



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #70

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I am humbled to report that even in the midst of trials and struggles on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, God is at work in a mighty way, changing lives of those whom we have the privilege to come alongside.

Martin (not his real name) is a vulnerable man whom I have had the privilege to get to know over the years. He suffers with mental health issues, and is vulnerable to the drug scene. We have helped him with housing and with legal issues in the past, and we continue to meet with him to study God's Word. Martin has come to put his hope in Jesus Christ. Recently, having been wined and dined by a drug dealer, Martin agreed to allow him into his home for a visit. The dealer never left. He took over Martin's apartment, (and his life as well) using it to sell drugs. We are seeing a growing trend in home take-overs. The vulnerable are most at risk.

Martin didn't disclose this to me until after he had received an eviction notice. We worked with housing agencies and with the landlord to try to remedy the situation, to no avail. The dealer was arrested and is now serving time in prison. Martin was evicted and is now living in a shelter once again. Shortly thereafter, Martin's mother died. Estranged from his family, he was told that he was not welcome at the funeral. There is so much more to this story - a 'Job' story, really, because he truly has lost everything - his apartment, his furniture and belongings, his mother, his family, and some friends. A few months ago, he also lost his part-time job. Many people would have put their head down in despair, but not Martin. Instead, in the midst of all the confusion and loss, he called on Jesus.

***For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my
mother's womb.*** Psalm 139:13

God brought us together, where we prayed for mercy and grace. Martin is clinging to Jesus to see him through this time of trial. God may be opening a door for Martin to enter a Christian program of recovery. Please pray for God's perfect will to be done.

The work that we have been blessed with is not easy work. We have been called to work with people that are often rejected by society. We are called out of our comfort zones and into a world that might include confusing, annoying or aggressive behaviour; poor hygiene; weapons; drugs and danger. Most people don't want to have to deal with these issues, or to work with those whom we serve; the turnover rate of workers can be high. Putting all these things aside, and by the Grace of God and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we go into this world of discomfort, as we are called, to share the Good News with the captives: that Jesus Christ came to die for each one of them, and not just for some. Not only can they too look forward to a day when there will be no more pain, and no more tears, but that in the midst of their poverty and circumstances, they would find rest, peace and hope this very day, through a personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May our Lord wrap His loving arms around all those who are suffering in Ottawa, and may He equip and use our ministry in a mighty way to bring revival to this small corner of the Earth.

Thank you dear friends, for your faithfulness, your beautiful generosity, and for your partnership with UCO. This is our ministry – together, with God's help, we can continue to be the church without walls in the downtown core, and to open up God's living Word to those who might not otherwise hear.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
Romans 10:14

With Love and Gratitude in Christ,
Jill Wilson

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UCO's Quarterly Update

Year to Date Income:	\$14,197.73
Year to Date Expenses	\$20,122.41
Year to Date Shortfall	- \$5,924.68