



## Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #93

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Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

I pray that you are well, and that you are being upheld by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we travel this journey together, through changing and uncertain times, the one certain that we can always count on is Jesus. He never changes. His promises are the same today as they were yesterday, and yet Holy Scripture tells us that they *are new every morning*.

We can take comfort in the certainty that the hot summer weather will turn cool, that the leaves on the trees will burst forth in colour, and that the coming winter weather will cause us to slow down and to be still before our God. But what about those who live in poverty and despair, those who have no hope? This Thanksgiving, we are so grateful, so privileged to share the Gospel with our brothers and sisters who are struggling on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. So many are desperate to hear a word of hope, who need the saving gift of mercy and grace. Thank you dear friends, that by grace, and by your loving and generous prayers and offerings, we have been privileged to share the hope that we have in Jesus, to the poor, the homeless and the marginalized of Ottawa for over 30 years!

Because of the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us, our mission is never dull or routine. It is intentional. It is difficult at times, and very challenging. Sometimes it is heartbreaking.

***Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30***  
**ESV**

I recently arrived on the scene of a drug overdose in the ByWard market, where moments before, 2 men had overdosed on drugs. An elderly bystander had run down the street to alert two police officers on foot. The officers responded and administered the nasal spray Naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, and they were trying hard to rouse the unconscious men. I stood there praying silently and called out to our Lord for mercy, and for healing.

Shortly thereafter, firefighters and paramedics arrived, and tended to the men. It took some time, but Praise God they eventually regained consciousness, all in God's perfect timing!



***But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*** Matt 20:26b-28

While this was going on, I turned my attention to the elderly gentleman next to me, who just moments ago, had gone beyond the limits of his own physical challenges to run for help, and in doing so, had cared for his fellow neighbours. He was clearly shaken up. I introduced myself, and thanked him for saving these young men's lives, and told him that God had used him in a mighty way that morning. He seemed encouraged by that. He pointed to a bag and a backpack laying on the sidewalk just metres away, along with drug paraphernalia, and told me that had witnessed the young men doing drugs moments before; he watched them walk away, only to collapse under some scaffolding further down the street. They were hidden from view of passers by. I was able to inform the police of the men's belongings, many metres away, which provided identification, as well as important information for the health care providers as to which drugs they had taken.

I invited this angel sent by God to lunch, but unfortunately he had to decline, as he was on his way to an appointment. He did say yes to my invitation for a short prayer, though, before going on his way. I thank God for him, and for all of the first responders who worked to save the lives of these two young men.

We serve an intentional God, a God who heals, a God who continues to grace us with miracles and blessings. As we give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest this Thanksgiving, let's remember that he has a calling for each one of us, no matter where we are, at any given moment in the day. There is someone near to us who needs encouragement this very day, someone who needs the love of Christ, to give them hope to carry on.

We are all hurting on some level, and we all have ways in which we mask our pain. Perhaps you need prayer and encouragement. Please let us know how we might be praying for you. May I humbly ask for your prayers for 2 families members who are facing serious health challenges? Thank you, dear friends. May we be open, like this elderly gentleman, to live our lives so intentionally, that we invite the power of the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

'Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless us, that we might be a blessing to the One True God this very day. Give us the heart and mind of Christ, and empower us to do the work that you have given us to do. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.'

***He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Luke 10:2***

Christ's Blessings to you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving.  
With Gratitude, in Christ,  
Jill