



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #73

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Dear Neighbour,

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing well.”

James 2:8 ESV

Who are our neighbours?

I met Eric recently on a walkabout downtown. I hadn't seen him in sometime, and it was very clear to me that he wasn't doing very well. Off of his medication, and looking quite sickly, I asked if he might like to join me for lunch. To my delight, he accepted. A man of few words, we walked in silence, and I smiled, thanking God for the privilege of walking alongside him. There was an unspoken joy, an anticipation of reconnecting over a meal. We entered the little coffee shop and he ordered soup and a sandwich; I ordered the soup. It was simply the best bowl of soup that I had ever had. I told the waitress/cook that it was so good, had I been at home I would have licked the bowl!

I knew that God was up to something; you just don't get this kind of soup in a place like that. And I was right; God **was** up to something. He was healing our friend on the street, with a hot bowl of soup, with company who loved him (yes, I love him by the grace of God, who gives me love that I just don't have, to love those whom he puts before me!), and with His Glorious Presence! So simple, and yet so profound. Eric, Jesus, and UCO. Together, we journey along.

Eric would reveal his health problems, and his practical needs as well. We were able to book a doctor's appointment, renew some medication, collect some needed clothing, and spend precious time together – with Jesus. Yes, Eric is our neighbour. He suffers from mental illness, and is often in conversation with the voices that he hears inside his head. Jesus, the one who came to save Eric, breaks through the barriers, and interrupts the voices. He calls us into prayer and brings Eric to a place of stillness and Peace.

Yes, Eric is our neighbour, but I was acutely aware that day that Jesus is also our neighbour. He is our Lord, our Saviour, our Redeemer, and our neighbour. How then, can we love Jesus with our whole hearts? How can we love Jesus as ourselves? We are called to give sacrificially, to love sacrificially, but in our flesh we cannot do this alone. Thank God that he did not leave us alone, but that He sent us a Helper, another Neighbour: The Holy Spirit who is with us always. And yet, while He is always with us, if you are like me, in our humanness, we sometimes forget about Him. And yet without Him, we cannot minister to our poor neighbours. Without the help of our Neighbour, The Holy Spirit, we would not witness the amazing success of the students in our Adult Education Class at the Royal Ottawa. By the Grace of God, it is considered one of the most successful programs there!

If you have already partnered with us to fulfill God's commandment to love and serve our poor neighbours, we are so grateful to you and we give thanks to God for you. During this season of Lent, may we humbly ask you to prayerful consider if you might be able to sacrifice more? We are in great need of new Board members, as well as new monthly supporters. We want to continue to shine the Light of Jesus to our neighbours most in need, but we simply cannot continue to do so without your help. If you are not already a financial supporter of UCO, would you be so kind as to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to help us at this time?

Thank you, dear neighbour, for upholding our ministry work in prayer, and for your love and generosity. We invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting on May 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican Church.

May you be blessed with a Holy season of Lent, and a Joyful Easter! Peace and Grace of Christ,
Jill

UCO's URGENT NEEDS!

We are praying and asking God to raise up people by March 17th who can help us with the following urgent needs:

1. **New Board Members:** We are in need of 3 new Board members, including a Treasurer. We meet monthly from September to June.
2. **Monthly Supporters:** We are in need of 12 monthly donors, who can help us to meet our monthly ministry expenses. Donations can be made via monthly post-dated cheques, or through our P.A.R. program (Pre-Authorized Remittance through Faithlife Financial) or online by credit card through Canada Helps, which can be accessed on our website at www.uco-ottawa.ca
3. **Supporting Churches:** Would your church consider supporting us, and inviting us to speak to your congregation?

Please contact Jill at 613-233-6633 or jill@uco-ottawa.ca Thank you.

UCO's Quarterly Update:

2016 Year to Date:

Actual Income:	\$8,064.22
Actual Expenses:	\$4,771.91
Surplus:	\$3,292.31