



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #78

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in this holy season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recently, I had the privilege of being accompanied downtown by a faithful Christian member of my church. We met early in the morning at a downtown restaurant for breakfast, prayer and conversation before heading out onto the sidewalks to do the work of our Lord. Our time together was a blessing to us both, and I asked him if he would be willing to share his experience. The following is his testimony:

"This past January, Jill and several UCO members from my church approached me to see if I could help Urban Christian Outreach (I have a background in fundraising). I had heard of UCO and was aware of what they did, but not really in any sort of detail. Having agreed to help, I sat down with Jill to find out more about UCO...if I was going to help

then I really needed to understand how important its work is.

At the same time, my wife Lisa and I had been shifting some of our charitable givings, and were looking for a worthy cause to support, preferably one that was Christian. It was then, as we talked about this, that I really understood UCO. God loves every single one of us. Even if everyone has given up on us....family, friends, other social agencies....maybe we've even given up on ourselves; God hasn't (and never will). UCO brings this message to the most marginalized in our society – that no matter what, God loves us, and none of us are ever alone. All of UCO's work – helping people get clothing, referring them to health or education opportunities, or just being there for someone is all based on this simple belief. God loves us. This is a vital and important ministry that nobody else is doing in Ottawa, and as Christians, Lisa and I feel this is something we must support.

"As I continued to work with Jill, she invited me to go out and do a morning with her – something that would be completely new to me. What followed was one of the most profound experiences in my life. I knew enough in talking to Jill to expect the unexpected, to be challenged, but nothing could prepare me for how I saw God at work that day. *Jill prayed that God would open doors to us that he wanted us to go through, and to keep closed those doors that he did not want us to go through. At our first stop at the courthouse, we met a person who was going to file for divorce, but said they couldn't because family court was closed today and the door was locked. Jill was able to provide some information on marriage counselling and we prayed and offered support if the person needed it. Moving on, we walked out of the Rideau Centre, and stopped to pray for a quick minute, to again ask God to guide us. Instead of going to the main route to the left, we decided to take a side street to the right, where we met a young woman who was with a friend of Jill's. While Jill talked to her friend and helped him follow up with some healthcare needs, I started talking to the young woman. After a minute she ask me out of the blue if I believed in God. It turned out she was trying to get clean of drugs, and during the 10 years she had been on drugs, had done horrible things. 'How could anyone love her?', she asked. Why did we go right instead of the obvious choice to the left?*

We invited them in to the food court for a meal (neither had eaten that day), to talk, and for Jill to do what she does. After finishing up, Jill and I again prayed for God to direct us. We very quickly found a man on the sidewalk, and Jill invited him in for coffee and to get out of the cold. While this friend has an apartment, he can't afford hydro or pretty much anything else. Jill gave him a voucher for warm boots which he desperately needed, and some help with other programs. But what struck me the most is that during our coffee, he received a call on his phone. He quickly told his caller that he was with friends and couldn't talk. Friends. Would I call someone I just met a friend? Maybe it's just semantics, but being there and hearing the tone of his voice, I think he meant it. Not every encounter has to be as dramatic as drugs or divorce. I think at that time, at that place, God required just a simple act of kindness – telling one of his children that they are loved. I tend towards the scientific side of things – one coincidence is not God talking to me. But shadowing Jill that day, there were simply too many coincidences, too many people we met and helped for it not to be God's will. Having spent a day with Jill, having seen God's love at work, I am more convinced than ever of the need to support UCO."

-Evan Baker

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 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.'"

Matthew 25:34-36 ESV



The following is taken from the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, 'Mary's Song', or as it is also called, 'The Magnificat.' I like to sing it during Evening Prayer. Mary's heart was overflowing with joy, as she sang:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regardeth the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever."

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As Mary carried Jesus in her womb, may we carry him in our hearts and sing Praises to our Father for the most precious gift of all – our Lord Jesus Christ. All of us at UCO wish you and your loved ones a Peaceful and Holy Christmas, and a Blessed New Year.

With love, in Christ,
Jill



UCO's Needs:

1. **Finances:** We humbly appeal to you to prayerfully consider our needs at this time.
2. We are still in need of a **Treasurer**.
3. **25th Anniversary Planning Committee** Members are needed to meet once a month from January- April.
4. **Monthly Supporters:** We are asking and trusting God to help us 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
5. **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, dear friends.



UCO's Quarterly Update:

2017 Year to Dec 08/17:

Actual Income:	\$ 30,925.71
Actual Expenses:	\$ 41,844.54
Deficit	\$ 10,918.33