



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #76

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received a phone call from one of our homeless friends, a Christian, and it was clear from the sound of his voice that he was very, very ill. I offered to call an ambulance, but he wouldn't leave his many bags of belongings behind. After praying, I made a phone call to a friend, who offered to store this gentleman's belongings for a short term. I called an ambulance. His prognosis was not good. While receiving treatment, he was placed in palliative care, where he was expected to die. I visited him, and we prayed. By God's grace, he improved and was soon released, only to be incarcerated days later.

Urban Christian Outreach is his only visitor in prison. Because he is in protective custody, our prison visits take place in two small, locked rooms, through very thick, bullet-proof glass. We can see one another, face to face, but we need to use the provided telephones to hear one another. Our visits are limited to 20 minutes maximum.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:35-40

On our last visit, as I sat there across from him, I was acutely aware that no matter what his crimes were, and no matter what the circumstances were that brought about this walled separation, with him in chains, and me free to leave at anytime, we were equal in Christ. Jesus loves him just as much as he loves me and you. Jesus has plans for him, just as he has plans for me and you. **'Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'** Nothing; there is no condemnation in Christ. There is always a valid reason why people find themselves in certain situations.

When we come to know the truth, it always make sense. Sometimes, our circumstances stem from our own actions; sometimes they are so, to fulfill God's divine purpose.

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." John 9:3 ESV

Could it be, then, that when we meet someone in need, things are not quite as simple as they may appear? Could it be that God has allowed His own to be in such a situation and has placed him on our path so that we may learn and grow through the sufferings of another? When we died of the flesh at our Baptism, and were born again of the Holy Spirit, did we not offer our lives to the Lord to do as He pleases? Did we not lay down our lives, and say, 'No longer my will, Lord, but yours?' Are we ready to suffer in order to further the Kingdom of God and to bring him Glory? Consider how Jesus suffered. What a Sacrifice!

As we ponder the death of Christ upon the Cross and put to death the sins of our flesh, may we all be resurrected into a new life this Easter, and celebrate the amazing gift of eternal life that Jesus has so freely given to us all. Glory to God!

Wishing you Joy and Easter Blessings,
Jill

UCO's Praise Report

We are giving thanks and praise for the gift of Jesus and for the ministry work of UCO. In anticipation of **UCO's 25th Anniversary** next year, we have been working to produce a brochure which outlines UCO's vision and needs. We hope to be able to meet with you to share what God has been putting on our hearts. We are also thanking God for those who have responded to our financial needs. God is good!

UCO's Urgent Needs:

1. **Finances:** we continue to humbly appeal to you to consider our needs at this time.

2. We are still in need of a **Treasurer** and new Board members.

3. **Monthly Supporters:** We still need your help in order 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

4. **Supporting Churches:** Would your church consider supporting us, and/or inviting us to speak?

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

UCO's Quarterly Update:

2017 Year to Date:

Actual Income: \$ 7,830.12

Actual Expenses: \$ 6,895.04

Surplus \$ 935.08