increase. She is feeling encouraged as she reads Scripture, the Psalms, in particular.

Please pray for a fresh in-filling of the Holy Spirit in Dana, that she would be comforted.

As we enter into Holy Week, may our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ draw us ever so near to the foot of the Cross, that we might know his love, and receive his power, for it is through his power that we are blessed to be able to carry on in the midst of our own trials, and to share his love with those who are without hope.

Would you please prayerfully consider partnering with us by making a sacrificial donation, so that we may continue to share the hope of Jesus' resurrection with the lost? We are putting our trust in Jesus to provide! Thanks be to God!

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

Resurrection Joy and Happy Easter!

With Love and Gratitude, In Christ,
Jill Wilson, E.D.

UCO's Current Needs:

- 1. Money to cover our expenses**
 - 2. Men's and women's socks, lined spring jackets**
 - 3. Tim Horton's, A&W, and McDonald's gift cards**
 - 4. Grocery store gift cards**
 - 5. Sunscreen, toothbrushes, and deodorant**
 - 6. Water bottles, and backpacks**
- Thank you! Praise be to God!**