



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #85

December, 2020

Dear Friends-in-Christ,

***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.” 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 2:10-14

As we ask our Lord to prepare our hearts during this time of Advent, and as we wait upon Jesus for his coming again, we find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic. Many are suffering and struggling right now – perhaps you are too, with family separations, estrangements, divisions, illness, poverty, fatigue and despair. For some of us, our Christmas celebrations will be much different this year. We may find ourselves separated from those we love, separated from church family.

***‘No, in all these things we are
more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am sure that neither
death nor life, nor angels nor
rulers, nor things present nor
things to come, nor powers,
nor height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.’
Romans 8:37-39***



One thing is true; God is still with us; **Emmanuel!** He is at work among us, preparing our hearts, preparing the way. His Word is getting out to the ends of the earth! He is at work among the poor on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. We find Him there, even in the midst of this pandemic – especially in the midst of the pandemic, reaching new people, drawing closer to others. Never before have we seen such a need. Many don't have homes to retreat to or televisions, to escape from the extra stress of these times; many don't have telephones to connect with others. More people are calling out to Jesus than ever before. When I ask the poor how they are doing, here are some of the responses that I get:

“I'm so tired. I wish I could just lay down and have a nap in a warm bed, without [hearing] others yelling all the time.” (a gentleman living at a shelter)

“I'm so lonely.” (a senior living alone)

“I wish this would all end; I hate wearing this mask” (a woman discouraged and cold from lining up outside to get her meals.)

“I am trusting Jesus.” (a homeless Christian who ministered to me that day!”)

With God's help, we share the hope that we have in Christ Jesus with those who are discouraged and without hope. We pray with those who will accept our prayers, and we quietly pray for those who won't. For over 27 years, we have been aware that Jesus is at work in the hearts of others long before we arrive on the scene. He leads us, step by step, kilometre by kilometre, day and evening, whether walking or driving.

A couple of weeks ago I was out in the afternoon running errands and picking up socks and hats for the poor. I had such a desire to get home to the comfort of my apartment, but one thing after another detained me. Finally, I thought I was finished and ready to head home when I received a phone call from a dear friend and UCO supporter, which required me to pull over. The call took approximately half an hour and I was thanking God that I was now on my way home.

Confused about where all the time had gone, I whined aloud, "Lord, I just want to go home." Moments later, as I drove across a highway 417 overpass, I noticed a woman leaning over the railing onto the highway below. I knew she was considering jumping. I cried out to Jesus, 'Help her Lord!', and then asked 'Siri', a voice prompter on my cell phone, to call a friend for prayer. While we were praying, I did a U-turn and went back across the bridge. At this point she was sitting on the bridge with her head in her hands. Jesus heard our prayer. I noticed an OPP patrol car about to get on the highway, and so I began flashing my lights at the officer. He finally noticed me and pulled over, and I told him about the woman on the bridge. He turned on his emergency lights and rushed to her side, and I followed suit. Before long, back-up help arrived and this dear woman was given the medical care that she needed. Praise God!

If you are struggling at this time, we are here to pray with you, to pray for you, and to help. Please call us at 613-233-6633.

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 ESV

I thanked God for 'delaying me' that day, that in His perfect timing he led me to where he needed me. I reflected on the fact that I first called on Jesus to save her, rather than calling 911. Jesus sent me that day. Jesus sent the OPP officer. We were both in the right place at the right time, not because of our own will, (as the overpass wasn't even in the officer's jurisdiction, and my will was to be home) but because of God's perfect will. Was this woman in despair calling on Jesus for help? Possibly, but when we call on Jesus, and say, 'Send me Lord, take my life and make it yours; your will be done'- we can all expect that God will use us to His Glory. Please pray for her.

No matter what your circumstances are this Christmas, we pray that you will be filled with the joy that comes from saying 'Yes' to Jesus, that you will be blessed beyond all imagination, and that our Lord will continue to use you to be a blessing to others. To quote a dear friend and prayer partner, 'God is never late.' Thank you for the blessing that you are to Urban Christian Outreach and to our neighbours who are the poor, homeless and marginalized among us. Thank you for helping us to spread 'The Word.' Thank you for blessing our Board of Directors, and for blessing me, and most importantly, thank you for the blessing that you are to our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for you, and we remember you in our prayers. May He bless your servant hearts and draw especially close to you during these challenging times. May Jesus be your joy.

I would like to leave you with a prayer written by beloved late author, Joan Gale Thomas, from her children's book, titled, "Our Father":

**God our Father,
Who made us all,
Both rich and poor,
And great and small,**

**And every race,
Beneath the sun,
Please look after,
Every one;**

**And teach us each
To love the rest,
For, North and South
And East and West,**

**Each of us
Belongs to Thee,
And all the world's
Thy family.**

On behalf of our Board of Directors, and of the poor whom we are blessed to minister to, Peace, Grace and Joy in abundance to you and your loved ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Jill Wilson
E.D.

How to Donate: I have been asked to share the ways in which one can make a donation to UCO, as the Lord leads. Thanks be to God!
Option #1 is new!

1. By **Interac e-transfer** to:
donate@urbanchristianoutreach.ca
2. **By mail**, send a cheque to:
Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)
P.O. Box 77033
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N2
3. **By Credit Card**: by following the links on our website at uco-ottawa.ca
4. **By Credit Card**: through Canada Helps at canadahelps.org
5. By payroll deductions: through The United Way at unitedway.ca

