



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Dear Friends-in-Christ,

***For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11***

A Saviour! Jesus has come to give us hope and to save us from ourselves and from this world- from all of its heart wrenching pain, sorrows, trials, disease, addiction and agony. In Him, and in Him alone, can we find true Peace. He is our refuge, our hiding place.

He sends us to 'do the work that He has given us to do', not in our own power, but in the mighty power of The Holy Spirit, and He leads us to the poor, the broken, the addicted, where we have the privilege to shine His light, and to say, 'Do you know Jesus?' 'Do you know Jesus, the One who can lift you from the depths of despair, the One who can set your feet on higher ground?

Praise God that He does not leave us alone in our time of trial, but that He comes to enfold us in His arms, to embrace us and to love us.

Anne, (not her real name) has faithfully been studying The Bible with us for almost 27 years. We meet every other week to open God's Word and to reflect on what He is teaching us. Anne also meets regularly with our UCO Volunteer, Pamela, and they work on life skills and knitting. Anne has lived a challenging life, on the margins of society. Sadly, she was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. In the midst of her illness and daily struggles, Anne has been an enormous blessing to many, many people.

Anne has spoken Scripture over many and has prayed and encouraged those who have come to visit. She has witnessed to doctors, nurses, caregivers, friends and family. The grace that she has shown, in the midst of her many trials is nothing short of miraculous. My eyes are filling with tears just thinking about her. I love her and I am amazed by her strong faith in the Lord.

While I have had the privilege of ministering to her over the years, I have come to see that she is now ministering to me. In her time of physical weakness, the Lord is strong. He is her strength, her refuge. Jesus is her Hope and her Saviour. Anne knows that Jesus can heal her, right here on earth, and restore her body. She knows of His miraculous powers. She also knows that if it is the will of God to take her home, her death will be the ultimate healing. She knows that she has received the gift of eternal life with Jesus, and therefore, will never truly die.

Last spring, prior to Anne's diagnosis, we had the privilege to sponsor her to take a Tres Dias Christian weekend retreat. Anne was truly blessed on the weekend, and she was an enormous blessing to others. She told me that it was one of the best experiences of her life. Praise God for his leading; His timing was so perfect! Since Anne's illness, the Tres Dias community has surrounded Anne with love, and their support is helping her through this time.

'Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us also set aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for

the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.'
Hebrews 12:1-2

Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, some of my adult children and I make 50 or 60 sandwiches, and load up our car with coats, hats, mitts, blankets, etc, and head downtown to worship and to share the love of Christ with the poor. This is where we find Jesus.

The sincere gratitude that is shown by those who receive, warms our hearts. Thank you for your beautiful generosity throughout the year, and especially at Christmas.

May the love and joy of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas and may all those whom you love, come to receive the perfect gift of Jesus. No gift is greater, than his sacrificial gift of salvation.

Thanking God for all of you,

Jill

UCO's Needs:

1. Your financial offerings are much needed and appreciated.
2. Tim Horton, McDonald's and grocery gift cards for distribution to the poor.
3. Warm socks, hats, mitts and gloves.
4. Your prayers.