

# **Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)**

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### Update #75

# December 2016

Dear UCO Community,

"And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 10-12 ESV

We have just returned from a beautiful Street Alpha, Holy Spirit Retreat weekend, blessed and in awe of God's amazing Grace. We held our retreat at Tucker House, in Rockland, Ontario. We were so very blessed by UCO volunteer, Elanor, who led our Worship with her beautiful voice and guitar playing. She loves Jesus, and is able to take us to the foot of the Cross. We also give thanks to God for helpers Richard, Karen, Mary-Anne, Mike, Fran, and Donna who drove, cooked and shopped, and to all who prayed.

Our guests were so grateful to be able to get away from the city and

from their day to day struggles, and to find rest in the arms of Jesus. Each guest took the time to express their gratitude, in beautifully-written, heartfelt notes, and with their permission, it is my privilege and joy to share them with you. I pray that you will be encouraged by their testimonies:

"We had a wonderful Holy Spirit weekend together, spending time with each other, and had a ball. I have never been on a trip since I was a child because of ODSP, meaning Ontario Disability Special Needs Program. I feel I got to know the people well and enjoyed being with them. Also, I found God and was so happy that I have him in my life.

I hope this will happen again every year. Thank you, Jill and all the volunteers who helped out to make this event special and possible." M.M.C.

#### Dec. 14, 2016

"I was at the Alpha Retreat this past weekend. It was a blessing for me. It was a renewing of my faith in the Saviour. I needed this weekend to get away from the usual routine and focus on Christ. The group members of Alpha I was with, helped me. Thank you Lord for Alpha and the blessing the program has been." S.C.

# Hello,

"My name is R.G. I have had a wonderful time at the Tucker House Doing the Alpha course retreat. The time we spent here was filled with laughter, crying, and singing songs of God. Watching the videos made me think a lot more about the past and the present and the future and what I am going to do in my future. When I told my brothers about me going to the Alpha Course, my brother Alex told me that my mother must be jumping for joy and dancing in the grave and very happy about me. It was a very stress free and relaxing weekend which everyone enjoyed, I thank everyone including Jill and Elanor who organized and set up everything." R.G.

"Hello Folks, Peace be with you! My name is M.C. I liked the Alpha course which enriched my life. I was already a born-again Christian and I did some Bible study and got baptized. I did some artwork, drawing pictures for UCO (Urban Christian Outreach) newsletters. Now I enjoy my life to its fullness. Also now, I am a mature Christian and I started my life journey to the future. The Holy Spirit does all things and I urge you to know Him too and Ill quarantee that you will never be the same. Prayer is sometimes for people's lifestyle; prayers provide courage for those people in need and they get saved, also different people and ways - they are God's people. Jesus Christ loves everyone who gets to know Him." M.C.

"My Tucker's Experience"
To me, it was a blessing to be here this weekend with 7 different, beautiful people. To me, we were not here by accident. Anyway, by the Grace of God we are here. We were told that we could be picked up at our home or at church. I picked the church. A lovely couple, Mike and Fran, had a beautiful van. I opened up like a storm."

"I was talking miles a minute. The couple, Mike and Fran that drove us, are a beautiful, incredible and amazing couple - patient and kind. We got lost and found our way. Jill, an incredible, amazing lady asked me to train to be on the team and I did. We had Shepherd's pie, one of my favourites, and pistachio cake which was different but good. Anyways, it was a relaxing, enjoyable, amazing weekend. Everyone opened up. Elanor is an incredible, amazing, young, pretty woman who has a beautiful voice. It was beautiful to honour, praise and worship God. It was beautiful that Elanor did a beautiful testimony and so did MC. Thank you to Jill, Elanor and Donna, who made amazing meals. You couldn't even see the plate for all the food. Snacks were amazing too. I like the Alpha course. Each time God has given me knowledge and wisdom to praise and honour God. This has been a really blessed and beautiful weekend. Thank you for everyone who was involved. Just next time someone please turn the heat on high! Love from R.M."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2: 13 -14 ESV

Thank you for your tithes, offerings, and prayers, and for making our retreat possible. May our Lord bless you and your loved ones with a Holy and Peaceful Advent and Christmas. On the Journey with you, Jill

#### **UCO's Praise Report!**

We are giving praise and thanksgiving to God for raising up 2 new Board Members, and for blessing many of us with his presence and provision during our recent Street Alpha course and retreat. How great is our God!!!

### **UCO's Urgent Needs:**

- 1. Finances: we humbly appeal to you to consider our needs at this time.
- 2. We are still in need of a <u>Treasurer</u>. Our Board meets monthly from September to June.
- 2. Monthly Supporters: We are still in need of more 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 <a href="https://www.uco-ottawa.ca">www.uco-ottawa.ca</a>
- 3. **Supporting Churches:** Would your church consider supporting us, and/or inviting us to speak to your congregation?

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

# UCO's Quarterly Update: 2016 Year to Date:

 Actual Income:
 \$36,919.85

 Actual Expenses:
 \$42,503.82

 Deficit
 \$5,583.97