



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #79

March 2018

Dear UCO Community,

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, May 05, 2018, from 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. at Parkdale United Church for UCO's 25th Anniversary celebration of ministry to the poor, homeless, and marginalized of Ottawa. Please join us at Parkdale United Church for a service of Thanksgiving and Praise followed by a traditional English Tea with refreshments. We welcome volunteers to help with this special event!

What a joy it is to prepare to honour God for his faithfulness, and also for the faithfulness of Katrine Barton-Coward, whose vision and obedience to our Lord facilitated an opportunity for God's work to be done among the poor. We are also giving thanks to God for the life of the late Rev. Dr. Allen Churchill, who, with assistance from others came alongside Katrine to launch Urban Christian Outreach in 1993.

As we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate our Risen Lord during this most Holy season of Easter, I am reminded that God's promises are new every morning. As we seek to bring the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ into the midst of those who suffer in our city, we remember you, our faithful supporters, and we thank you, from our hearts, for your sacrifices and generosity.

...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14 ESV

I would like to introduce you to a very special 7 year-old boy, who, to the best of my knowledge has recently become UCO's youngest supporter ever! Liam, (permission granted to use his name) moved by the plight of the poor decided all on his own that he wanted to help.

He decided to bake cookies this past Christmas, and to sell them to his relatives and friends, with the hope of raising money 'to feed the poor.' Liam accomplished his goal, and then donated all of the proceeds to Urban Christian Outreach.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is evident in this precious child; out of his love for Jesus, and for the poor, he became the hands and feet of Jesus! I was moved to tears when he presented his gift and shared his story from his heart – from the very heart of Jesus. May our Lord bless Liam and may he continue to be a blessing to others through Liam. Praise God for this little child, for 'to him belongs the kingdom of heaven.'



M.C.

God is also at work on our sidewalks, and has gone before us to provide an opportunity for UCO to run an Alpha Course in a supported living home from April to June. Please pray for all the details to come together, and whether God might be calling you to volunteer.

Our classroom at the Royal Ottawa is full and students have been working hard on various subjects. I recently had the joy and privilege of inviting a fellow church member, Tina, to join us in the classroom as a volunteer. Tina, a faithful Christian, High School teacher, and Ph.D. in Education Candidate, was a blessing to staff and students. Tina shares her experience in our classroom in the following letter:

The Royal Ottawa Adult Education Program: Volunteer Experience

Jill Wilson, Executive Director of Urban Christian Outreach, described her job to me on Monday night. "I do different things, but part of my job is to teach within a classroom" stated Jill.

I was curious about the classroom environment that Jill mentioned. I offered to volunteer in this particular educational institution in order to gain a better understanding of this unique educational system. The students within this system were referred to as students instead of mental health patients.

The unique part of this learning environment was that there were between two to three educators, occupational therapists, or volunteers all working together to help the students with their individual educational plans. Students educational objectives varied from learning the alphabet to taking the GED (General Education Diploma), a High School Equivalency Certificate which shows that students have a level of knowledge equivalent to a high school graduate. This environment also promotes social skills, self-care abilities, and Food Safety Certificates in order to help students become more employable in mainstream society. The learning environment was calm, quiet, respectful and engaging. Students came and worked on their school work, asked questions if they needed help and were treated with respect and dignity. I had the pleasure of observing the Food Safety Course during the second half of the class.

While sitting amongst the students, this was the first time where I had observed students as God's children. I had a strong feeling that these students will too be able to contribute to society in a powerful and meaningful way in the near future. I thanked Jill for sharing this part of her life with me.

It was one of the most beautiful, heartwarming, and soul-fulfilling teaching experiences I have ever encountered as an educator.

This is an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Tina Wasilik (Ph.D. in Education Candidate)

We give thanks to God for Tina and for Liam, and for all of you who, through your contributions of financial offerings, prayers, time, coffee shop cards, notes of encouragement, gas cards, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, clothing and toiletries have blessed the poor. Thank you, dear supporters.

Easter Joy and God's Blessings,

Jill

UCO's 25th Anniversary Celebration:
Please Join us on Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 2-4 p.m. at Parkdale United Church for a special service and English Tea, as we celebrate 25 Years of ministry to the poor.

UCO's Needs:

1. We are still in need of a **Treasurer!**
2. **Monthly Supporters:** Thank you for your donations which 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