



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #74

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Dear UCO Community,

***“Be still and know that I am God.”
Psalm 46:10 ESV***

This Thanksgiving, we have given thanks to our Lord for his beautiful love for the poor, and for his unending faithfulness to each one of us. How he loves us so! I have been blessed to have had a few months of Sabbatical rest, and while I wasn't able to travel as I had hoped, God met me where I was, and truly washed me with his love. He always knows best, and answers our prayers according to his perfect will for each one of us.

While I rested, our faithful volunteer, Pamela, looked after the needs of some of our regular clientele, meeting regularly to have fellowship, to study the Word of God, and to teach sewing and knitting. Her faithfulness allowed others continuity of care, and allowed me the peace to rest, with the knowledge that they were in loving hands. We are thanking God for Pamela.

We are blessed to be upheld by volunteers, like you, who support us through prayer and financial offerings; by providing toiletries, bus tickets, hats, mitts and scarves; by sharing our ministry work with friends and colleagues; by overseeing the ministry through Board member participation; by photocopying updates or stuffing envelopes, or cooking for our Alpha program. It takes many hands and hearts to form the community of UCO, and we thank God for each one of you.

Enrolment in our classroom at the Royal Ottawa continues to grow. Students are working on math, English, and life skills. Many work hard to 'catch up' on learning the skills that were delayed due to their struggles with mental illness. Emma, (not her real name) could not read when she joined our classroom last year. She is now reading third-grade readers, and reads them with great enunciation and joy! She reads everything now, including cereal boxes! Her enthusiasm is contagious. Reading has opened up a whole new world for Emma.

By the Grace of God, we have begun another Alpha program, meeting weekly in a downtown church. There are currently eight of us, with a few more registered to begin next week. Please pray for God's provision, especially for a retreat, which will cost an estimated \$125 per person. We welcome volunteers to help with food for our weekly events. When we come together at Alpha, there is a feeling of celebration and family. UCO's Volunteer, and Worship Leader, Elanor, has penned her experience so beautifully in the following report, and we give thanks to God, for her!

Peace and Grace of Christ,
Jill



And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever." 2 Chronicles 20:21

UCO's Urgent Needs Update:

1. **New Board Members:** Thank you for praying for UCO! Praise God that he answered our prayers and raised up two new Board members for UCO. Please continue to pray that he will raise up a new Treasurer for UCO.

2. **Monthly Supporters:** We are also thanking God for raising up new financial supporters to help with our ministry costs. We are still in need of 10 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

UCO's Quarterly Update:

2016 Year to Date:

Actual Income:	\$31,468.25
Actual Expenses:	\$33,769.18
Deficit:	\$ 2,300.93

Worship From the Heart, Not the Sound Board

What does it mean to worship God? To stand before a holy God and be able to give him the glory he deserves?

My first real experience with worship started around 5 years ago when Jill Wilson asked me if I would lead a UCO worship choir at the Salvation Army church in Ottawa. I had no idea how to lead anyone and I was not even that comfortable playing chords on the piano. Regardless of my inadequacy I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to do this. I remember fumbling my way through the chords and as we sang together thinking how terribly out of tune we all sounded. But amazingly I felt the move of the Holy Spirit in the most indescribable way. I knew God's presence was there.

Now that I have spent many years since leading worship and having a deeper relationship with God I sometime get confused by what true worship is in the church today. It often feels like worship within the church is having perfect pitch, or having fog machines and fancy lights. It is an experience that I think many worship leaders feel they have to create in order for people to engage with God.

Now don't get me wrong I do believe that it is important to do those sound checks for a Sunday morning. I also believe some people are gifted with beautiful voices that do give God glory. But take away all

the fancy sound equipment, instruments and gifted voices, can we still worship God? Absolutely!!

Here are 2 things I have learned that I think are crucial for me as worship leader. One is that you must cultivate a personal life of worship. As I started to spend more time singing and playing my guitar alone in my room I started to engage with God. He started to reveal his heart for me.

Now when I'm on stage leading worship it's not about trying to impress my audience, it's merely an extension of my personal worship and it's all about pleasing Jesus.

Secondly, realizing that God is going to have his way no matter how we facilitate worship. God is bigger than our worship. He wants to encounter people and he can do that no matter how we sound. I learned this as I was leading my worship choir. I thought that our singing wasn't exactly always pleasing to God but I know that he loved it and to him it was perfect.

Worship is meant to come from the heart. It's meant to come from a place of true surrender. It's the act of laying it all down before our perfect Father. It's not something we can create, or something that has to sound just right. It's experiencing the living God in our day to day lives and then giving him back the praise that he deserves.

In Christ,
Elanor